

Act 5 Scene 2

Trumpets play to signal a call to arms. CORDELIA enters, leading LEAR by the hand and accompanied by drums, banners, and French troops. They cross the stage and exit.

EDGAR (in disguise) and GLOUCESTER enter.

EDGAR

Here, old man, use the shadow of this tree for shelter. Pray that the right side will win this battle. If I ever return to you again, I'll bring you good news.

GLOUCESTER

May God go with you, sir.

EDGAR exits.

Trumpets play to signal the army's retreat.

EDGAR enters.

EDGAR

Let's go, old man. Give me your hand. Now! King Lear has been defeated, and he and his daughter are captured. Give me your hand. Come on.

GLOUCESTER

I can't go any further, sir. I might as well die here as anywhere else.

EDGAR

What, are you feeling depressed again? We cannot choose our deaths any more than we can choose our births. We must ripen before we decay. Come on.

GLOUCESTER

And that's true too.

They exit.