

CAPTAIN Edmund is dead, my lord.

ALBANY That's but a trifle here.

You lords and noble friends, know our intent.
 What comfort to this great decay may come
 Shall be applied. For us, we will resign
 During the life of this old majesty 295
 To him our absolute power; [To Edgar and Kent] you, to your
 rights,

With boot, and such addition as your honour
 Have more than merited. All friends shall taste
 The wages of their virtue, and all foes
 The cup of their deservings. O see, see! 300

LEAR And my poor fool is hanged. No, no life?
 Why should a dog, a horse, a rat have life,
 And thou no breath at all? O, thou wilt come no more,
 Never, never, never.
 Pray you, undo this button. Thank you, sir. 305
 O, O, O, O.

EDGAR He faints. – My lord, my lord!

LEAR Break, heart, I prithee break.

EDGAR Look up, my lord.

KENT Vex not his ghost. O, let him pass. He hates him
 That would upon the rack of this tough world 310
 Stretch him out longer.

[Lear dies]

EDGAR O, he is gone indeed.

KENT The wonder is he hath endured so long.

He but usurped his life.

ALBANY Bear them from hence. Our present business
 Is general woe. – Friends of my soul, you twain 315
 Rule in this kingdom and the gored state sustain.

KENT I have a journey, sir, shortly to go:

My master calls, and I must not say no.

ALBANY The weight of this sad time we must obey,
 Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say. 320

291–300 That's ... see] F lineation (except 298–9); as prose Q *293 great] F; not in Q 296 SD] Malone; not in Q,
 F 297 honour] Q; honors Q2; Honours F 298–9 Have ... foes] Pope's lineation; divided shall / Taste
 F 301–5 And ... sir.] F lineation (subst.); as prose Q 301 No, no] Q; no, no, no F *302 have] Q2, F; of
 Q 303 O, thou wilt] Q; Thou't F 304 Never, never, never] Q; Neuer, neuer, neuer, neuer F 305
 Pray you] Q, F; pray Q2 306 O, O, O, O.] Q; O, o, o, o, o. Q2; not in F, which substitutes a line and a half 307
 faints. –] faints Q; faints, F 308 SH LEAR] Q; Kent. F 309–11 Vex ... longer] F lineation; lines end ... passe,
 / ... wracke, / ... longer Q 309 hates him] F, Q; hates him much Q2 311 SD] Oxford; He dies. F (after lines
 added at 306); not in Q 311 O, he] Q; He F *315 Is] F; Is to Q 316 kingdom] Q; Realme F 316 gored]
 Q, F; good Q2 318 calls, and] Q; calls me, F 319 SH] Q; Edg. F

5.3.321 *The History of King Lear*

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The oldest have borne most; we that are young
Shall never see so much, nor live so long.

[Exeunt with a dead march]

321 have] Q; hath F 322 SD] F; not in Q

Do you see this? Look on her, look, her lips,
Look there, look there!

EDGAR

He faints.—My lord, my lord!

He dies 310

KENT Break, heart, I prithee, break!

EDGAR

Look up, my lord.

KENT Vex not his ghost.° Oh, let him pass! He hates him
That would upon the rack° of this tough world
Stretch him out longer.

EDGAR

He is gone indeed.

KENT The wonder is he hath endured so long.
He but usurped his life.

315

ALBANY Bear them from hence. Our present business
Is general woe.

[To Kent and Edgar]

Friends of my soul, you twain

Rule in this realm, and the gored state sustain.

320

KENT I have a journey,° sir, shortly to go.

My master calls me; I must not say no.

EDGAR The weight of this sad time we must obey;
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
The oldest hath borne most; we that are young
Shall never see so much nor live so long.

325

Exeunt,° with a dead march

Notes

Copy text: the First Folio, except for those 300 or so lines found only in the First Quarto of 1608 [Q1]. Unless otherwise indicated, adopted readings are from the corrected state of Q1. A few readings are supplied from the Second Quarto of 1619 [Q2]. All readings subsequent to 1619 are marked as supplied by "eds." Act and scene divisions are as marked in F, except that F does not mark 2.3 and 2.4, and omits 4.3 entirely, so that 4.4 is marked "*Scena Tertia*" and similarly with 4.5 and 4.6 (though 4.7 is marked "*Scena Septima*"). The line numbers follow those in this edition. Other ab-

313 ghost departing spirit 314 rack torture rack (with suggestion, in the Folio and Quarto spelling, "wracke," of shipwreck, disaster) 321 journey to another world, to death 326.1 *exeunt* (presumably the dead bodies are borne out in procession)