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THE TRAGEDIE OF KING LEAR.

Actus Primus. Scena Prima.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Enter Kent, Gloucester, and Edmund.</i></p> <p><i>Kent.</i> Thought the King had more affected the Duke of <i>Albany</i>, then <i>Cornwall</i>.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> It did always seeme to vs: But now in the diuision of the Kingdome, it appears not which of the Dukes hee valeswres most, for qualities are so weigh'd, that curiosity in neither, can make choise of eithers moiety.</p> <p><i>Kent.</i> Is not this your Son, my Lord?</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> His breeding Sir, hath bin at my charge. I haue so often bluth'd to acknowledge him, that now I am brazd' d too't.</p> <p><i>Kent.</i> I cannot conceiue you.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> Sir, this yong Fellowes mother could; whereupon she grew round womb'd, and had indeede (Sir) a Sonne for her Cradle, ere she had a husband for her bed. Do you smell a fault?</p> <p><i>Kent.</i> I cannot with the fault vadone, the issue of it, being so proper.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> But I haue a Sonne, Sir, by order of Law, some yeere elder then this; who, yet is no deerer in my account, though this Knaue came something fawcily to the world before he was sent for: yet was his Mother fayre, there was good sport at his making, and the horson must be acknowledged. Doe you know this Noble Gentleman, <i>Edmond</i>?</p> <p><i>Edm.</i> No, my Lord.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> My Lord of <i>Kent</i>: Remember him heereafter, as my Honourable Friend.</p> <p><i>Edm.</i> My seruices to your Lordship.</p> <p><i>Kent.</i> I must loue you, and sue to know you better.</p> <p><i>Edm.</i> Sir, I shall study deseruing.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> He hath bin out nine yeares, and away he shall againe. The King is comming.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Senect. Enter King Lear, Cornwall, Albany, Gouerill, Regan, Cordelia, and attendants.</i></p> <p><i>Lear.</i> Attend the Lords of France & Burgundy, <i>Gloster</i>.</p> <p><i>Glou.</i> I shall, my Lord. <i>Exit.</i></p> <p><i>Lear.</i> Meane time we shal expresse our darker purpose. Giue me the Map there. Know, that we haue diuided in three our Kingdome: and 'tis our fast intent, To shake all Cares and Businesse from our Age, Confering them on yonger strengths, while we Vnburthen'd crawle toward death. Our son of <i>Cornwall</i>, had you our no lesse louing Sonne of <i>Albany</i>,</p>	<p>We haue this houre a constant will to publish Our daughters feuerall Dowers, that future strife May be prevented now. The Princes, <i>France</i> & <i>Burgundy</i>, Great Riuals in our yongest daughters loue, Long in our Court, haue made their amorous sojourn, And heere are to be answer'd. Tell me my daughters (Since now we will diuelt vs both of Rule, Interest of Territory, Cares of State) Which of you shall we say doth loue vs most, That we, our largest bountie may extend Where Nature doth with merit challenge. <i>Gouerill</i>, Our eldest borne, speake first.</p> <p><i>Gou.</i> Sir, I loue you more then word can weild smatter, Deerer then eye-sight, space, and libertie, Beyond what can be valedwed, rich or rare, No lesse then life, with grace, health, beauty, honor: As much as Childe ere sou'd, or Father found. A loue that makes breath poore, and speech vnable, Beyond all manner of so much I loue you.</p> <p><i>Cor.</i> What shall <i>Cordelia</i> speake? Loue, and be silent.</p> <p><i>Lear.</i> Of all these bounds euen from this Line, to this, With shadowie Fortresses, and with Champsains rich'd With plenteous Riuers, and wide-skirted Meades We make thee Lady. To thine and <i>Albany</i>: issues Be this perpetuall. What sayes our second Daughter? Our deereit <i>Regan</i>, wife of <i>Cornwall</i>?</p> <p><i>Reg.</i> I am made of that selfe-mettle as my Sister, And prize me at her worth. In my true heart, I finde she names my very deede of loue: Onely she comes too short, that I professe My selfe an enemy to all other ioyes, Which the most precious square of sense professes, And finde I am alone felicitate In your deere Highnesse loue.</p> <p><i>Cor.</i> Then poore <i>Cordelia</i>, And yet not so, since I am sure my loue's More ponderous then my tongue.</p> <p><i>Lear.</i> To thee, and thine hereditarie euer, Remaine this ample third of our faire Kingdome, No lesse in space, validitie, and pleasure Then that confer'd on <i>Gouerill</i>. Now our Ioy, Although our last and least: to whose yong loue, The Vines of France, and Milke of Burgundy, Striue to be interest. What can you say, to draw A third, more opulent then your Sisters? speake.</p> <p><i>Cor.</i> Nothing my Lord.</p> <p><i>Lear.</i> Nothing?</p>
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q q a *Cor.*

“This cold night will turn us all to fools and madmen.”

King Lear, Act 3, sc. iv



Act I

In a conference room of Lear Corporation (Licensors)

Act II

TWO DAYS EARLIER

In a conference room of Regan & Goneril (Licensees)

Act III

At the law firm of Albany & Cornwall, LLP

Summary of Shakespeare’s *King Lear*:

The elderly King Lear, wishing to retire, decides to divide his kingdom among his three daughters, and offers the largest share to the one who loves him best. Goneril and Regan give grand speeches, falsely proclaiming their love, but Cordelia cannot properly express her deep and honest love. Lear divides the kingdom between Regan and Goneril, relying on them to support his old age, and is driven mad by their mistreatment. The King, accompanied by his loyal but mocking Fool, wanders the countryside. War and further betrayal ensue, in which Gloucester is blinded, Cornwall is slain by a servant, Cordelia is executed, Regan is poisoned, Goneril commits suicide, and Lear dies of grief. Albany is crowned King.

**KING LEAR:
A TRAGEDY OF TRADEMARK LICENSING**

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Gloucester, outside counsel to Lear Corp. Andrew Stewart
Kent, outside counsel to Lear Corp. Stephen Stanton
Chester Foole, general counsel to Lear Corp. Stewart Wiener
Kenneth “King” Lear Craig Evans
Cordelia, distributor and licensee of Lear Amber Stiles
Goneril, a potential licensee Heather Moyer
Regan, a potential licensee Tracey Grinestaff
Albany, outside counsel to Regan and Goneril Peter Kraybill
Cornwall, outside counsel to Regan and Goneril Hans Smith
Burgundy, outside counsel to Cordelia Meg Theranger

Directed by
Peter Kraybill

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