

## Scene Ten

*Sound of trumpets. The play starts. Enter KENT and GLOUCESTER.*

**NIGEL/KENT** I thought the king had more affected the Duke of Albany than Cornwall.

**DENIS/GLOUCESTER** It did always seem so to us: but now, in the division of the kingdom, it appears not which of the dukes he values most; for equalities are so weighed, that curiosity in neither can make choice of either's moiety. The king is coming.

*Sennet. Enter KING LEAR, GONERIL, REGAN, CORDELIA.*

**JEFFERSON/KING LEAR** Attend the lords of France and Burgundy, Gloucester.

**DENIS/GLOUCESTER** I shall, my liege.

*Exeunt Gloucester.*

**JEFFERSON/KING LEAR** Give me the map there. Know that we have divided In three our kingdom: and 'tis our fast intent To shake all cares and business from our age; Conferring them on younger strengths, while we unburthen'd crawl toward death. 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.

**LAUREN/GONERIL** Sir I love you more than words can wield the matter; dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty; beyond what can be valued rich or rare; no less than life with grace, health, beauty, honour; as much as child e'er loved, or father found; a love that makes breath poor and speech unable; beyond all manner of so much I love you.

**JESSICA/CORDELIA** (*aside*) What shall Cordelia do? Love and be silent.

*Trumpets play. The cast, change places. The lights go down and up to indicate the progress of the play. Spotlight picks out DOROTHY as FOOL.*

**DOROTHY/FOOL** They'll have me whipped for speaking true; thou'lt have me whipped for lying; and sometimes I am whipped for holding my peace. I had rather be any kind of thing than a fool! And yet I would not be thee nuncle.

*Spotlight picks out MARY as REGAN and LAUREN as GONERIL.*

**MARY/REGAN** This house is little; the old man and's people cannot be well bestowed.

**LAUREN/GONERIL** 'Tis his own blame; hath put himself from rest and must needs taste his folly.

*Spotlight picks out KENT and LEAR.*

**NIGEL/KENT** Answer my life in my judgement, thy youngest daughter does not love thee least, nor are those empty-hearted whose low sounds reverb no hollowness.

**JEFFERSON/LEAR** Kent on thy life no more.

**NIGEL/KENT** My life I never held but as a pawn to wage against thine enemies; nor fear to lose it, thy safety being motive.

**JEFFERSON/LEAR** Out of my sight.

**NIGEL/KENT** See better, Lear, and let me still remain the true blank of thine eye.

**JEFFERSON/LEAR** Now by Apollo.

**NIGEL/KENT** Now by Apollo, King, thou swearst thy gods in vain.

**JEFFERSON/LEAR** O Vassal, miscrrent!

*Spotlight picks out JESSICA as CORDELIA and JEFFERSON as LEAR.*

**JESSICA/CORDELIA** O look upon me sir, and hold your hand in benediction o'er me. No sir you must not kneel.