

ORDER AND CHAOS

"My love's more ponderous than my tongue", Cordelia. Not expecting this response. Complex and difficult and contentious because not explicable in basic material terms and bonds like the sisters' love and Lear's ideal love.

"My sometime daughter", Lear - expected obvious love in return. Rash response to lack of order.

"The plague of custom", Edmond - what is the norm is actually poisonous, comfort in order is wrong. Because he doesn't have the social order on his side. Soporific effect of society.

"These late eclipses in the sun and moon portend no good to us", Gloucester - foolish, trying to find reason and order in astrology.

"Irreverent braggart" - Cornwall to Kent who is in disguise. Demonstrating hierarchy. Truth, honesty and goodness are beneath the facade of prestige.

"When priests are more in word that matter; when brewers mar their malt with water", Fool - perceptive on how society is falling apart and become reversed and backward, as the king falls from power. His prophecy.

"This contentious storm invades us to the skin", Lear - reason in madness. Reflects the social upending. Humans Vs elements and Gods.

"Show the heavens more just", Lear - wishing the heavens were just and orderly.

"All dark and comfortless" Gloucester now without Gods the momenta after his eyes are removed.

"The winged vengeance overtake such children", Glouc. - just before eyes taken out. Still reliant on Gods and believes they will punish them.

"As flies to wanton boys are we to th' gods", Gloucester - compared to before blinding, he sees the chaos of the universe. Nihilistic universe of the play.

"Madmen lead the blind", Gloucester. Microcosmic and literal sense of mad Poor Tom (Edgar) leading blind Gloucester. But also in a macrocosmic way, Lear's madness leading in mad subjects who follow and flatter without rationality or sense.

"Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say" - Edmond closing the play. Reversal of the folly throughout the play, that is all governed by duty. Only Cordelia understood that perhaps Kent did and Fool, but that is what begins and closes the play.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN, INHERITANCE

"His breeding, sir, hath been at my charge", Glouc. - animalistic "breeding". Natural son. Not social son.

"I love your majesty according to my bond"

"Why have my sisters husbands, if they say they love you all?" - injustice, flattery.

"I disclaim all my paternal care", Lear - unnatural.

"Scythian" "gorge his appetite, shall to my bosom", Lear - like image of a pelican, self-sacrifice parents giving children their own flesh. Scythians practised cannibalism, ref. to tribes who literally fed off their parents.

"Sometime daughter" - Lear desires complete control and order. Ironic, because Gonerill and Regan are the real "sometime daughters".

"I loved her most", Lear - expecting duty.

"My King, loved as my father", Kent - Kent is the real brother of Lear, who is loyal throughout and honest.

"Be Kent unmannerly when Lear is mad", Kent - honesty. brotherhood. Family not made by blood.

"Better thou hadst not been born than not t'have pleased me better", Lear.

"Strong a bond the child was bound to th' father" - bonds crack.