

THE TRAGEDY OF KING LEAR

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The Tragedy of King Lear by William Shakespeare

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**THE TRAGEDY
OF KING LEAR**

A decorative border with a repeating pattern of interlocking circles and floral motifs, surrounding the central text.

THE TRAGEDY OF
KING LEAR

BY
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



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EAST AUBORA, N. Y.
1904

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THE REQUEST OF
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1918

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

LEAR, king of Britain.

KING OF FRANCE.

DUKE OF BURGUNDY.

DUKE OF CORNWALL.

DUKE OF ALBANY.

EARL OF KENT.

EARL OF GLOSTER.

EDGAR, son to Gloster.

EDMUND, bastard son to Gloster.

CURAN, a courtier.

OSWALD, steward to Goneril.

Old Man, tenant to Gloster.

Doctor.

Fool.

A Captain employed by Edmund.

Gentleman attendant on Cordelia.

A Herald.

Servants to Cornwall.

GONERIL,

REGAN,

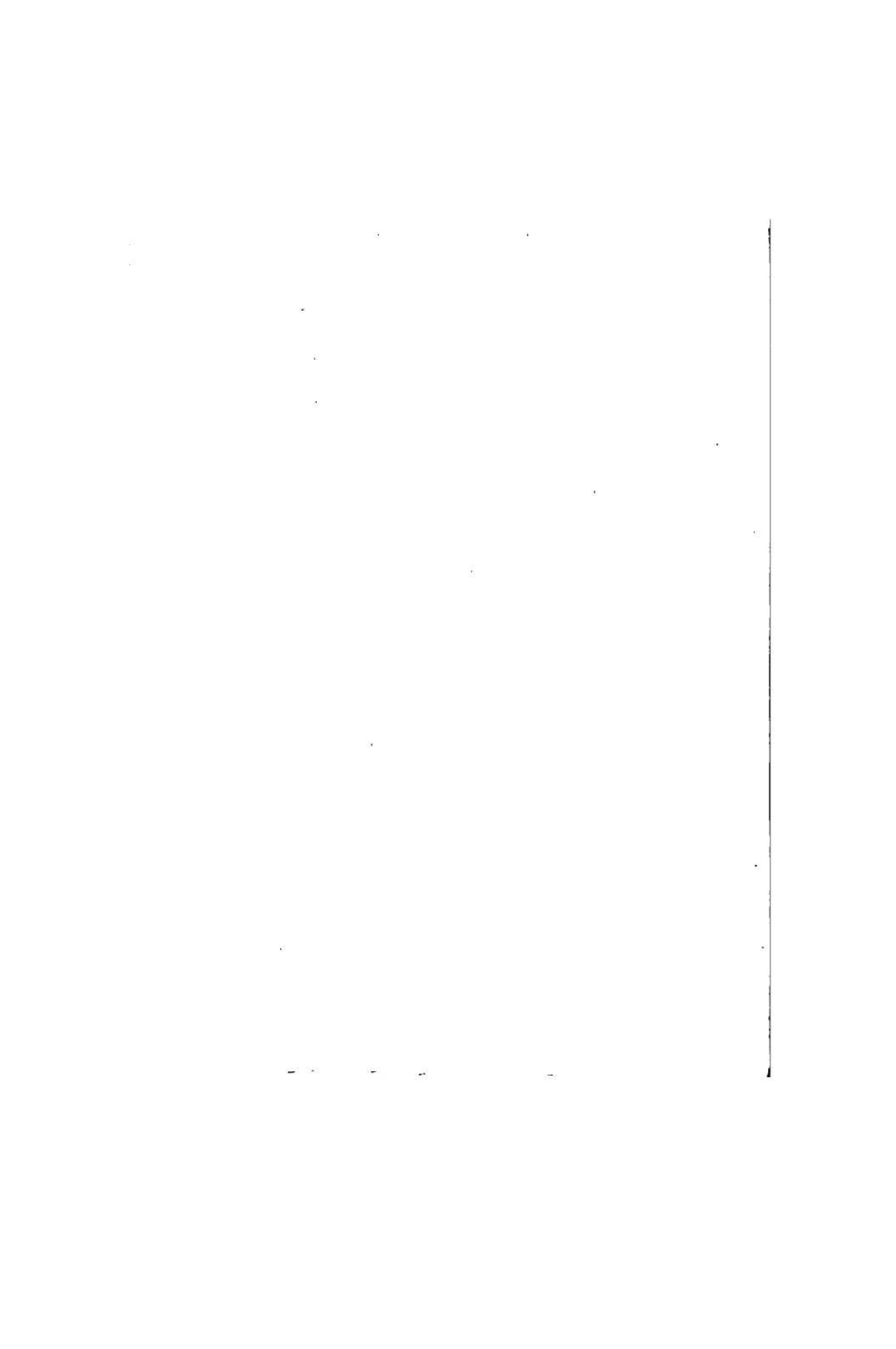
CORDELIA,

} daughters to Lear.

Knights of Lear's train, Captains, Messengers, Soldiers, and Attendants.

SCENE: *Britain.*

ACT ONE





ACT I.

SCENE I. *King Lear's Palace.*

Enter KENT, GLOSTER, and EDMUND.

Kent. I thought the king had more affected the Duke of Albany than Cornwall.

Gloster. 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 qualities are so weighed, that curiosity in neither can make choice of either's moiety.

Kent. Is not this your son, my lord?

Gloster. His breeding, sir, hath been at my charge; I have so often blushed to acknowledge him, that now I am brazed to 't. Do you smell a fault?

Kent. I cannot wish the fault undone, the issue of it being so proper.

Gloster. But I have a son, sir, by order of law, some year elder than this, who yet is no dearer in my account; though this knave came something saucily into the world before he was sent for, yet was his mother fair, and the whoreson must be acknowledged.—Do you know this noble gentleman, Edmund?

Edmund. No, my lord.

Gloster. My lord of Kent. Remember him hereafter as my honourable friend.

Edmund. My services to your lordship.

Kent. I must love you, and sue to know you better.