

KING LEAR'S DAUGHTERS

A Dramatic Reading

by
William Shakespeare



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In the tragic story of "King Lear," Shakespeare has given us a picture of three daughters, that is unequalled in literature. It has to do with the deepest emotions a human heart can feel. It is the story of a father and his daughters.

The scene opens in a room in the King's palace. The characters are: the Earl of Kent, the daughters, Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia; and King Lear.

LEAR: Since now we will divest us of both rule,
Interest of territory, cares of state,--
Which of you shall we say doth love us most,
That we our largest bounty may extend
Where nature doth with merit challenge?
Goneril,
Our eldest born, speak first.

GON: Sir, I love you more than word can wield the matter;
Dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty,
Beyond what can be valued, rich or rare;
...So much I love you.

LEAR: Of all these bounds, even from this line to this,
...We make thee lady....
Be this perpetual. What says our second daughter,
Our dearest Regan? Speak.

REGAN: I am made of that self metal as my sister,
And prize me at her worth. In my true heart
I find she names the very deed of love;
Only she comes too short, that I profess
Myself an enemy to all other joys.
...And find that I am alone felicitate
In your dear highness' love

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