

# King Lear

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## SCENE V. Gloucester's castle.

*Enter REGAN and OSWALD*

**REGAN**

But are my brother's powers set forth?

**OSWALD**

Ay, madam.

**REGAN**

Himself in person there?

**OSWALD**

Madam, with much ado:  
Your sister is the better soldier.

**REGAN**

Lord Edmund spake not with your lord at home?

**OSWALD**

No, madam.

**REGAN**

What might import my sister's letter to him?

**OSWALD**

I know not, lady.

**REGAN**

'Faith, he is posted hence on serious matter.  
It was great ignorance, Gloucester's eyes being out,  
To let him live: where he arrives he moves  
All hearts against us: Edmund, I think, is gone,  
In pity of his misery, to dispatch  
His nighted life: moreover, to descry  
The strength o' the enemy.

**OSWALD**

I must needs after him, madam, with my letter.

**REGAN**

Our troops set forth to-morrow: stay with us;  
The ways are dangerous.

**OSWALD**

I may not, madam:  
My lady charged my duty in this business.

**REGAN**

Why should she write to Edmund? Might not you  
Transport her purposes by word? Belike,  
Something--I know not what: I'll love thee much,  
Let me unseal the letter.

**OSWALD**

Madam, I had rather--

**REGAN**

I know your lady does not love her husband;  
I am sure of that: and at her late being here  
She gave strange oeillades and most speaking looks  
To noble Edmund. I know you are of her bosom.

**OSWALD**

I, madam?

**REGAN**

I speak in understanding; you are; I know't:  
Therefore I do advise you, take this note:  
My lord is dead; Edmund and I have talk'd;  
And more convenient is he for my hand  
Than for your lady's: you may gather more.  
If you do find him, pray you, give him this;  
And when your mistress hears thus much from you,  
I pray, desire her call her wisdom to her.  
So, fare you well.  
If you do chance to hear of that blind traitor,  
Preferment falls on him that cuts him off.

**OSWALD**

Would I could meet him, madam! I should show

What party I do follow.

**REGAN**

Fare thee well.

*Exeunt*

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