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### Distancing Society From Humanity

King Lear by Shakespeare portrays a powerful empire located in Britain and generates conflict from characters expressing natural human emotions in a political society. In an advancing society, language becomes crucial to develop to express new ideas. King Lear narrows the scope towards characters with political ties while they use vocabulary that highlights political and societal standings. Edmund is a character that symbolizes the societal identity of a person and the consequences of ignoring the human element within them: “why brand they us/ with ‘base,’ with ‘baseness,’ ‘bastardy,’ ‘base,’/ ‘base,’” (Kin. 1.2.10-1). Edmund is the illegitimate son and thus a bastard; however, he says his frustration comes from this brandishing of the societal stigma of being a bastard son.

This title is a consequence of society's advancement; Where at one point true heritage became important enough to note someone who is ‘other’ and a new word was invented. It’s implied to match Edmund’s political affiliations because of ‘kings’ and ‘rightful heirs’, but political aspects dehumanize these characters. Creates conflict with their deep human needs such as Edmund’s belonging. The Society has advanced to not only mark Edmund’s as a bastard, leaving him as an outcast, but even voids him of the basic human need of love from his family.

Edmund is in emotional crisis and captures this turmoil with choice words. He notes his lack of emotional stability and integrates societal diction into his thought process; the antithesis of Hamlet who conjures his own language to capture his feelings. Edmund’s cause for pitting his Father against his brother Edgar is ambiguous. It cannot be determined in this act that if he is attempting to kill his legitimate brother for his political gain or healing his damaged psyche with a love he cannot produce himself, so he must get it from his father. Edmund is intelligent and presents very concerned to Edgar; he says Edgar will be met with conflict from his father to “go armed” (Kin. 1.2.178). This conflict is strong enough to fight, and Edmund brandishes Edgar with a sword. This sword is a societal advancement, one that was used to solve conflicts and brings harm. He is now overburdened and within himself must be

aware of this societal marketing he has with him. What this does for Edgar is mentally shifts his focus onto this societal marking, obscuring the fact he may simply communicate with his father. If Gloucester saw him it would be a focal point of his, and this societal mark would become a mediator of the language that he would use. These societal markings represent advancements within society and it presents the question. How does advancing interact divisions? Advancing with societal tools, language, expansion, and with ourselves? each other? Is advancing bringing us closer to bridging divisions, is it separating us, will we ever be capable? Are we aware of ourselves, of others, and what we are doing? What is this human experience, and is it naturally lost like the egg yoke when the human experience is split between ourselves living in a society.