

Lecture Notice
Department of English, University of Delhi

Prakash Reddy Kona

on

Being and a Sense of Nothingness in the tragedy of *King Lear*

The word “nothing” is used nearly thirty-four times in the play *King Lear*. In fact, the tragedy in the play emerges from a sense of nothingness that pervades the drama. Cordelia offers nothing by way of love to her father; the father who is disappointed by Cordelia’s offer in turn gives her nothing; the fool without even trying to be ironic points out to King Lear, “I am a fool, thou art nothing.” Being a fool is still being something, but King Lear is nothing because he neither has the love he craves for nor the kingdom that belonged to him. Nothingness is the basis of both the tragedy as well as being: the only way the characters can be themselves is through the experience of discovering and coming to terms with nothing. The argument I propose is that the existential and literary dimension of nothingness provides a theoretical framework to the play enabling the reader to gain an insight into the motives of characters at different points in the drama.

Prakash Reddy Kona is a Professor of English Literature at The English and Foreign Languages University(EFLU), Hyderabad. He completed his doctorate at the University of Mississippi, MS in 1997. His thesis is a comparative analysis of Derrida, Chomsky, and Wittgenstein. His current interests are Women’s Studies, Films, Third World Politics and Literature, Classical Humanism and the 21st century as a site of globalization versus radical political movements.

15 March 2018 | Thursday | 2.00 PM
Venue: Room 115, Department of English,
Faculty of Arts, South Campus