

# TAPESCRIPT 05

## Level 3

### D. LISTEN & ANSWER

**Lear meets his daughters to express his decision to divide his kingdom.**

**KING LEAR:** *I will express my darker purpose. I have divided my kingdom, and it is my firm intent to shake all cares and business from my age; conferring them on younger strengths.*

Pause

**KING LEAR:** *Tell me, my daughters, now that my will is to get rid of everything, authority, interests of territory, and cares of state: Which of you loves me most? Let my largest bounty extend where natural affection deserves a better prize. Goneril, my eldest daughter, speak first.*

**GONERIL:** *Sir, I love you more than words can say. Dearer than eyesight, space and liberty; beyond what can be valued rich or rare; no less than life with grace, health, beauty, and honour; as much as a child ever loved a father. Mine is a love that makes breath poor, and speech incompetent. I love you beyond everything that admits praise.*

**CORDELIA (aside):** *What shall I say? Poor me! And yet not so, since I'm sure my love is bigger than my words.*

**KING LEAR:** *(to Goneril) Of all these bounds, even from this line to this, with shadowy forests, plenteous rivers and extensive meadows, I make you lady. What says my second daughter, my dearest Cordelia? My joy, although the last and youngest; what can you say to draw a half more opulent than your sister'? Speak.*

Pause.

**CORDELIA:** *Nothing, my lord.*

**KING LEAR:** *Nothing!*

**CORDELIA:** *Nothing.*

**KING LEAR:** *Nothing will come of nothing: speak again.*

**CORDELIA:** *Unhappy that I am, I cannot push my heart into my mouth: I love your majesty according to my bond; nor more nor less.*

**KING LEAR:** *How, how, Cordelia! Mend your speech a little, lest it may spoil your fortunes.*

**CORDELIA:** *Good, my lord, you have begot me, bred me, loved me: I return those duties back as are proper, obey you, love you, and most honour you.*

**KING LEAR:** *But goes your heart with this?*

**CORDELIA:** *Ay, good my lord.*

**KING LEAR:** *So young, and so untender?*

**CORDELIA:** *So young, my lord, and true.*

**KING LEAR:** *Let it be so! Let your truth be your dowry! For, by the sacred radiance of the sun, the mysteries of Hecate and the night, by all the influence of the stars according to which we exist and cease to be, here I disclaim all my paternal care, kinship and property of blood, and from now on I will consider you a stranger to me and my heart.*