

“For, by the sacred radiance of the sun,
The mysteries of Hecate, and the night;
By all the operations of the orbs,
For whom we do exist and cease to be;
Here I disclaim all my paternal care,
And as a stranger to my heart and me,
Hold thee, from this, for ever.”—KING LEAR.

And without delay, giving in marriage his other daughters, Goneril to the Duke of Albany, and Regan to the Duke of Cornwall, he divides his kingdom between them. Cordeilla, portionless, married the prince of France, who shortly after succeeded his father upon the throne.

King Lear went to reside with his eldest daughter, attended only by a hundred knights. But in a short time his attendants, being complained of as too numerous and disorderly, are reduced to thirty. Resenting that affront, the old king betakes him to his second daughter; but she, instead of soothing his wounded pride, takes part with her sister, and refuses to admit a retinue of more than five. Then back he returns to the other, who now will not receive him with more than one attendant. Then the remembrance of Cordeilla comes to his thoughts, and he takes his journey into France to seek her, with little hope of kind consideration from one whom he had so injured, but to pay her the last recompense he can render—confession of his injustice. When Cordeilla is informed of his approach, and of his sad condition, she pours forth true filial tears. And, not willing that her own or others' eyes should see him in that forlorn condition, she sends one of her trusted servants to meet him, and convey him privately to some comfortable abode, and to furnish him with such state as befitted his dignity.

King Lear seems to have lost not only faith in others, but also in himself:

“Pray, do not mock me,
I am a very foolish, fond old man,
Fourscore and upward, not an hour more nor less,
And to deal plainly,
I fear I am not in my perfect mind.”—KING LEAR.

Cordeilla, with the king her husband, went out to meet her father, who, because of his humiliation, attempted to kneel in her presence. She repelled the honor and exclaimed: