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莎士比亚悲剧故事

Tragedies from Shakespeare

Charles Lamb & Mary Lamb

双语插图本





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❖ KING LEAR¹

Lear, king of Britain, had three daughters; Goneril², wife to the duke of Albany³; Regan⁴, wife to the duke of Cornwall⁵; and Cordelia⁶, a young maid, for whose love the king of France and duke of Burgundy⁷ were joint suitors⁸, and were at this time making stay for that purpose in the court of Lear.

The old king, worn out with⁹ age and the fatigues of government, being more than fourscore¹⁰ years old, determined to take no further part in state affairs, but to leave the management to younger strengths, that he might¹¹ have time to prepare for death, which must at no long period¹² 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 out¹³, that he was dearer to her than the light of her own eyes, dearer than life and liberty, with a deal of¹⁴ such professing stuff¹⁵, 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 it¹⁶, in a fit of fatherly fondness bestowed upon her and her

1. Lear [liə]; 李尔。 2. Goneril ['gɒnəril]; 高纳里尔。 3. Albany ['ɔ:lbəni]; 奥本尼。 4. Regan ['ri:gən]; 里甘。 5. Cornwall ['kɔ:nwɔl]; 康华尔。 6. Cordelia [kɔ:'di:liə]; 考狄利娅。 7. Burgundy ['bɜ:gəndi]; 勃艮第。 8. joint suitors= they sought to marry Cordelia 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. 11. that...might=in order that...

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甘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,

might. 12. at no long period = with a short period. 13. give out: 表达 (=represent; express). 14. a deal of = a great deal of; a lot of. 15. professing stuff: 花言巧语 (=words that were all profession on pretence; insincere utterance). stuff = nonsense. 16. thinking truly that her heart went with it...: truly是副词,修饰现在分词 thinking.

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 metal¹ as her sister, was not a whit behind² 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; insomuch that³ 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 himself⁴ 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 Cordelia, whom he called his joy, he asked what she had to say, thinking no doubt that she would glad his ears⁵ 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 of⁶ his dominions, that⁷ 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 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 breeding⁸, and loved her; that she returned those duties back as was most fit, and did obey him, love him, and most honour him. But that⁹ she could not frame her mouth to such large speeches¹⁰ as her sisters had done, or promise to love nothing else in the world. Why had her sisters husbands,

1. 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。 2. not a whit behind: 一点也不差 (=not at all inferior)。 3. in so much that=to such an extent that. 4. blessed himself=thought himself very fortunate;

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。里甘跟她姐姐一样虚伪,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,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。里甘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。他管她叫作他的“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,她就照着作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

congratulated himself. 5. glad his ears=gladen (please) his ears. 6. wheedle the old king out of=coax the old king to give up. 7. that=in order that. 8. had given her breeding=had brought her up. 9. but that=but she told her father that. 10. large speeches=extravagant words.

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 hand¹ would want half her love, half of her care and duty; she should never marry like her sisters, to love her father all².

Cordelia, who in earnest loved her old father even almost as extravagantly³ 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 handsomest⁴ thing she could do was to love and be silent. This put her affection out of suspicion of mercenary ends⁵, and showed that she loved, but not for gain; and that her professions, the less ostentatious⁶ 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 spleen⁷ 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, that⁸ himself, with a hundred knights for his attendants, was to be maintained by monthly course⁹ in each of his daughters' palaces in turn.

So preposterous¹⁰ a disposal of his kingdom, so little guided by reason,

1. gave her hand: 结婚 (=married)。 2. to love her father all=if she is to love her father exclusively. 3. extravagantly=unreasonably. 4. handsomest=most handsome. 5. mercenary ends=aiming at reward. 6. ostentatious=showy. 7. spleen=ill-humour; peevishness. 8. that:

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,难免昏惯了,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唐,全凭一时的感情,一点儿也

that 的先行词是 this reservation. 9. by monthly course=for periods of a month at a time; every month alternately. 10. preposterous:pre(前)+post(后)+erous(形容词语尾)=前后矛盾,引伸为stupid之意。

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 wrath¹, except the earl of Kent, who was beginning to speak a good word for Cordelia, when the passionate Lear on pain of death² 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 wage³ 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 good⁴; 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 eyes⁵ (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 that⁶ Lear's youngest daughter did not love him least, nor were those empty-hearted whose low sound gave no token of hollowness⁷. 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

1. his wrath [rɔ:θ]=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. 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

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

with his life, his judgement that...: answer 的宾语是 his judgement. 7. 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。

maid who had so rightly thought, and so discreetly spoken; and only wished that her sisters' large speeches might be answered¹ with deeds of love; and then he went, as he said, to shape his old course to a new country².

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 fortune but her own person³ to recommend her: and the duke of Burgundy declined the match, and would not take her to wife upon such conditions; but the king of France, understanding what the nature of the fault had been which had lost her the love of her father, that it was only a tardiness of speech, and the not being⁴ able to frame her tongue to flattery like her sisters, took this young maid by the hand, and saying that her virtues were a dowry above a kingdom⁵, bade Cordelia to take farewell of her sisters and of her father, though he had been unkind, and she should go with him, and be queen of him and of fair France, and reign over fairer possessions than her sisters: and he called the duke of Burgundy in contempt a waterish duke⁶, because his love for this young maid had in a moment run all away like water.

Then Cordelia with weeping eyes took leave of her sisters, and besought them to love their father well, and make good their professions⁷: and they sullenly told her not to prescribe to them, for they knew their duty; but to strive to content her husband, who had taken her (as they tauntingly expressed it) as Fortune's alms⁸. And Cordelia with a heavy heart departed, for she knew the cunning of her sisters, and she wished her father in better hands than she was about to leave him in.

Cordelia was no sooner gone, than the devilish dispositions of her sisters began to show themselves in their true colours. Even before the expiration of the first month, which Lear was to spend by agreement with his

1. answered=followed. 2. 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). 3. but her own person=except her own body. 4. the not being...: 是动名词短语, 和前面的tardiness of speech并为it 的表语。 5. above a kingdom=worth more than a kingdom. 6. waterish duke: 此处 water

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，她什么财产也分不到，光剩下她这么一个人，他们还向她求婚不来了。勃艮第公爵谢绝了这个婚姻，表示在这种情形下他就不想娶她了。可是法兰西国王了解考狄利娅是由于什么样的过错失掉她父亲的宠爱的，那只是因为她说说话迟钝，不像她姐姐们那样善于鼓起舌簧来献媚。他拉住年轻姑娘的手说，她的品德是比一个王国还要贵重的一份嫁妆。他叫考狄利娅跟两个姐姐告别，也向她父亲告别，尽管他待她那样坏；然后跟他走，做他的王后，也做锦绣的法兰西的王后，她统治的王国将要比她姐姐们的更灿烂。然后，他又用轻蔑的口气管勃艮第公爵叫作“如水的公爵”，因为他对这位年轻姑娘的爱一眨眼就像水一样流光了。

于是，考狄利娅淌着泪跟她的姐姐们告别了。同时还嘱咐她们要好好爱父亲，要照她们所表白的那样做。她的姐姐们绷着脸说，她们自己会尽自己的本分，用不着她指点；她的丈夫既然把她当作（她们用嘲笑的语气说）命运施舍给他的东西，她还是好好满足她丈夫的愿望去吧。于是考狄利娅就心情沉重地走了，她知道她姐姐们为人刁滑，她原是希望能够把父亲托付到更可靠的人手里。

考狄利娅刚走，她的姐姐们恶魔般的性情就露出本相来。照原来的规定，李尔头一个月跟大女儿高纳里尔过，可是不到一个月，老国王就

语意双关，一方面指勃艮第州河流很多，同时也指公爵为人浅薄。watery=poor; washy; vapid. 7. make good their professions=demonstrate the truth of; do as well as they had promised. 8. Fortune's alms: 命运之神施舍的东西(=charity of Fortune)。

eldest daughter Goneril, the old king began to find out the difference between promises and performances. This wretch having got from her father all that he had to bestow, even to the giving away of the crown from off his head, began to grudge even those small remnants of royalty¹ which the old man had reserved to himself, to please his fancy with the idea of being still a king. She could not bear to see him and his hundred knights. Every time she met her father, she put on a frowning countenance; and when the old man wanted to speak with her, she would feign sickness, or anything² to get rid of the sight of him; for it was plain that she esteemed his old age a useless burden, and his attendants an unnecessary expense: not only she herself slackened³ in her expressions of duty to the king, but by her example, and (it is to be feared) not without her private instructions, her very servants affected to treat him with neglect⁴, and would either refuse to obey his orders, or still more contemptuously pretend not to hear them. Lear could not but perceive this alteration in the behaviour of his daughter, but he shut his eyes against it as long as he could, as people commonly are unwilling to believe the unpleasant consequences which their own mistakes and obstinacy have brought upon them.

True love and fidelity are no more to be estranged by *ill⁵*, than falsehood and hollow-heartedness can be conciliated by *good usage*. This eminently appears in the instance of the good earl of Kent, who, though banished by Lear, and his life made forfeit if he were found in Britain, close to stay and abide⁶ all consequences, as long as there was a chance of his being useful to the king his master. See to what mean shifts and disguises poor loyalty is forced to submit sometimes; yet it counts nothing base or unworthy, so as⁷ it can but⁸ do service where it owes an obligation! In the disguise of a serving man, all his greatness and pomp laid aside⁹, this good earl proffered¹⁰ his services to the king, who, not knowing him to be Kent in that disguise, but pleased with

1. those small remnants of royalty: 指国王保留的那点特权, 如一百名侍从 (=the privileges which the king had preserved for himself, such as his escort of a hundred knights). 2. feign sickness, or anything: anything 是 feign 的宾语。 3. slackened in=was negligent of. 4. affected to treat him with neglect: 故意冷落地对待他 (=made a show of treating him with