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lord, v.

Pronunciation: /lɔ:d/

Forms: Also ME **laverd**.

Etymology: < LORD *n.*

1. *intr.*

†**a.** To exercise lordship, have dominion.

a1300 *E.E. Psalter* cii[i]. 19 Laverd in heven graipede sete his, And his rike til alle sal Laverd [L. *dominabitur*] in blis.

1489 CAXTON tr. C. de Pisan *Bk. Fayttes of Armes* I. i. 8 Metridates whiche lorded vpon xxiiij. contrees.

b. To play the lord; to behave in a lordly manner, assume airs of grandeur; to rule tyrannically, domineer. Now *rare exc. const. over*.

1377 LANGLAND *Piers Plowman* B. x. 84 Þe more he..lordeth in londes þe lasse good he deleth.

1548 H. LATIMER *Notable Serm.* sig. Biiii, For they [sc. the Apostles] preached and lorded not. And nowe they lorde and preache not.

1579 SPENSER *Shepherdess Cal.* Dec. 70 The grieslie Tode-stoole groune there mought I se, And loathed Paddocks lording on the same.

1595 SPENSER *Amoretti* x. sig. A6^v, She lordeth in licentious blisse Of her freewill.

1633 P. FLETCHER *Elisa* 119 in *Purple Island* Her..sister..Alicia, in whose face Love proudly lorded.

1641 MILTON *Reason Church-govt.* 22 The hatefull thirst of Lording in the Church..first bestow'd a being upon Prelaty.

1671 MILTON *Samson Agonistes* 266 They had by this..lorded over them whom now they serve.

1685 DRYDEN tr. Lucretius *Against Fear of Death* in *Sylvæ* 74 That haughty King, who lorded o're the Main,..Him death, a greater Monarch, overcame.

1777 E. BURKE *Addr. to King* Jan. in *Writings & Speeches* (1996) III. 281 Much less are we desirous of lording over our Brethren.

1833 T. CHALMERS *On Power of God* (1835) I. iii. 156 Its unhappy patient is lorded over by a power of moral evil.

1871 B. TAYLOR tr. Goethe *Faust* I. xiv. 184 Methinks, instead of in the forests lording, The noble Sir should [etc.].

1881 R. D. BLACKMORE *Christowell* xxxi, I am not one to be lorded over by a man no better than myself.

c. So *to lord it*, chiefly with *over*.

- 1579 SPENSER *Shepherdess Cal.* July 176 They..lord it as they list.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 2* (1623) IV. vii. 200, I see them Lording it in London streets.
- 1657 T. AYLESBURY *Treat. Confession of Sinne* vii. 145 Lording it over the Consciences of the people.
- a1704 T. BROWN *Oration in Praise Drunkenness* in *Wks.* (1707) I. i. 55 She [sc. drunkenness] Lord's it over Poland, Sweden and Norway.
- a1716 R. SOUTH *Serm.* (1823) V. 409 Though reason and judgment would veil to Christ, yet the man does not, because his affections lord it.
- 1775 F. BURNEY *Let.* in *Early Jrnls. & Lett.* (1990) II. 170 He disdains submitting to the Great, or Lording it over the little.
- 1819 W. IRVING *Rip Van Winkle* in *Sketch Bk.* I. 59 The Kaatskill mountains..are seen..swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over the surrounding country.
- 1855 TYNDALL in *Lett. Educ.* 192 We lord it over Matter, and in so doing have become better acquainted with the laws of Mind.
- 1900 *Q. Rev.* Oct. 337 This barbarian..lorded it over many waters from the Canaries to Candia.

2. *trans.* To be or act as lord of; to control, manage, rule. *rare.*

- c1595 COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE *Psalm* lxxviii. 176 in *Coll. Wks.* (1998) II. 111 [Their] heritage he shared to the Race..of godly Israell, To lord their landes.
- c1595 COUNTESS OF PEMBROKE *Psalm* cvi. 102 in *Coll. Wks.* (1998) II. 169 [God] Left them to be..Lorded by foes.
- 1691 J. WILSON *Belphegor* I. ii, Simple Merit Lords few Mens Horoscope.
- 1807 J. BARLOW *Columbiad* v. 197 Austria's titled hordes, with their own gore, Fat the fair fields they lorded long before.
- 1818 KEATS *Endymion* II. 95 The look Of his white palace..And all the revels he had lorded there.

3.

†**a.** To make (a man) a lord or master.

b. To confer the title of lord upon; to ennoble.

- a1340 R. ROLLE *Psalter* xviii. 14 If þai ware noght lordid of me [Mistransl.: L. *si mei non fuerunt dominati*].

- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Tempest* (1623) I. ii. 97 He being thus Lorded, did beleue He was indeed the Duke.
- 1643 G. WITHER *Campo-Musæ* 69 Ev'ry one of those That hath for any services, beene Lorded.
- 1721 *Coll. Humorous Lett. London Jrnl.* 16 Thou shalt be told..Who gets an Estate in the Alley, and is afterward Knighted or Lorded.
- 1787 *Minor* 307 Sir Cadwallader Pleadwell..has been lately Lorded.
- 1889 FURNIVALL in *Pall Mall Gaz.* 14 Dec. 1/3 It was with no little pleasure then that I found Lord Tennyson (before he was lorded) making me known..to Mr. Robert Browning.

c. To address or speak of as 'Lord'.

- 1636 S. RUTHERFORD *Lett.* (1863) I. lx. 161 My newly printed book against Arminians was one challenge: not lording the prelates was another.
- 1656 S. HUNTON *Golden Law* 92 Is not Sarah commended for obeying, and lording her husband?
- 1660 *Char. Italy* 56 Before they merit the degree of Knighthood, they must be Lorded.

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