**Fool**

If a man's brains were in's heels, were't not in  
danger of kibes?

**KING LEAR**

Ay, boy.

**Fool**

Then, I prithee, be merry; thy wit shall ne'er go  
slip-shod.

**KING LEAR**

Ha, ha, ha!

**Fool**

Shalt see thy other daughter will use thee kindly;  
for though she's as like this as a crab's like an  
apple, yet I can tell what I can tell.

**KING LEAR**

Why, what canst thou tell, my boy?

**Fool**

She will taste as like this as a crab does to a  
crab. Thou canst tell why one's nose stands i'  
the middle on's face?

**KING LEAR**

No.

**Fool**

Why, to keep one's eyes of either side's nose; that  
what a man cannot smell out, he may spy into.

**KING LEAR**

I did her wrong--

**Fool**

Canst tell how an oyster makes his shell?

**KING LEAR**

No.

**Fool**

Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail has a house.

**KING LEAR**

Why?

**Fool**

Why, to put his head in; not to give it away to his  
daughters, and leave his horns without a case.

**KING LEAR**

I will forget my nature. So kind a father! Be my  
horses ready?

**Fool**

Thy asses are gone about 'em. The reason why the  
seven stars are no more than seven is a pretty reason.

**KING LEAR**

Because they are not eight?

**Fool**

Yes, indeed: thou wouldst make a good fool.

**KING LEAR**

To take 't again perforce! Monster ingratitude!

**Fool**

If thou wert my fool, nuncle, I'ld have thee beaten  
for being old before thy time.

**KING LEAR**

How's that?

**Fool**

Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst  
been wise.

**KING LEAR**

O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven  
Keep me in temper: I would not be mad!

Come, boy.

**Fool**

She that's a maid now, and laughs at my departure,  
Shall not be a maid long, unless things be cut shorter.