



Study of Tragic Elements in King Lear

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ABSTRACT: *King Lear* is one of the furthestmost legendary tragedies by the pronounced Elizabethan dramatist William Shakespeare. *King Lear* is categorized as a chronicle play (a sort of drama which lures its English past materials from the sixteenth-century chronicles—such as Holinshed's), Shakespeare practices origins of Senecan tragedy sometimes called Classical tragedy, and the morality play. This is the supreme unique drama by Shakespeare not only for its hero's being an old-aged man who is almost at the end of his life, but also for its artistic unification of virtuous and wicked forces through the entire action-line of the play. The basic aim of this paper is to present different misdeeds of *King Lear* as a king and as a parent at the same time we have to consider ungrateful attitude of his three daughters Goneril, Regan and Cordelia which enhances to tragic elements.

KEY WORDS-tragedies, Elizabethan, *King Lear*, Shakespeare, follies

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I. INTRODUCTION-

Shakespeare was a genius who according to Ben Jonson's phrase, was not of one particular age but "for all time". His literary work tells us that Shakespeare was a steadfast individualist who sought a calm and peaceful life. He was real child of his liveryage. With its conviction, confronting old control.

King Lear develops its tragic roots from numerous forms of tragedies that were widespread during the Elizabethan Renaissance. Even though *King Lear* is categorized as a chronicle play (a form of drama which lures its English historical resources from the sixteenth-century chronicles—such as Holinshed's), Shakespeare practices features of Senecan tragedy occasionally termed Classical tragedy, and the morality play

Shakespeare expertly reveals the anarchy, illness and turmoil of Lear's realm with pure realism of his art. In the commencement of the play, Lear looks to be as an old king intended to misuse his influence and position. The same mighty king, by irony of fate, is condensed to a modest mad man, moving about in the dark, helplessly showing to the furies of the elements. This kind of deprivation of Lear is partially due to his own irrationalities and egoism and also somewhat due to the hypocrisy, lack of gratitude and betrayal of his 'pelican daughters'.

A) Separation of empire on false supposition

At the early stages of the tragedy *King Lear* was correct that he has decided to split the kingdom due to old age. This was his real decision as monarch, as father and as man of acting according to his own principles. But his assessment by definite assumptions which are far away from authenticity and that keep away from understanding the settings and people nearby him. Lear assumes that "father loves their children and that therefore children love their fathers." And further he assumes that children are always truthful and they directly express what they feel in their heart. They are capable of conveying their affection for their children. He has faith in that affection can reward in the form of measurable things. These incorrect assumptions make him reckless, obsessive, and egotistical. He lacks judgment and is unable to understand the true nature of his daughters in this way the king falls from his power and prosperity to the abyss of unendurable wretchedness and thereupon, encounters with his own fate. It is also clear that *King Lear* in rule and sanity seems to be exclusively bound up in egoism. Obviously he looks sightless to the fatalities of life and obligates reckless mistakes that result in not only his downfall but also other good and virtuous character are crushed and ruined [1].

B) Lack of Gratitude

Cordelia is tender and generous. She is obedient to her father and her affection is genuine though she was simple, straight forward. Besides her simple devotion and self-control, she is at fault she was well familiar with her father's nature and his excited mood. She was well familiar with hypocrisy of her sisters. But she kept

quiet. She was at fault in upholding a proud and obstinate standby. She ought to have spoken out her love if not for herself, at least for the sake of her father who psychologically and physically weakened by oldness in this manner she could have save her father from the clutches of her evil sister but her reserve and philosophical nature makes her to keep silent. This designates that she was ungrateful at that moment and this lead in further tragedy.

The play's leading mockery is that the children that Lear and Gloucester consider to be thankless are truly loyal, while those whom they trust to be loyal are plotting against them. Goneril and Regan, King Lear's two elder daughters, and Edmund, Gloucester's illegal son, are the children who turn against their elderly fathers. Their actions, in both the main plot and the sub-plot of the play, run in parallel with each other, and convey about the collapse and ultimate demise of both Lear and Gloucester

C) Tragedy due to escaping from duty.

King Lear, king of England having touched the old age of eighty he decided to give up the accountabilities of kingship. Instead of separating kingdom he has to hand down his kingdom to the eldest daughter, Goneril. Secondly he used false, illusionary assumption to divide the kingdom.

It is duty of every son or daughter to take care of his or her father in his old age but here Goneril and Regan two double-dealer daughters by cheating her father by flattering. Goneril remarked, "Sir i love you more than words can wield the matter" (Act I, Scene I, and Lines: and so gaining more shares in kingdom. When Lear goes to halt with Goneril and Regan they both drive him away instead of taking care of old father so in this.

Cordelia is also accountable for the tragedy, because she is well aware of the nature of her father and this in situation to state the reality was not only responsibility. Cordelia was essentially conscious of false and disloyal nature of her sisters. It was also her responsibility to preserve her fanciful father from her untrustworthy sisters. She ought to have spoken out her love. If not for her but at least for the sake of her father who was mentally and physically fatigued by age. She could have professed her love without losing her dignity. But she fails to do so by her stubborn refusal. She upset the well-made plane of her father .that "oppose less will", Lear, records into fierce anger and loses all his self-control and the result is pain and misfortune both for him and Cordelia. So in this way everyone tries to escape from their duty and which leads to tragedy.

D) Moral carelessness of central character

In King Lear Shakespeare display the prominence of the theme of blindness by depicting it all over play .Blindness gives the impression in various forms, Blindness means the capability to understand through one's eyes but conferring to Shakespeare, blindness is not physical quality rather than mental flaws. In King Lear, Lear was a morally blinded character and this moral blindness demonstrated as the leading theme of this play[2]. King Lear is not really blind in anyway at the start of the play but is morally blind because of their wealth and power.

The King has three daughters and no sons, an uncommon circumstance which makes problems already. Probably, giving the land to the eldest daughter Goneril and Albany would closest fit the pattern of primogeniture (1)

King Lear has fallen into complete sanity after both of his daughters rejected to treat him with esteem and love that he didn't justify. Ultimately both the daughters did throw him out of their houses as well as from their lives. The moment Lear gets understood about Cordelia's real love, and the dishonest attitudes of Goneril and Regan, he became mad. After going through the stage of insanity Lear screamed, "No rain, wind, thunder, fire are my daughters; I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness I never gave you kingdom, called you children; You owe me no subscription". (Act III, Scene II, Lines: 15-18) Here it has been shown that, Lear did able to admit his wrong judgment towards his daughter Cordelia as he exiled her and instead of believing Cordelia's real words, Lear supposed his evil daughters deceitful disputes. He shouted to the storm and didn't blame the storm for coming down on him. Because he anticipated that he never gave the storm his kingdom or considers edit as his child, on the other hands he also considered on his wrong decision and thought he gave everything to Goneril and Regan and instead of giving him respect they treated him with disrespect, ingratitude and disloyalty. The tragic story of Shakespeare's king Lear: A study of moral blindness and madness which are the two striking forces behind King Lear's ultimate demise

II. CONCLUSION-

Shakespeare skillfully exposes the chaos, illness and turmoil of Lear's dominion with unadulterated realism of his art. In the beginning of the play, Lear looks to be as an old king intended to misuse his impact and position. The same mighty king, by irony of fate, is condensed to a modest mad man, moving about in the dark, helplessly showing to the furies of the elements. This kind of deprivation of Lear is partially due to his own irrationalities and egoism and also somewhat due to the hypocrisy, lack of gratitude and betrayal of his 'pelican daughters'.

Beside moral blindness of core character (King Lear) some of the other factors which enhance the tragedy like separation of Kingdom on false assumption, ungrateful attitude of all daughters of King Lear. Goneril and Regan who takes their share by cheating their father so gaining more share in kingdom. When Lear goes to halt with Goneril and Regan they both drive him away instead of taking care of old father so in this. Tender and generous Cordelia also shows lack of gratitude This shows the ungrateful attitude of king Lear's daughter.

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