**3. King Lear Act II Scene 4**  Lear: Emir Sabic  Regan: Amanda McKinnon  Goneril: Aiza Higley

**KING LEAR**

Good morrow.

**REGAN**

I am glad to see your highness.

**KING LEAR**

Regan, I think you are; Beloved Regan,

Thy sister's naught: O Regan, she hath tied

Sharp-tooth'd unkindness, like a vulture, here:

*Points to his heart*

**REGAN**

I pray you, sir, take patience: I have hope.

**KING LEAR**

Say, how is that?

**REGAN**

I cannot think my sister in the least

Would fail her obligation:

**KING LEAR**

My curses on her!

**REGAN**

O, sir, you are old.

you should be ruled and led

By some discretion, that discerns your state

Better than you yourself. Therefore, I pray you,

That to our sister you do make return;

Say you have wrong'd her, sir.

**KING LEAR**

Ask her forgiveness?

'Dear daughter, I confess that I am old; *Kneeling*

Age is unnecessary: on my knees I beg

That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food.'

**REGAN**

Good sir, no more; these are unsightly tricks:

Return you to my sister.

**KING LEAR**

[Rising] Never, Regan:

She hath abated me of half my train;

Look'd black upon me; struck me with her tongue,

Most serpent-like, upon the very heart:

All the stored vengeances of heaven fall

On her ingrateful top! Strike her young bones.

You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames

Into her scornful eyes! Infect her beauty,

To fall and blast her pride!

**REGAN**

O the blest gods! so will you wish on me,

When the rash mood is on.

**KING LEAR**

No, Regan, thou shalt never have my curse:

Thy tender-hefted nature shall not give

Thee o'er to harshness: her eyes are fierce; but thine

Do comfort and not burn. 'Tis not in thee

To grudge my pleasures, thou better know'st

The offices of nature, bond of childhood,

Effects of courtesy, dues of gratitude;

Thy half o' the kingdom hast thou not forgot,

Wherein I thee endow'd.

Who comes here? *WHISPERS -GONERIL*

O heavens.

*Enter GONERIL*

If you do love old men, if your sweet sway

Allow obedience, Make it your cause;

and take my part!

*To GONERIL*

Art not ashamed to look upon this beard?

O Regan, wilt thou take her by the hand?

**GONERIL**

Why not by the hand, sir? How have I offended?

All's not offence that indiscretion finds

And dotage terms so.

**KING LEAR**

O sides, you are too tough;

Will you yet hold?

**REGAN**

I pray you, father, If, till the expiration of your month,

You will return and sojourn with my sister,

Dismissing half your train, come then to me:

I am now from home, and out of that provision

Which shall be needful for your entertainment.

**KING LEAR**

Return to her, and fifty men dismiss'd?

No, rather I abjure all roofs, and choose

To be a comrade with the wolf and owl,--

Return with her?

**GONERIL**

At your choice, sir.

**KING LEAR**

I prithee, daughter, do not make me mad:

I will not trouble thee, my child; farewell:

We'll no more meet, no more see one another:

But yet thou art my flesh, my blood, my daughter;

Or rather a disease that's in my flesh,

Which I must needs call mine: thou art a boil,

A plague-sore, an embossed carbuncle,

In my corrupted blood. But I'll not chide thee;

Let shame come when it will, I do not call it:

I can be patient; I can stay with Regan,

I and my hundred knights.

**REGAN**

Not altogether so:

I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided

For your fit welcome. Give ear, sir, to my sister;

**KING LEAR**

Is this well spoken?

**REGAN**

I dare avouch it, sir: what, fifty followers?

Is it not well? What should you need of more?

How, in one house,

Should many people, under two commands,

Hold amity? 'Tis hard; almost impossible.

**GONERIL**

Why might not you, my lord, receive attendance

From those that she calls servants or from mine?

**REGAN**

Why not, my lord? If then they chanced to slack you,

We could control them. If you will come to me,I entreat you

To bring but five and twenty: to no more

Will I give place or notice.

**KING LEAR**

I gave you all--

**REGAN**

And in good time you gave it.

**KING LEAR**

Made you my guardians, my depositaries;

But kept a reservation to be follow'd

With such a number. What, must I come to you

With five and twenty, Regan? said you so?

**REGAN**

And speak't again, my lord; no more with me.

**KING LEAR**

*To GONERIL*

I'll go with thee:

Thy fifty yet doth double five and twenty,

And thou art twice her love.

**GONERIL**

Hear me, my lord;

What need you five and twenty, ten, or five,

To follow in a house where twice so many

Have a command to tend you?

**REGAN**

What need one?

**KING LEAR**

O, reason not the need: our basest beggars

Are in the poorest thing superfluous:

You see me here, you gods, a poor old man,

As full of grief as age; wretched in both!

If it be you that stir these daughters' hearts

Against their father, fool me not so much

To bear it tamely; touch me with noble anger,

And let not women's weapons, water-drops,

Stain my man's cheeks! No, you unnatural hags,

I will have such revenges on you both,

That all the world shall--I will do such things,--

What they are, yet I know not: but they shall be

The terrors of the earth. You think I'll weep

No, I'll not weep:

I have full cause of weeping; but this heart

Shall break into a hundred thousand flaws,

Or ere I'll weep. O fool, I shall go mad!

*Exeunt KING LEAR*

**REGAN**

This house is little: the old man and his people

Cannot be well bestow'd.

**GONERIL**

'Tis his own blame; hath put himself from rest,

And must needs taste his folly.

**REGAN**

For his particular, I'll receive him gladly,

But not one follower.

**GONERIL**

So am I purposed.