

EDMUND

This is the excellent foppery* of the world,
that when we are sick in fortune, often the surfeits* of our own behavior,
we make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and the stars;
as if we were villains on necessity; fools by heavenly compulsion;
knaves, thieves, and treachers,* by spherical predominance;
drunkards, liars, and adulterers, by an enforced obedience of planetary influence;
and all that we are evil in, by a divine thrusting on.

An admirable evasion of whoremaster man, to lay his goatish* disposition to the charge of a star.
My father compounded with my mother under the Dragon's Tail, and my nativity was under Ursa Major,*
so that it follows, I am rough and lecherous.

Fut! I should have been that I am, had the maidenliest star in the firmament twinkled on my bastardizing.
Edgar (*Enter EDGAR.*)

And pat he comes. My cue is villanous melancholy.
O, these eclipses do portend these divisions! Fa, sol, la, mi.

EDGAR

How now, brother Edmund; what serious contemplation are you in?

EDMUND

I am thinking, brother, of a prediction I read this other day, what should follow these eclipses.

EDGAR

Do you busy yourself with that?

EDMUND

I promise you, the effects he writes of succeed unhappily.

EDGAR

How long have you been a sectary astronomical?*

EDMUND

When saw you my father last?

EDGAR

Why, the night gone by.

EDMUND

Spake you with him?

EDGAR

Ay, two hours together.

EDMUND

Parted you in good terms? Found you no displeasure in him by word or countenance?*

foppery - foolishness, *surfeits* - excesses, *treachers* - traitors,
goatish - lecherous, "*Dragon's Tail and...Ursa Major*" - constellations,
sectary astronomical - believer in astrology, *countenance* - facial expression