

花季读英语

POPULAR LITERATURE IN ENGLISH



李尔王

KING LEAR

湖南文艺出版社

李 尔 王

KING LEAR

萧 乾 文洁若 译注

责任编辑：罗尉宣

*

湖南文艺出版社出版、发行

(长沙市河西银盆南路 67 号 邮编：410006)

湖南省新华书店经销 湖南省新华印刷一厂印刷

*

1999 年 9 月第 1 版 2001 年 1 月第 2 版第 1 次印刷

开本：850×1168 1/32 印张：1.75

字数：30,000 印数：10,001—18,000

ISBN7-5404-2105-3

G·113 定价：3.10 元

若有质量问题，请直接与本社出版科联系调换

POPULAR LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Vol. 11

KING LEAR

(A Bilingual Edition)

by

Charles Lamb

With Translation and Notes

by

Xiao Qian Wen Jie-ruo

萧 乾 文洁若 译注

顾问 文洁若 陈羽纶

主编 符家钦

编委 沈师光 苏福忠 王 辛 符德新

策划 罗尉宣

Hunan Literature and Art Publishing House

Changsha



KING LEAR^[1]

Lear, king of Britain, had three daughters; Goneril,^[2] wife to the duke of Albany^[3]; Regan,^[4] wife to the duke of Cornwall^[5]; and Cordelia,^[6] a young maid, for whose love the king of France and duke of Burgundy^[7] were joint suitors,^[8] and were at this time making stay for that purpose in the court of Lear.

The old king, worn out with^[9] age and the fatigues of government, he being more than fourscore^[10] years old, determined to take no further part in state affairs, but to leave the management to

[1] Lear ['liə]: 李尔。

[2] Goneril ['gɒnərɪl]: 高纳里尔。

[3] Albany ['ɔlbəni]: 奥本尼。

[4] Regan ['riɡən]: 里根。

[5] Cornwall ['kɔ:nwəl]: 康华尔。

[6] Cordelia [kɔ:'dɪliə]: 考狄利娅。



李 尔 王

不列颠的国王李尔有三个女儿，就是奥本尼公爵的妻子高纳里尔、康华尔公爵的妻子里根和年轻的姑娘考狄利娅。法兰西国王和勃艮第公爵同时向考狄利娅求婚，这时候，两个人为了这件事都住在李尔的宫里。

老国王八十多岁了，他由于上了年纪，并且为国事操劳过度，身体衰弱下来。他决定把国事让给年轻有为的人去治理，自己就不再过

(7) Burgundy ['bʌ:gəndi]: 勃艮第。

(8) joint suitors = they sought to marry Cordeila and were therefore rivals. joint suitors 是 king of France 和 duke of Burgundy 的表语。

(9) worn out with = tired out with.

(10) fourscore = eighty. score = twenty.

younger strengths, that he might⁽¹⁾ have time to prepare for death, which must at no long period⁽²⁾ ensue. With this intent he called his three daughters to him, to know from their own lips which of them loved him best, that he might part his kingdom among them in such proportions as their affection for him should seem to deserve.

Goneril, the eldest, declared that she loved her father more than words could give out,⁽³⁾ that he was dearer to her than the light of her own eyes, dearer than life and liberty, with a deal of⁽⁴⁾ such professing stuff,⁽⁵⁾ which is easy to counterfeit where there is no real love, only a few fine words delivered with confidence being wanted in that case. The king, delighted to hear from her own mouth this assurance of her love, and thinking truly that her heart went with it,⁽⁶⁾ in a fit of fatherly fondness bestowed upon her and her husband one third of his ample kingdom.

Then calling to him his second daughter, he demanded what she had to say. Regan, who was made of the same hollow metal⁽⁷⁾ as her sister, was not a whit behind⁽⁸⁾ in her professions, but rather declared that what her sister had spoken came short of the love which she professed to bear for his highness; inso-

[1] that...might = in order that...might.

[2] at no long period = with a short period.

[3] give out: 表达 (= represent; express)。

[4] a deal of = a great deal of; a lot of.

[5] professing stuff: 花言巧语 (= words that were all profession on pretence; insincere utterance)。stuff = nonsense。

问了。这样，好让他有时间准备后事，因为死亡不久就会光顾他了。既然有了这样的打算，他就把三个女儿叫到跟前来，想从她们自己的嘴里听出谁最爱他，这样，他好照她们爱他的程度来分配各人应得的一份国土。

大女儿高纳里尔说，她对她父亲的爱不是言语所能表达得出的，说她爱父亲胜过爱她自己眼睛里的光，胜过爱生命和自由。其实，在这种场合只要老老实实说几句好话就够了，可是她心里没有真实的爱，所以她信口编了一大套花言巧语来表白。国王听到她亲口保证了一定爱他，就十分高兴，认真以为她是心口如一的。于是，他凭着一阵父爱的冲动，就把广大国土的三分之一赐给她和她的丈夫。

然后他又把二女儿叫过来，让她表白一下自己的心思。里根跟她姐姐一样虚伪，表白得一点儿也不比她姐姐差。她说她姐姐的话还不足以表达她对父王的爱，

[6] thinking truly that her heart went with it...: truly 是副词，修饰现在分词 thinking。

[7] hollow metal: 虚伪的本质 (= insincere substance; deceitful essence)。这里指 Regan 和 Goneril 一样缺乏诚意，专门扯谎。

[8] not a whit behind: 一点也不差 (= not at all inferior)。

much that⁽¹⁾ she found all other joys dead, in comparison with the pleasure which she took in the love of her dear king and father.

Lear blessed himself⁽²⁾ in having such loving children, as he thought; and could do no less, after the handsome assurances which Regan had made, than bestow a third of his kingdom upon her and her husband, equal in size to that which he had already given away to Goneril.

Then turning to his youngest daughter Cordeila, whom he called his joy, he asked what she had to say, thinking no doubt that she would glad his ears⁽³⁾ with the same loving speeches which her sisters had uttered, or rather that her expressions would be so much stronger than theirs, as she had always been his darling, and favoured by him above either of them. But Cordelia, disgusted with the flattery of her sisters, whose hearts she knew were far from their lips, and seeing that all their coaxing speeches were only intended to wheedle the old king out of⁽⁴⁾ his dominions, that⁽⁵⁾ they and their husbands might reign in his lifetime, made no other reply but this, —that she loved his majesty according to her duty, neither more nor less.

The king, shocked with this appearance of ingratitude in his favourite child, desired her to consider

[1] insomuch that = to such an extent that.

[2] blessed himself = thought himself very fortunate; congratulated himself.

[3] glad his ears = gladden (please) his ears.

因为世界上一切欢乐都引不起她的兴趣来，只有在孝顺她亲爱的父王的时候，她才感到无比的幸福。

李尔以为孩子们都这样爱他，就祝福了自己。里根既然对他作了这么出色的表示，他也得同样赏赐她。于是，他也把三分之一的国土赐给她和她的丈夫，土地的面积跟他已经赐给高纳里尔的一般大。

然后他转过身来问他的小女儿考狄利娅。他管她叫做他的“快乐”，他问她要说什么，心里想，她也一定跟她姐姐们一样说点甜蜜的话叫他听了高兴，也许她的话比她们的还要热烈些，因为他一向最宠爱她，比起她两个姐姐来，他更喜欢考狄利娅。可是考狄利娅十分讨厌她姐姐们的奉承，她知道她们嘴上说的跟心里想的满不是一回事，她也看出她们的献媚只是为了从年老的国王手里骗取国土，这样，不等国王去世，她们和她们的丈夫就好掌握大权。因此，考狄利娅只这样回答说，她的爱不多也不少，她就照着做女儿的本分去爱国王。

国王听到他最宠爱的孩子这番话，觉得像是忘恩负义，就大吃一惊。他要她重新考虑一

(4) wheedle the old king out of = coax the old king to give up.

(5) that = in order that.

her words, and to mend her speech, lest it should mar her fortunes.

Cordelia then told her father, that he was her father, that he had given her breeding,⁽¹⁾ and loved her; that she returned those duties back as was most fit, and did obey him, love him, and most honour him. But that⁽²⁾ she could not frame her mouth to such large speeches⁽³⁾ as her sisters had done, or promise to love nothing else in the world. Why had her sisters husbands, if (as they said) they had no love for anything but their father? If she should ever wed, she was sure the lord to whom she gave her hand⁽⁴⁾ would want half her love, half of her care and duty: she should never marry like her sisters, to love her father all.⁽⁵⁾

Cordelia, who in earnest loved her old father even almost as extravagantly⁽⁶⁾ as her sisters pretended to do, would have plainly told him so at any other time, in more daughter-like and loving terms, and without these qualifications, which did indeed sound a little ungracious; but after the crafty flattering speeches of her sisters, which she had seen drawn such extravagant rewards, she thought the handsomest⁽⁷⁾ thing she could do was to love and be silent. This put her affection out of suspicion of mer-

(1) had given her breeding = had brought her up.

(2) but that = but she told her father that.

(3) large speeches = extravagant words.

(4) gave her hand: 结婚 (= married)。

下她的措词，修正她的话，不然对她的前途是不利的。

考狄利娅告诉她父亲说，他是她的生父，他把她养育成人，疼爱她；她也尽到了自己的孝心来报答他，听他的话，爱他，尊敬他。可是她不会像姐姐们那样夸夸其谈，也不能保证世界上除了父亲以外，她谁也不爱了。如果她的姐姐们（像她们讲的那样）除了父亲什么也不爱了，她们干嘛还要丈夫呢？有一天她要是结婚的话，娶她的那位先生一定会要分去她一半的爱，她要用一半的心去照顾他，尽她做妻子的应尽的责任。假使她光想爱她父亲一个人的话，她就永远也不会像她姐姐们那样结婚了。

实际上，考狄利娅是真心诚意地爱她的老父亲，几乎像她姐姐们假装得那样深挚。换个时候，她也会明明白白告诉他，她会说得更像个做女儿的，言词也会更亲热，不会加上那些保留的话。她刚才的那些保留的话确实不大中听，可是听了她姐姐们那些虚伪的奉承，又看见她们从而得到的丰厚的赏赐，她心里想，最好就是不声不响地爱她的父亲，这样就可以使

[5] to love her father all = if she is to love her father exclusively.

[6] extravagantly = unreasonably.

[7] handsomest = most handsome.

cenary ends^[1] and showed that she loved, but not for gain; and that her professions, the less ostentatious^[2], they were, had so much the more of truth and sincerity than her sisters'.

This plainness of speech, which Lear called pride, so enraged the old monarch—who in his best of times always showed much of spleen^[3] and rashness, and in whom the dotage incident to old age had so clouded over his reason, that he could not discern truth from flattery, nor a gay painted speech from words that came from the heart—that in a fury of resentment he retracted the third part of his kingdom which yet remained, and which he had reserved for Cordelia, and gave it away from her, sharing it equally between her two sisters and their husbands, the dukes of Albany and Cornwall; whom he now called to him, and in presence of all his courtiers bestowing a coronet between them, invested them jointly with all the power, revenue, and execution of government, only retaining to himself the name of king; all the rest of royalty he resigned; with this reservation, that^[4] himself, with a hundred knights for his attendants, was to be maintained by monthly course^[5] in each of his daughters' palaces in turn.

So preposterous^[6] a disposal of his kingdom, so

[1] mercenary ends = aiming at reward.

[2] ostentatious = showy.

[3] spleen = ill-humour; peevishness.

[4] that: that 的先行词是 this reservation.

她的爱不至于沾染上有所贪图的色彩，可以表明她是爱父亲的，然而并不是为了得到什么。她的话虽然没那么动听，却比她姐姐们的话真挚诚恳。

老国王李尔把考狄利娅这片朴实的话称作骄傲，十分生气。国王年轻力壮的时候性情向来很急躁，动不动就发脾气；如今一上年纪，难免昏聩了，使他不能分辨真话和奉承，也分不清花言巧语和心窝里的话。于是，一阵暴怒，他就把原来留给考狄利娅的那三分之一的国土收回来，不再给她，却平分给她两个姐姐和她们的丈夫奥本尼公爵和康华尔公爵。李尔把他们叫过来，当着他所有的朝臣把王冠赐给他们，并且把全部权柄、税收和国政都交给他们共同管理。他摆脱了一切国王的职权，仅仅保留着国王的名义。他只提了一个条件，他要求带着一百名武士，作为他的侍从，在他两个女儿的王宫里每个月轮流居住。

看到国王把他的王国处理得这样荒

[5] by monthly course = for periods of a month at a time; every month alternately.

[6] preposterous: pre (前) + post (后) + erous (形容词语尾) = 前后矛盾，引申为 stupid 之意。

little guided by reason, and so much by passion, filled all his courtiers with astonishment and sorrow; but none of them had the courage to interpose between this incensed king and his wrath⁽¹⁾, except the earl of Kent, who was beginning to speak a good word for Cordelia, when the passionate Lear on pain of death⁽²⁾ commanded him to desist; but the good Kent was not so to be repelled. He had been ever loyal to Lear, whom he had honoured as a king, loved as a father, followed as a master; and he had never esteemed his life further than as a pawn to wage⁽³⁾ against his royal master's enemies, nor feared to lose it when Lear's safety was the motive; nor now that Lear was most his own enemy, did this faithful servant of the king forget his old principles, but manfully opposed Lear, to do Lear good⁽⁴⁾; and was unmannerly only because Lear was mad. He had been a most faithful counsellor in times past to the king, and he besought him now, that he would see with his eyes⁽⁵⁾ (as he had done in many weighty matters), and go by his advice still; and in his best consideration recall this hideous rashness: for he would answer with his life, his judgment that⁽⁶⁾ Lear's youngest daughter did not love him least, nor were those empty-hearted

(1) his wrath [ῥῶθ] = the object of his wrath, Cordelia.

(2) on pain of death: 违者处死 (= on penalty of death; at the risk of being sentenced to death)。

(3) as a pawn to wage: as = like. to wage = to contend; to struggle.

唐，全凭一时的感情，一点儿也不用理智，所有的朝臣都感到又震惊又难过；可是除了肯特伯爵，谁也不敢去冒犯这位正发着脾气的国王。肯特伯爵刚开始替考狄利娅说几句好话，暴跳如雷的李尔就叫他住嘴，不然就要他的命。然而那位好心的肯特并没有被吓住。他一向对李尔是忠心耿耿的，把他当国王来尊敬，当父亲来爱，当主人来追随。他从来不看重自己的生命，认为自己活着不过是为了当个小卒，好跟国王的敌人打仗。为了保卫李尔的安全，他也从来不怕死。如今，李尔做起对他自己最不利的事来了，国王的这个忠实臣仆没有忘记他一贯的精神，为了李尔的利益，毅然起来反对他。只因为李尔发了疯，肯特才对他失礼。过去，他一向是国王最忠实的谏臣，所以他请求国王仍然接受他的意见（在许多重大事情上国王都听从了他的意见），照他的劝告去做。他劝国王好好考虑一下，收回他那草率的成命。他敢用性命担保，李尔的小女儿对他的孝心绝不比她姐姐们差，她说话的声音低，是因为她充

〔4〕 to do Lear good: 为了李尔的利益 (= for the benefit of Lear)。

〔5〕 he would see with his eyes; he = the king. his = kent's.

〔6〕 for he would answer with his life, his judgement that...; answer 的宾语是 his judgement。

whose low sound gave no token of hollowness.^[1] When power bowed to flattery, honour was bound to plainness. For Lear's threats, what could he do to him, whose life was already at his service? That should not hinder duty from speaking.

The honest freedom of this good earl of Kent only stirred up the king's wrath the more, and like a frantic patient who kills his physician, and loves his mortal disease, he banished this true servant, and allotted him but five days to make his preparations for departure; but if on the sixth his hated person was found within the realm of Britain, that moment was to be his death. And Kent bade farewell to the king, and said, that since he chose to show himself in such fashion, it was but banishment to stay there; and before he went, he recommended Cordelia to the protection of the gods, the maid who had so rightly thought, and so discreetly spoken; and only wished that her sisters' large speeches might be answered^[2] with deeds of love; and then he went, as he said, to shape his old course to a new country.^[3]

The king of France and duke of Burgundy were now called in to hear the determination of Lear about his youngest daughter, and to know whether they would persist in their courtship to Cordelia, now that she was under her father's displeasure, and had no

[1] that Lear's...hollowness; (a) 这是名词从句, 系 judgement 的同位语。

(b) those 是 nor were...hollowness 的主词, nor were...empty-hearted 是其谓语。

(c) whose low sound gave no token of hollowness 是定语从句, 修饰 those。

满了真实的感情，那正是她心里不空虚的证明。掌握大权的人一旦向谄媚者低了头，正直的朝臣就只好把坦率的话说出来了。不管李尔怎样恫吓，他也拿肯特没有办法，因为肯特早就准备随时为国王牺牲自己的性命。肯特要尽到自己的责任，威胁也封不住他的嘴。

这个好心的肯特伯爵直率的谏言只不过叫国王更生气了，就像一个发疯的病人杀死他的医生，而对那会叫他送命的病症却依依不舍一样，李尔把这个忠实的臣仆放逐了，只限他五天以内做好动身的准备。如果国王所痛恨的这个人第六天在不列颠的国土上被发现，就立刻把他处死。于是，肯特就向国王告辞，说自己既然已经采取了那种态度，再留在那里也就跟流放在外头一个样了。他走以前，又祈祷上天保佑考狄利娅这个思想正确、说话慎重的姑娘；然后又说，但愿她的两个姐姐能用孝顺的行为来证实她们说过的大话。于是，肯特就走了，他说他要到一个新的国家去走他旧日走过的路。

法兰西国王和勃艮第公爵这时候被召进去听取李尔关于他小女儿的决定，国王想知道：如今考狄利娅已经失掉了她父亲的宠爱，她什么财产

(2) answered = followed.

(3) to shape his old course to a new country: 到一个新国家去，照以前那样行事 (= to behave in the same old way in a new country)。