

The Tragedy of King Lear

3.1

*Storm still. Enter the Duke of Kent disguised and
[the First] Gentleman, severally*

KENT

Who's there, besides foul weather?

[FIRST] GENTLEMAN

One minded like the weather,

Most unquietly.

KENT

I know you. Where's the King?

[FIRST] GENTLEMAN

Contending with the fretful elements;
Bids the wind blow the earth into the sea
Or swell the curleÁd waters 'bove the main,
That things might change or cease.

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KENT

But who is with him?

[FIRST] GENTLEMAN

None but the Fool, who labours to outjest
His heart-struck injuries.

KENT

Sir, I do know you,

And dare upon the warrant of my note
Commend a dear thing to you. There is division,
Although as yet the face of it is covered
With mutual cunning, 'twixt Albany and Cornwall,
Who have±±as who have not that their great stars
Throned and set high±±servants, who seem no less,
Which are to France the spies and speculations
Intelligent of our state. What hath been seen,
Either in snuffs and packings of the Dukes,
Or the hard rein which both of them hath borne
Against the old kind King; or something deeper,
Whereof perchance these are but furnishings±±

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[FIRST] GENTLEMAN

I will talk further with you.

KENT

No, do not.

For confirmation that I am much more
Than my out-wall, open this purse, and take
What it contains. If you shall see Cordelia±±
As fear not but you shall±±show her this ring

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And she will tell you who that fellow is
That yet you do not know. Fie on this storm!
I will go seek the King.

[FIRST] GENTLEMAN

Give me your hand. Have you no more to say?

KENT

Few words, but to effect more than all yet: 30

That when we have found the King±±in which your
pain

That way, I'll this±±he that first lights on him

Holla the other.

Exeunt severally