

King Lear abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

Request

Situation: With a serious storm approaching, King Lear, Gloucester, the Fool and a disguised Kent leave Regan and Cornwall's home, "the king in high rage." Separately Kent and a Gentleman meet, Kent sending the Gentleman on a mission, giving him some money and one of the king's rings.

KENT: Who's there, besides foul weather?

GENTLEMAN: One minded like the weather, most unquietly.

KENT: I know you. Where's the king?

GENTLEMAN: Contending with the fretful elements.

KENT: But who is with him?

GENTLEMAN: None but the Fool, who labors to outjest his heart-struck injuries.

Kent to Gentleman

Sir, knowing you, I trust to you a dear
Matter. The dukes have their rifts and it's clear
They have servants providing France knowledge
Of our weakened state. Whether it's in sooth
The rages 'tween themselves or the hard wedge
They've formed against the kind old king, the truth
Is a power from France comes into this
Scattered kingdom, wise in our wayward bliss,
With feet in some of our best ports, about
To announce itself. With word of our curse
Speed to Dover, finding along this route
Some who will thank you. Here, take what this purse
Contains. With this ring to Cordelia go,
And she'll tell you this man you do not know.

KENT: Fie on this storm! I will go seek the king.

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

KENT: When we have found the king----he that first lights on him holla the other.