

PSYCOANALYTIC CRITICISM OF “KING LEAR”



P.G SEM-I
CC-1

King Lear

William Shakespeare



KING LEAR



- œ Playwright- William Shakespeare
- œ Written in- 1605 or 1606
- œ Genre- Tragedy
- œ Based on- Legend of Lier of Britain

King Lear as Tragedy



One of the most well-known tragedies written by the renowned Elizabethan playwright William Shakespeare is King Lear. Shakespeare's play may be the best because of its masterful mingling of good and evil forces throughout the play's action sequence, as well as the fact that the protagonist is an elderly man who is almost at the end of his life. Given that the protagonist in this story is an elderly monarch, one would assume that he has considerable life experience and knowledge from his accomplishments. Unfortunately, the real story is actually the reverse: the old king, King Lear, is imprisoned by the demonic forces' diabolical schemes.

Introduction

- ❧ King Lear, a 1623 publication among many other Shakespearean tragedies, is regarded as one of the most sad dramas in English literature history.
- ❧ Man's law triumphs in King Lear, resulting in catastrophe. supremacy over the natural law. Thus, the character in King Lear serves as the primary source of tragedy.
- ❧ Maybe Shakespeare was more interested in human nature than anything else. His main objective was to elucidate the shadowy aspect of humanity and delve into its essence. But the four most important

This play is influenced by the generic frameworks of history, romance, comedy, and tragedy.

MAJOR TERMS IN PSYCOANALYTIC CRITICISM



- ☞ **ID:** The innate and primitive part of the self.
impulsive aspect of our mentality.
- EGO:** The ego follows logic.

The ego functions based on the facts.

Super-Ego: The super-ego combines the morals and values of the community.

The purpose of the super-ego is to restrain the ID's impulses, particularly those related to sin, sex, and hostility.

ID

I want
it now.

SUPEREGO

Nice people
don't do that.

EGO

Maybe I can find
a compromise.



ID In King Lear's Character



- ❧ The selfish actions of King Lear are exemplified by Cordelia's refusal to acknowledge her own conceit over her father's love.
- ❧ When Goneril gives Oswald the order to mistreat Lear and his men in Act-I/iii, Lear indulges his Id's craving for intoxication, lust, and unruly behavior. He repays the favor by acting disrespectfully and using foul language. He swears at Goneril.

Causes of Madness



☞ When Cordelia gives King Lear an unexpected response to his question, "Which of you shall we say doth love us most," his ego appears to be fighting mightily to subdue his id. His insanity is set off when the Id takes control and the Ego wanes. Because of Lear's unrestrained Id, Kent must also suffer punishment even as he counsels Lear to reevaluate his rash decision.

EGO In King Lear's Character



- ☞ Lear gradually learns from his mistakes, and his ego is able to subdue his id. Act III opens with Lear's ego screaming against his Id in an attempt to control it: "You gods, grant me that patience, patience I require! You see me here, you gods, an aged man filled with sorrow equal to his age – wretched in both!"

Super-Ego In King Lear's Character



Elizabethan civilization was morally distinct from our own in that monarchs have a moral duty to uphold their divine prerogative. Lear's moral obligations as a king and a father conflict. Despite his belief, he is unable to distinguish between these positions. Though we may think otherwise, Lear believes that his choices regarding justice, love, and family are the right ones.

