THE Tragicall Historie of HAMLET Prince of Denmarke

By William Shakespeare.

As it hath beene diverse times acted by his Highnesse servants in the Citie of London: as also in the two Universitie of Cambridge and Oxford, and else-where.

At London printed for N.L. and John Trundel. 1603.
HAMLET – the 1st Quarto

Introduction

There are three major versions of Hamlet – the ‘1st Quarto’ (Q1), published in 1603, the ‘2nd Quarto’ (Q2) published in 1604/5, and the ‘1st Folio’ (F1), published in 1623. Further quarto editions are based on Q2, and further folios are revisions of F1.

That the version we call ‘Q1’ was published earlier than ‘Q2’ we have known for four centuries, but only because of the implication of this sentence on the title page of Q2:

Newly imprinted and enlarged to almost as much
again as it was, according to the true and perfect
Coppie.

Q1’s text itself was lost, and only came to light in 1823 when Sir Henry Bunbury discovered a copy in the Manor House of Great Barton in Suffolk. A second copy then turned up over 30 years later in Dublin. They remain the only two copies known.

How long it had been lost we cannot know; but it seems almost certain that the first post-Folio editors – Rowe, Pope, Theobald, Johnson, Capell, Malone and others – did not have access to it. And so in 1823 its peculiar readings, not least its version of the ‘To be or not to be’ speech, came as a rude shock –

To be, or not to be, ay, there’s the point,
To die, to sleep, is that all? Ay, all.
No, to sleep, to dream, ay, marry, there it goes,
For in that dream of death, when we awake,
And borne before an everlasting judge,
From whence no passenger ever returned,
The undiscovered country, at whose sight
The happy smile, and the accursèd damned.
But for this, the joyful hope of this,
Who’d bear the scorns and flattery of the world,
Scorned by the right rich, the rich cursed of the poor,
The widow being oppressed, the orphan wronged,
The taste of hunger, or a tyrant’s reign,
And thousand more calamities besides,
To grunt and sweat under this weary life,
When that he may his full quietus make
With a bare bodkin? Who would this endure,
But for a hope of something after death?
Which puzzles the brain, and doth confound the sense,
Which makes us rather bear those evils we have
Than fly to others that we know not of.
Ay, that. Oh, this conscience makes cowards of us all. -
Lady, in thy orisons be all my sins remembered.

- and it led to the text as a whole being derided by many of its new readers. To its fiercest critics it belongs with those lambasted in the preface to the 1st Folio in 1623 as “stol’n and surreptitious copies, maimed and deformed by frauds and stealths of injurious impostors”.

Since 1823 literary critics and editors have argued about Q1’s status and provenance. Though there
are many variations within these extremes, the three most vigorously championed theories are these:

‘Bad Quarto’ theory: this argues that Q1, though the first to be printed, in composition postdates the text we know as Q2, and is a garbled version of the play which Shakespeare’s company had first performed (we think) in 1600 – a poor ‘memorial reconstruction’ of the ‘official’ text, probably by the actor who had performed Marcellus and doubled as Lucianus, since these characters’ scenes seem to be accurately remembered, while the others are not. This actor, the argument runs, might have worked freelance for Shakespeare’s company, and then sold his inaccurate recollection to the eager publisher.

‘Evolution’ theory: this involves the notion of an even earlier ‘Hamlet’, the text of which has never been found. This is the so-called ‘Ur-Hamlet’, some suggest authored by Thomas Kyd, others that it was Shakespeare’s own first attempt. We know that a play of that name had been performed by Shakespeare’s own company, the Chamberlain’s Men (possibly in co-production with Henslowe’s Admiral’s Men), at Newington Butts in 1594, and there are references to it as early as 1589. So this theory has it that Shakespeare evolved his famous play from this earlier one (be it his own, or Kyd’s, or some other writer’s work) rather than starting afresh in perhaps 1599 and working directly from the source in Belleforest’s *Histoires Tragiques*. This would make Q1 just a stage – perhaps the first major stage - in a relatively long evolution. It was hurried into print, perhaps even at the company’s own instigation, but before Shakespeare had completed his transformation. Q2 quickly followed in 1604 in an attempt to erase the memory of that transitional, and unsatisfactory version. F1 followed nearly twenty years later and represents the text, substantially cut for performance, though it also offers some lines unknown to Q2 and many different word and line-readings.

‘Alternative Version’ theory: this argues that Q1 may be a poorly printed but otherwise fairly accurate record of a version of the play that was edited and modified from the form of the first production of Q2 in order, perhaps, to be toured with a small company (interestingly, while it refers to attendant lords and others it gives no speeches at all to servants, messengers, sailors or soldiers).

* * *

After nearly two centuries in which the fortunes of these three theories have fluctuated wildly, the ‘bad quarto/memorial reconstruction’ theory probably has the upper hand at the present time. The programme note for the 2010 National Theatre production baldly states: “The First Quarto … was a pirate edition, heavily truncated and possibly transcribed (badly) by the actor who played Marcellus at the Globe.” And in his fine book, 1599, James Shapiro goes even further:

“one or more of those involved in the touring production, including the hired actor who played Marcellus (we know it was this actor because in putting the text together he remembered his own lines a lot better than he did anyone else’s) cobbled together from memory a 2,200 line version of the road production and sold it to publishers in London.”

Such certainty is questionable. Q1 certainly is very poorly printed, and it has many lines that sound unworthy of, or simply unlike, the Shakespeare we know, but it is a much better version of the play than it has often been thought. It is certainly completely produceable, and manages some developments in the play (particularly around Leartes’ return from France) in a more economical fashion than the longwinded development of Q2. ‘Piracy’ also leaves some questions unanswered. Why are Polonius and Reynaldo called ‘Corambis’ and ‘Montano’ - was the pirate’s memory really that poor? Why do some of the supposedly garbled passages make sense on their own terms? And why is Gertrude’s behaviour sometimes closer to Belleforest than to Q2? Zachary Lesser, a Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and author of ‘Hamlet After Q1’ has gone so far as to argue that Q1’s ‘To be or not to be’, for all its inelegance, has a rather stronger internal logic than the version so many of us have to heart.

In all these theories speculation is heaped upon speculation. Some proponents of ‘bad quarto’, for
example, explain away ‘Corambis’ and ‘Montano’ by noting that the title page refers to a performance in Oxford University, one of whose honoured founders was considered to be Robert Pullen, whose Latin name was ‘Polenius’. In Shakespeare’s time the President of Corpus Christi College was John Rainolds (or Reynolds), well-known for his fierce enmity to the theatre. Thus the changes of name from ‘Polonius’ and ‘Reynaldo’ were conceived specifically for that performance in order to avoid offence. Well, maybe ...

Without adding materially to the speculation, it seems clear that there are several elements of difference in the Q1 text that point to some now irrecoverable but distinct validity in its composition, even if it is true that what came to be printed of it is a ‘poor, memorial reconstruction’.

This Edition

I have modernised most of the spelling, and included full speech prefixes, but retained many other features of the original printing: the eccentric – perhaps slipshod - punctuation and lineation (the compositor seemed determined to render prose as verse), the italicisation of most of the proper names, and the frequent use of an initial capital letter for words of particular importance. The parsimony in the use of the exclamation mark is typical of the period, and rather welcome; the reluctance to use the full stop (commas and colons abound) rather less so.

One detail of Q1 that has influenced production for nearly two centuries is the stage direction on Page 40, Enter the Ghost in his night gown, in place of the mere Enter the Ghost of the later editions. This detail has fed into notions, not all of them post-Freudian, that the climactic scene between Hamlet and his mother should be played either in, or very obviously adjacent to, the royal bedchamber. It is interesting to note in this context that Q1 does not use the word ‘closet’ in reference to this scene, though it is used several times in Q2 and the Folios; critics of the theatrical habit of having Hamlet and Gertrude circling a bed, or even tussling on it, have repeatedly insisted that a ‘closet’ is NOT a bedroom ...

Another detail concerns Hamlet’s age. From the conversation between Hamlet and the Sexton in Q2’s version of the graveyard scene, we can determine that Hamlet must be approaching 30 (or older), given that he vividly remembers Yorick carrying him on his back:

Here’s a skull now; this skull has lain in the earth three and twenty years.

The equivalent conversation in Q1 suggests that Hamlet need not have been more than 18 or 20 – if Yorick had died while still in post as Court Jester:

Look you, here’s a skull hath been here this dozen year.

My own feeling is that 18 or 20 is a far more credible age for Hamlet than 28 or 30, but why the disparity exists is just one more layer of the Q1 mystery. It may be relevant that Richard Burbage, Shakespeare’s first Hamlet, was 33 in 1600. By then he had been a leading actor for a decade; could he also have played Hamlet in the lost play as much as a decade earlier?

Speculation is irresistible!

Andrew Hilton
The Tragicall Historie of

Hamlet

Prince of Denmarke

Enter Two Sentinels

1st Sentinel
Stand! Who is that?

2nd Sentinel
Tis I.

1st Sentinel
O you come most carefully upon your watch.

2nd Sentinel
And if you meet Marcellus and Horatio,
The partners of my watch, bid them make haste.

1st Sentinel
I will. See, who goes there?

Enter Horatio and Marcellus

Horatio
Friends to this ground.

Marcellus
And liegemen to the Dane.
Oh, farewell, honest soldier, who hath relieved you?

1st Sentinel
Barnardo hath my place, give you good night.

Marcellus
Holla, Barnardo.

2nd Sentinel
Say, is Horatio there?

Horatio
A piece of him.

2nd Sentinel
Welcome, Horatio, welcome good Marcellus.

Marcellus
What hath this thing appear’d again tonight?

2nd Sentinel
I have seen nothing.

Marcellus
Horatio says ‘tis but our fantasy,
And will not let belief take hold of him,
Touching this dreaded sight twice seen by us.
Therefore I have entreated him along with us
To watch the minutes of this night,
That if again this appariition come,
He may approve our eyes, and speak to it.

Horatio
Tut, ‘twill not appear.

2nd Sentinel
Sit down I pray, and let us once again
Assail your ears that are so fortified,
What we have two nights seen.

Horatio
Well, sit we down, and let us hear Barnardo speak of this.

2nd Sentinel
Last night of all, when yonder star that’s west-ward from the pole
had made his course to
Illumine that part of heaven. Where now it burns,
The bell then tolling one -

*Enter Ghost*

*Marcellus* Break off your talk, see where it comes again!

*2nd Sentinel* In the same figure like the King that’s dead.

*Marcellus* Thou art a scholar, speak to it *Horatio*.

*2nd Sentinel* Looks it not like the King?

*Horatio* Most like, it horrors me with fear and wonder.

*2nd Sentinel* It would be spoke to.

*Marcellus* Question it *Horatio*.

*Horatio* What art thou that thus usurps the state, in
Which the majesty of buried Denmark did sometimes
Walk? By heaven I charge thee speak.

*Marcellus* It is offended.

*Exit Ghost*

*2nd Sentinel* See, it stalks away.

*Horatio* Stay, speak, speak, by heaven, I charge thee speak.

*Marcellus* ‘Tis gone and makes no answer.

*2nd Sentinel* How now *Horatio*, you tremble and look pale,
Is not this something more than fantasy?
What think you on’t?

*Horatio* Afore my God, I might not this believe, without the sensible and
true avouch of my own eyes.

*Marcellus* Is it not like the King?

*Horatio* As thou art to thyself,
Such was the very armor he had on,
When he the ambitious Norway combated.
So frownd he once, when in an angry parle
He smote the sledded pollax on the ice,
‘Tis strange.

*Marcellus* Thus twice before, and jump at this dead hour,
With martial stalk he passed through our watch.

*Horatio* In what particular to work, I know not,
But in the thought and scope of my opinion,
This bodes some strange eruption to the state.

*Marcellus* Good, now sit down, and tell me he that knows,
Why this same strict and most observant watch
So nightly toils the subject of the land,
And why such daily cost of brazen cannon
And foreign mart, for implements of war,
Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore task
Does not divide the Sunday from the week:
What might be toward that this sweaty march
Doth make the night joint labourer with the day,
Who is’t that can inform me?

Horatio
Marry that can I, at least the whisper goes so,
Our late King, who as you know was by Forten-
Brasse of Norway,
Thereto prick’d on by a most emulous cause, dared to
The combat, in which our valiant Hamlet,
For so this side of our known world esteemed him,
Did slay this Fortenbrasse,
Who by a seal compact well ratified, by law
And heraldry, did forfeit with his life all those
His lands which he stood seized of by the conqueror,
Against the which a moiety competent,
Was gaged by our King:
Now sir, young Fortenbrasse,
Of inapproved mettle hot and full,
Hath in the skirts of Norway here and there,
Shark’d up a sight of lawless Resolutes
For food and diet to some enterprise,
That hath a stomach in’t: and this (I take it) is the
Chief head and ground of this our watch.

Enter the Ghost

But lo, behold, see where it comes again,
I’ll cross it, though it blast me: stay, illusion,
If there be any good thing to be done,
That may do ease to thee, and grace to me,
Speak to me.
If thou are privy to thy country’s fate,
Which happ’ly foreknowing may prevent, O speak to me,
Or if thou hast extorted in thy life,
Or hoarded treasure in the womb of earth,
For which they say you Spirits oft walk in death, speak to me,
stay and speak, speak, stop it, Marcellus.

2nd Sentinel
Tis here.

Exit Ghost

Horatio
Tis here.

Marcellus
Tis gone, O we do it wrong, being so majestical, to offer it the
show of violence,
For it is as the air invelmorable,
And our vain blows malicious mockery.

2nd Sentinel
It was about to speak when the cock crew.

Horatio
And then it faded like a guilty thing,
Upon a fearful summons: I have heard
The Cock, that is the trumpet to the morning,
Doth with his early and shrill crowing throat,
Awake the god of day, and at his sound,
Whether in earth or air, in sea or fire,
The stravagant and erring spirit hies
To his confines, and of the truth hereof
This present object made probation.

Marcellus
It faded on the crowing of the Cock,
Some say, that ever ‘gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour’s birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawning singeth all night long,
And then they say, no spirit dare walk abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planet strikes,
No Fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So gracious, and so hallowed is that time.

Horatio
So have I heard, and do in part believe it:
But see the Sun in russet mantle clad,
Walks o’er the dew of yon high mountain top,
Break we our watch up, and by my advice,
Let us impart what we have seen to night
Unto young Hamlet: for upon my life
This Spirit dumb to us will speak to him:
Do you consent, we shall acquaint him with it,
As needful in our love, fitting our duty?

Marcellus
Lets do’ront pray, and I this morning know
Where we shall find him most conveniently.

Enter King, Queen, Hamlet, Lear, Corambs, and the two Ambassadors, with Attendants

King
Lords, we here have writ to Fortenbrasse,
Nephew to old Norway who, impudent
And bed-rid, scarcely hears of this his
Nephew’s purpose: and we here dispatch
Young good Cornelia, and you Voltemar
For bearers of these greetings to old
Norway, giving to you no further personal power
To business with the King,
Than those related articles do show:
Farewell, and let your haste commend your duty.
In this and all things will we show our duty.

We doubt nothing, heartily farewell:

And now Leartes; what’s the news with you?
You said you had a suit what is’t Leartes?

My gracious lord, your favourable licence,
Now that the funeral rites are all performed,
I may have leave to go again to France,
For though the favour of your grace might stay me,
Yet something is there whispers in my heart,
Which makes my mind and spirits bend all for France.

Have you your father’s leave, Leartes?

He hath, my lord, wrung from me a forced grant,
And I beseech you grant your Highness’ leave.

With all our heart, Leartes fare thee well.

I in all love and duty take my leave.

Exit

And now princely Son Hamlet,
What means these sad and melancholy moods?
For your intent going to Wittenberg,
We hold it most unmeet and inconvenient,
Being the joy and half heart of your mother.
Therefore let me entreat you stay in Court,
All Denmark’s hope our cousin and dearest Son.

My lord, ‘tis not the sable suit I wear:
No nor the tears that still stand in my eyes,
Nor the distracted havior in the visage,
Nor all together mixed with outward semblance,
Is equal to the sorrow of my heart,
Him have I lost I must of force forgo,
These but the ornaments and suits of woe.

This shows a loving care in you, Son Hamlet,
But you must think your father lost a father,
That father dead, lost his, and so shall be until the
General ending. Therefore cease laments;
It is a fault ‘gainst heaven, fault ‘gainst the dead,
A fault ‘gainst nature, and in reason’s
Common course most certain,
None lives on earth, but he is born to die.

Let not thy mother lose her prayers Hamlet,
Stay here with us, go not to Wittenberg.

I shall in all my best obey you madam.
King

Spoke like a kind and a most loving Son,
And there's no health the King shall drink today
But the great Cannon to the clouds shall tell
The rouse the King shall drink unto Prince Hamlet.

Exeunt all but Hamlet

Hamlet

Oh, that this too much griev'd and sallied flesh
Would melt to nothing, or that the universal
Globe of heaven would turn all to a Chaos!
O God, within two months; no not two: married
Mine uncle: O let me not think of it,
My father's brother: but no more like
My father, than I to Hercules.
Within two months, ere yet the salt of most
Unrighteous tears had left their flushing
In her galled eyes: she married, O God, a beast
Devoid of reason would not have made
Such speed: Frailty, thy name is Woman,
Why she would hang on him, as if increase
Of appetite had grown by what it looked on.
Oh wicked wicked speed, to make such
Dexterity to incestuous sheets,
Ere yet the shoes were old,
The which she followed my dead father's corse
Like Niobe, all tears: married, well, it is not,
Nor it cannot come to good:
But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

Enter Horatio and Marcellus

Horatio

Health to your lordship.

Hamlet

I am very glad to see you, (Horatio) or I much forget myself.

Horatio

The same my Lord, and your poor servant ever.

Hamlet

O my good friend, I change that name with you: but what make
you from Wittenberg Horatio? Marcellus.

Marcellus

My good Lord.

Hamlet

I am very glad to see you, good even sirs:
But what is your affair in Elsinore?
We'll teach you to drink deep ere you depart.

Horatio

A truant disposition, my good Lord.

Hamlet

Nor shall you make me truster
Of your own report against yourself:
Sir, I know you are no truant:
But what is your affair in Elsinore?
Horatio: My good Lord, I came to see your father's funeral.

Hamlet: O I prithee do not mock me fellow student, I think it was to see my mother's wedding.

Horatio: Indeed, my lord, it followed hard upon.

Hamlet: Thrift, thrift, Horatio, the funeral bak'd meats
Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables,
Would I had met my dearest foe in heaven
Ere ever I had seen that day Horatio;
O my father, my father, methinks I see my father.

Horatio: Where my Lord?

Hamlet: Why, in my mind's eye Horatio.

Horatio: I saw him once, he was a gallant King.

Hamlet: He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.

Horatio: My Lord, I think I saw him yesternight,

Hamlet: Saw, who?

Horatio: My Lord, the King your father.

Hamlet: Ha, ha, the King my father ke you. (sic)

Horatio: Cease your admiration for a while
With an attentive ear, till I may deliver,
Upon the witness of these Gentlemen
This wonder to you.

Hamlet: For God's love let me hear it.

Horatio: Two nights together had these Gentlemen,
Marcellus and Bernardo, on their watch,
In the dead vast and middle of the night.
Been thus encountered by a figure like your father,
Armed to point, exactly Capapea
Appears before them thrice, he walks
Before their weak and fear oppressed eyes
Within his truncheon's length,
While they distilled almost to jelly.
With the act of fear stands dumb,
And speak not to him: this to me
In dreadful secrecy impart they did.
And I with them the third night kept the watch,
Where as they had delivered form of the thing.
Each part made true and good,
The apparition comes: I knew your father,
These hands are not more like.
Hamlet

Tis very strange.

Horatio

As I do live, my honored lord, tis true,
And we did think it right done,
In our duty to let you know it.

Hamlet

Where was this?

Marcellus

My Lord, upon the platform where we watched.

Hamlet

Did you not speak to it?

Horatio

My lord we did, but answer made it none,
Yet once me thought it was about to speak,
And lifted up his head to motion,
Like as he would speak, but even then
The morning cock crew loud, and in all haste
It shrunk in haste away, and vanished
Our sight.

Hamlet

Indeed, indeed sirs, but this troubles me:
Hold you the watch to night?

All

We do, my Lord.

Hamlet

Armed say ye?

All

Armed my good Lord.

Hamlet

From top to toe?

All

My good Lord, from head to foot.

Hamlet

Why then saw you not his face?

Horatio

Oh yes my Lord, he wore his beaver up.

Hamlet

How looked he, frowningly?

Horatio

A countenance more in sorrow than in anger.

Hamlet

Pale, or red?

Horatio

Nay, very pale.

Hamlet

And fix’d his eyes upon you?

Horatio

Most constantly.

Hamlet

I would I had been there.

Horatio

It would a much amazed you.

Hamlet

Yea very like, very like, stay’d it long?

Horatio

While one with moderate pace
Might tell a hundred.

Marcellus

O longer, longer.

Hamlet

His beard was grizzled, no.
Horatio

It was as I have seen it in his life,

A sable silver.

Hamlet

I will watch to night, perchance t’will walk again.

Horatio

I warrant it will.

Hamlet

If it assume my noble father’s person,
I’ll speak to it, if hell itself should gape,

And bid me hold my peace, Gentlemen,
If you have hither concealed this sight,

Let it be tenable in your silence still,
And whatsoever else shall chance to night,

Give it an understanding, but no tongue,
I will requite your loves, so fare you well,

Upon the platform, twixt eleven and twelve,
I’ll visit you.

All

Our duties to your honor.

Exeunt

Hamlet

O your loves, your loves, as mine to you,
Farewell, my father’s spirit in Arms,

Well, all’s not well. I doubt some foul play,

Would the night were come,
Till then, sit still my soul, foul deeds will rise

Though all the world o’erwhelm them, to men’s eyes.

Exit

Enter Leartes and Ofelia

Leartes

My necessaries are inbarked, I must aboard,
But ere I part, mark what I say to thee:

I see Prince Hamlet makes a show of love
Beware Ofelia, do not trust his vows,
Perhaps he loves you now, and now his tongue,
Speaks from his heart, but yet take heed my sister,
The chariest maid is prodigal enough,
If she unmask her beauty to the moon.
Virtue it self scapes not calumnious thoughts,
Believe’t Ofelia, therefore keep aloof

Lest that he trip thy honour and thy fame.

Ofelia

Brother, to this I have lent attentive ear,
And doubt not but to keep my honor firm,

But my dear brother, do not you
Like to a cunning Sophister,
Teach me the path and ready way to heaven,
While you forgetting what is said to me,
Your self, like to a careless libertine
Doth give his heart, his appetite at full,
And little reck how that his honour dies.

Leartes

No, fear it not my dear Ofelia,
Here comes my father, occasion smiles upon a second leave.

Enter Corambis

Corambis

Yet here Leartes? aboard, aboard, for shame,
The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,
And you are stayed for, there my blessing with thee
And these few precepts in thy memory.
“Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar;
“Those friends thou hast, and their adoptions tried,
“Grapple them to thee with a hoop of steel,
“But do not dull the palm with entertain,
“Of every new unfledg’d courage,
“Beware of entrance into a quarrel; but being in,
“Bear it that the opposed may beware of thee,
“Costly thy apparel, as thy purse can buy.
“But not express’d in fashion,
“For the apparel oft proclaims the man.
And they of France of the chief rank and station
Are of a most select and general chief in that:
“This above all, to thy own self be true,
And it must follow as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any one,
Farewell, my blessing with thee.

Leartes

I humbly take my leave, farewell Ofelia,
And remember well what I have said to you.

Exit

Ofelia

It is already lock’d within my heart,
And you yourself shall keep the key of it.

Corambis

What is’t Ofelia he hath said to you?

Ofelia

Something touching the prince Hamlet.

Corambis

Marry well thought on, t’is given me to understand,
That you have been too prodigal of your maiden presence
Unto Prince Hamlet, if it be so,
As so tis given to me, and that in way of caution
I must tell you; you do not understand your self
So well as befits my honour, and your credit.

Ofelia

My lord, he hath made many tenders of his love to me.

Corambis

Tenders, ay, ay, tenders you may call them.
Ofelia And withall, such earnest vows.

Corambis Springes to catch woodcocks, What, do not I know when the blood doth burn, How prodigal the tongue lends the heart vows, In brief, be more scanter of your maiden presence, Or tend’ring thus you’ll tender me a fool.

Ofelia I shall obey my lord in all I may.

Corambis Ofelia, receive none of his letters, “For lovers’ lines are snares to entrap the heart; “Refuse his tokens, both of them are keys To unlock chastity unto desire; Come in Ofelia, such men often prove, “Great in their words, but little in their love.

Ofelia I will my lord.

Exeunt

Enter Hamlet, Horatio, and Marcellus

Hamlet The air bites shrewd; it is an eager and A nipping wind, what hour is’t?

Horatio I think it lacks of twelve.

Sound Trumpets

Marcellus No, tis struck.

Horatio Indeed I heard it not, what doth this mean my lord?

Hamlet O the King doth wake to night, & takes his rouse, Keeps wassail, and the swaggering up-spring reels, And as he dreams, his draughts of Rhenish down, The kettle, drum, and trumpet, thus bray out, The triumphs of his pledge.

Horatio Is it a custom here?

Hamlet Ay marry is’t and though I am Native here, and to the manner born, It is a custom. more honour’d in the breach, Than in the observance.

Enter the Ghost

Horatio Look my Lord, it comes.

Hamlet Angels and Ministers of grace defend us, Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn’d, Bring with thee airs from heaven, or blasts from hell: Be thy intents wicked or charitable, Thou comest in such questionable shape,
That I will speak to thee,
I'll call thee Hamlet, King, Father, Royal Dane,
O answer me, let me not burst in ignorance,
But say why thy canonized bones hearsed in death
Have burst their ceremonies: why thy Sepulcher,
In which we saw thee quietly interr'd,
Hath burst his ponderous and marble jaws
To cast thee up again: what may this mean,
That thou, dead corse, again in complete steel,
Revisits thus the glimpses of the Moon,
Making night hideous, and we fools of nature,
So horridly to shake our disposition,
With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?
Say, speak, wherefore, what may this mean?

Horatio

It beckons you, as though it had something
To impart to you alone.

Marcellus

Look with what courteous action
It waves you to a more removed ground,
But do not go with it.

Horatio

No, by no means my Lord.

Hamlet

It will not speak, then will I follow it.

Horatio

What if it tempt you toward the flood my Lord,
That beckles o'er his base, into the sea,
And there assume some other horrible shape,
Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason,
And drive you into madness: think of it.

Hamlet

Still am I called, go on, I'll follow thee.

Horatio

My Lord, you shall not go.

Hamlet

Why what should be the fear?
I do not set my life at a pin's fee,
And, for my soul, what can it do to that?
Being a thing immortal, like it self,
Go on, I'll follow thee.

Marcellus

My Lord be rul'd, you shall not go.

Hamlet

My fate cries out, and makes each petty Artiue (sic)
As hardy as the Nemean Lion's nerve,
Still am I call'd, unhand me gentlemen;
By heaven I'll make a ghost of him that lets me,
Away, I say, go on, I'll follow thee.

Horatio

He waxeth desperate with imagination.

Marcellus

Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.
Horatio Have after; to what issue will this sort?

Marcellus Lets follow, tis not fit thus to obey him.

Exit

Enter Ghost and Hamlet

Hamlet I’ll go no farther, whither wilt thou lead me?

Ghost Mark me.

Hamlet I will.

Ghost I am thy father’s spirit, doom’d for a time
To walk the night, and all the day
Confin’d in flaming fire,
Till the foul crimes done in my days of Nature
Are purged and burnt away.

Hamlet Alas poor Ghost.

Ghost Nay pity me not, but to my unfolding
Lend thy list’ning ear, but that I am forbid
To tell the secrets of my prison house
I would a tale unfold,
Whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,
Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
And each particular hair to stand on end
Like quills upon the fretful Porpentine,
But this same blazon must not be, to ears of flesh and blood
Hamlet, if ever thou didst thy dear father love.

Hamlet O God.

Ghost Revenge his foul, and most unnatural murder:

Hamlet Murder.

Ghost Yea, murder in the highest degree,
As in the least tis bad,
But mine most foul, beastly, and unnatural.

Hamlet Haste me to know it, that with wings as swift as meditation, or the thought of it, may sweep to my revenge.

Ghost O I find thee apt, and duller shouldst thou be
Than the fat weed which roots it self in ease
On Lethe wharf: brief let me be.
Tis given out, that sleeping in my orchard,
A Serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
Is with a forged Process of my death rankly abus’d:
But know thou noble Youth: he that did sting
Thy father’s heart, now wears his Crown.

Hamlet
O my prophetic soul, my uncle! my uncle!

Ghost
Yea he, that incestuous wretch, won to his will with gifts,
O wicked will, and gifts! that have the power
So to seduce my most seeming virtuous Queen,
But virtue, as it never will be moved,
Though Lewdness court it in a shape of heaven,
So Lust, thought to a radiant angel link’d,
Would sate it self from a celestial bed,
And prey on garbage: but soft, me thinks
I scent the morning’s air, brief let me be,
Sleeping within my Orchard, my custom always
In the after noon, upon my secure hour
Thy uncle came, with juice of Hebona
In a vial, and through the porches of my ears
Did pour the lep’rous distillment, whose effect
Hold such an enmity with blood of man
That swift as quicksilver,
it posteth through
The natural gates and alleys of the body,
And turns the thin and wholesome blood
Like eager droppings into milk.
And all my smooth body, barked, and tetter’d over.
Thus was I sleeping by a brother’s hand
Of Crown, of Queen, of life, of dignity
At once deprived, no reckoning made of,
But sent unto my grave,
With all my accompts and sins upon my head,
O horrible, most horrible!

Hamlet
O God!

Ghost
If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not,
But howsoever, let not thy heart
Conspire against thy mother aught,
Leave her to heaven,
And to the burden that her conscience bears.
I must be gone, the Glo-worm shows the Matin
To be near, and gins to pale his uneffectual fire:
Hamlet adieu, adieu, adieu: remember me.

Hamlet
O all you host of heaven! O earth, what else?
And shall I couple hell; remember thee?
Yes thou poor Ghost; from the tables
Of my memory, I’ll wipe away all saws of Books,
All trivial fond conceits
That ever youth, or else observance noted,
And thy remembrance, all alone shall sit.
Yes, yes, by heaven, a damn’d pernicious villain,
Murderous, bawdy, smiling, damned villain,
(My tables) meet it is I set it down,
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;
At least I am sure, it may be so in Denmark.
So uncle, there you are, there you are.
Now to the words; it is adieu, adieu: remember me,
So tis enough I have sworn.

_Enter Horatio and Marcellus_

**Horatio** My lord, my lord.
**Marcellus** Lord Hamlet.
**Horatio** Ill, lo, lo, ho, ho.
**Marcellus** Ill, lo, lo, so, ho, so, come boy, come.
**Horatio** Heavens secure him.
**Marcellus** How is’t my noble lord?
**Horatio** What news my lord?
**Hamlet** O wonderful, wonderful.
**Horatio** Good my lord tell it.
**Hamlet** No not I, you’ll reveal it.
**Horatio** Not I my Lord by heaven.
**Marcellus** Nor I my Lord.
**Hamlet** How say you then? would heart of man
   Once think it? but you’ll be secret.
**Both** Ay by heaven, my lord.
**Hamlet** There’s never a villain dwelling in all Denmark,
   But he’s an arrant knave.
**Horatio** There need no Ghost come from the grave to tell you this.
**Hamlet** Right, you are in the right, and therefore
   I hold it meet without more circumstance at all,
   We shake hands and part; you as your business
   And desires shall lead you: for look you,
   Every man hath business, and desires, such
   As it is, and for my own poor part, I’ll go pray.
**Horatio** These are but wild and whirling words, my Lord.
**Hamlet** I am sorry they offend you; heartily, yes faith heartily.
**Horatio** There’s no offence my Lord.
Hamlet

Yes by Saint Patrick but there is Horatio,
And much offense too, touching this vision,
It is an honest ghost, that let me tell you,
For your desires to know what is between us,
O’ermaster it as you may:
And now kind friends, as you are friends,
Scholars and gentlemen,
Grant me one poor request.

Both

What is’t my Lord?

Hamlet

Never make known what you have seen to night

Both

My lord, we will not.

Hamlet

Nay but swear.

Horatio

In faith my Lord not I.

Marcellus

Nor I my Lord in faith.

Hamlet

Nay upon my sword, indeed upon my sword.

Ghost

Swear.

The Ghost under the stage

Hamlet

Ha, ha, come you hear, this fellow in the cellerage,
Here consent to swear.

Horatio

Propose the oath my Lord.

Hamlet

Never to speak what you have seen to night,
Swear by my sword.

Ghost

Swear.

Hamlet

Hic et ubique; Nay then, we’ll shift our ground:
Come hither Gentlemen, and lay your hands
Again upon this sword, never to speak
Of that which you have seen, swear by my sword.

Ghost

Swear.

Hamlet

Well said old Mole, can’st work in the earth?
So fast, a worthy pioneer, once more remove.

Horatio

Day and night, but this is wondrous strange.

Hamlet

And therefore as a stranger give it welcome,
There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio,
Then are dreamt of in your philosophy,
But come here, as before you never shall
How strange or odd soe’er I bear my self,
As I perchance hereafter shall think meet,
To put an Antic disposition on,
That you at such times seeing me, never shall
With Arms, encumb'red thus, or this head shake,
Or by pronouncing some undoubtful phrase,
As well, well, we know, or we could and if we would,
Or there be, and if they might, or such ambiguous
Giving out to note, that you know aught of me,
This not to do, so grace, and mercy
At your most need help you, swear.

Ghost

Swear.

Hamlet

Rest, rest, perturbed spirit: so, gentlemen,
In all my love I do commend me to you,
And what so poor a man as Hamlet may,
To pleasure you, God willing shall not want,
Nay come let's go together,
But still your fingers on your lips I pray,
The time is out of joint, O cursed spite,
That ever I was born to set it right,
Nay come let's go together.

Exeunt

Enter Corambis and Montano

Corambis

Montano, here, these letters to my son,
And this same money with my blessing to him,
And bid him ply his learning good Montano.

Montano

I will my lord.

Corambis

You shall do very well Montano, to say thus,
I knew the gentleman, or know his father,
To inquire the manner of his life,
As thus; being amongst his acquaintance,
You may say, you saw him at such a time, mark you me,
At game, or drinking, swearing, or drabbing,
You may go so far.

Montano

My lord, that will impeach his reputation.

Corambis

I faith not a whit, no not a whit,
Now happily he closeth with you in the consequence,
As you may bridle it not disparage him a jot.
What was I about to say,

Montano

He closeth with him in the consequence.

Corambis

Ay, you say right, he closeth with him thus,
This will he say, let me see what he will say,
Marry this, I saw him yesterday, or t'other day,
Or then, or at such time, a-dicing,
Or at Tennis, ay or drinking drunk, or ent'ring
Of a house of lightness viz. brothel,
Thus sir do we that know the world, being men of reach,
By indirections, find directions forth,
And so shall you my son; you ha’ me, ha’ you not?

Montano
I have my lord.

Corambis
Well, fare you well, commend me to him.

Montano
I will my lord.

Corambis
And bid him ply his music.

Montano
My lord I will.

Exit

Enter Ofelia

Corambis
Farewell, how now Ofelia, what’s the news with you?

Ofelia
O my dear father, such a change in nature,
So great an alteration in a Prince,
So pitiful to him, fearful to me,
A maiden’s eye ne’er looked on.

Corambis
Why what’s the matter my Ofelia?

Ofelia
O young Prince Hamlet, the only flower of Denmark,
He is bereft of all the wealth he had,
The jewel that adorn’d his feature most
Is filch’d and stol’n away, his wit’s bereft him,
He found me walking in the gallery all alone,
There comes he to me, with a distracted look,
His garters lagging down, his shoes untied,
And fix’d his eyes so steadfast on my face,
As if they had vow’d, this is their latest object.
Small while he stood, but grips me by the wrist,
And there he holds my pulse till with a sigh
He doth unclasp his hold, and parts away
Silent, as is the mid time of the night:
And as he went, his eye was still on me,
For thus his head over his shoulder looked,
He seemed to find the way without his eyes:
For out of doors he went without their help,
And so did leave me.

Corambis
Mad for thy love,
What have you given him any cross words of late?

Ofelia
I did repel his letters, deny his gifts,
As you did charge me.

Corambis
Why, that hath made him mad:
By heav’n tis as proper for our age to cast
Beyond our selves, as tis for the younger sort
To leave their wantonness. Well, I am sorry
That I was so rash: but what remedy?
Let’s to the King, this madness may prove,
Though wild awhile, yet more true to thy love.

Exeunt

Enter King and Queen, Rosencraft and Gilderstone

King
Right noble friends, that our dear cousin Hamlet
Hath lost the very heart of all his sense,
It is most right, and we most sorry for him:
Therefore we do desire, even as you tender
Our care to him, and our great love to you,
That you will labour but to wring from him
The cause and ground of his distemperancy.
Do this, the King of Denmark shall be thankful.

Rossencraft
My Lord, whatsoever lies within our power
Your majesty may more command in words
Than use persuasions to your liege men, bound
By love, by duty, and obedience.

Gilderstone
What we may do for both your Majesties
To know the grief troubles the Prince your son,
We will endeavor all the best we may,
So in all duty do we take our leave.

King
Thanks Gilderstone, and gentle Rosencraft.

Queen
Thanks Rosencraft, and gentle Gilderstone.

Enter Corambis and Ofelia

Corambis
My Lord, the ambassadors are joyfully
Return’d from Norway.

King
Thou still hast been the father of good news.

Corambis
Have I, my lord? I assure your grace,
I hold my duty as I hold my life,
Both to my God, and to my sovereign King:
And I believe, or else this brain of mine
Hunts not the train of policy so well
As it had wont to do, but I have found
The very depth of Hamlet’s lunacy.

Queen
God grant he hath!

Enter the Ambassadors

King
Now Voltemar, what from our brother Norway?
Voltemar
Most fair returns of greetings and desires,
Upon our first he sent forth to suppress
His nephew’s levies, which to him appear’d
To be a preparation against the Polack:
But better look’d into, he truly found
It was against your Highness, whereat grieved,
That so his sickness, age, and impotence,
Was falsely borne in hand, sends out arrests
On Fortenbrasse, which he in brief obeys,
Receives rebuke from Norway: and in fine,
Makes vow before his uncle, never more
To give the assay of Arms against your Majesty,
Whereon old Norway overcome with joy,
Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee,
And his Commission to employ those soldiers,
So levied as before, against the Polack,
With an entreaty herein further shown,
That it would please you to give quiet pass
Through your dominions, for that enterprise
On such regards of safety and allowances
As therein are set down.

King
It likes us well, and at fit time and leisure
We’ll read and answer these his Articles,
Mean time, we thank you for your well
Took labour: go to your rest, at night we’ll feast together:
Right welcome home.

Exeunt Ambassadors

Corambis
This business is very well dispatched.
Now my Lord, touching the young Prince Hamlet,
Certain it is that he is mad: mad let us grant him then:
Now to know the cause of this effect,
Or else to say the cause of this defect,
For this effect defective comes by cause.

Queen
Good my Lord be brief.

Corambis
Madam I will: my Lord, I have a daughter,
Have while she’s mine: for that we think
Is surest, we often lose: now to the Prince.
My Lord, but note this letter,
The which my daughter in obedience
Deliver’d to my hands.

King
Read it my Lord.

Corambis
Mark my Lord.
Doubt that in earth is fire,
Shakespeare Texts

Doubt that the stars do move,
Doubt truth to be a liar,
But do not doubt I love.
To the beautiful Ophelia:
Thine ever the most unhappy Prince Hamlet.
My Lord, what do you think of me?
Ay, or what might you think when I saw this?

King

As of a true friend and a most loving subject.

Corambis

I would be glad to prove so.
Now when I saw this letter, thus I bespake my maiden:
Lord Hamlet is a prince out of your star,
And one that is unequal for your love:
Therefore I did command her refuse his letters,
Deny his tokens, and to absent her self.
She as my child obediently obey’d me.
Now since which time, seeing his love thus cross’d,
Which I took to be idle, and but sport,
He straightway grew into a melancholy,
From that unto a fast, then unto distraction,
Then into a sadness, from that unto a madness,
And so by continuance, and weakness of the brain
Into this frenzy, which now possesseth him:
And if this be not true, take this from this.

King

Think you tis so?

Corambis

How? so my Lord, I would very fain know
That thing that I have said tis so, positively,
And it hath fallen out otherwise.
Nay, if circumstances lead me on,
I’ll find it out, if it were hid
As deep as the centre of the earth.

King

How should we try this same?

Corambis

Marry my good lord thus,
The Prince’s walk is here in the gallery,
There let Ophelia, walk until he comes:
Your self and I will stand close in the study,
There shall you hear the effect of all his heart,
And if it prove any otherwise than love,
Then let my censure fail an other time.

King

See where he comes poring upon a book.

Enter Hamlet

Corambis

Madam, will it please your grace
To leave us here?
Queen

With all my heart.

Exit

Corambis

And here Ofelia, read you on this book,
And walk aloof, the King shall be unseen.

Hamlet

To be, or not to be, ay there's the point,
To die, to sleep, is that all? Ay, all:
No, to sleep, to dream, ay marry there it goes,
For in that dream of death, when we awake,
And borne before an everlasting Judge,
From whence no passenger ever return'd,
The undiscovered country, at whose sight
The happy smile, and the accursed damn'd.
But for this, the joyful hope of this,
Who'd bear the scorns and flattery of the world,
Scorned by the right rich, the rich cursed of the poor?
The widow being oppressed, the orphan wrong'd,
The taste of hunger, or a tyrant's reign,
And thousand more calamities besides,
To grunt and sweat under this weary life,
When that he may his full quietus make,
With a bare bodkin, who would this endure,
But for a hope of something after death?
Which puzzles the brain, and doth confound the sense,
Which makes us rather bear those evils we have
Than fly to others that we know not of.
Ay that, Oh, this conscience makes cowards of us all,
Lady in thy orisons be all my sins rememb'red.

Ofelia

My Lord, I have sought opportunity, which now
I have, to redeliver to your worthy hands, a small remembrance, such tokens which I have received of you.

Hamlet

Are you fair?

Ofelia

My lord?

Hamlet

Are you honest?

Ofelia

What means my Lord?

Hamlet

That if you be fair and honest,
Your beauty should admit no discourse to your honesty.

Ofelia

My Lord, can beauty have better privilege than with honesty?

Hamlet

Yea marry may it; for Beauty may transform
Honesty, from what she was into a bawd:
Than Honesty can transform Beauty:
This was sometimes a Paradox,
But now the time gives it scope.
I never gave you nothing.

_Ophelia_  
My Lord, you know right will you did,  
And with them such earnest vows of love  
As would have mov’d the stoniest breast alive,  
But now too true I find,  
Rich gifts wax poor, when givers grow unkind.

_Hamlet_  
I never loved you.

_Ophelia_  
You made me believe you did.

_Hamlet_  
O thou shouldst not a believed me!  
Go to a Nunnery go, why shouldst thou  
Be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indifferent honest,  
But I could accuse myself of such crimes  
It had been better my mother had ne’er born me,  
O I am very proud, ambitious, disdainful,  
With more sins at my beck, than I have thoughts  
To put them in, what should such fellows as I  
Do, crawling between heaven and earth?  
To a Nunnery, go, we are arrant knaves all,  
Believe none of us, to a Nunnery go.

_Ophelia_  
O heavens secure him!

_Hamlet_  
Where’s thy father?

_Ophelia_  
At home my lord.

_Hamlet_  
For God’s sake let the doors be shut on him,  
He may play the fool no where but in his  
Own house: to a Nunnery go.

_Ophelia_  
Help him good God.

_Hamlet_  
If thou dost marry, I’ll give thee  
This plague to thy dowry:  
Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow,  
Thou shalt not scape calumny, to a Nunnery go.

_Ophelia_  
Alas, what change is this?

_Hamlet_  
But if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool,  
For wise men know well enough,  
What monsters you make of them, to a Nunnery go.

_Ophelia_  
Pray God restore him.

_Hamlet_  
Nay, I have heard of your paintings, too,  
God hath given you one face,  
And you make your selves another,  
You fig, and you amble, and you nickname God’s creatures,  
(Making your wantonness, your ignorance,
A pox, tis scurvy, I’ll no more of it,
It hath made me mad: I’ll no more marriages,
All that are married but one, shall live,
The rest shall keep as they are, to a Nunnery, go
To a Nunnery go.

Exit

Olivia
Great God of heaven, what a quick change is this?
The Courtier, Scholar, Soldier, all in him,
All dash’d and splinter’d thence, O woe is me,
To a seen what I have seen, see what I see.

Exit

Enter King and Corambis

King
Love? No, no, that’s not the cause,
Some deeper thing it is that troubles him.

Corambis
Well, something it is: my Lord, content you awhile,
I will my self go feel him: let me work,
I’ll try him every way: see where he comes,
Send you those Gentlemen, let me alone
To find the depth of this, away, be gone.

Exit King

Enter Hamlet

Now my good Lord, do you know me?

Hamlet
Yea very well, y’are a fishmonger.

Corambis
Not I my Lord.

Hamlet
Then sir, I would you were so honest a man,
For to be honest, as this age goes,
Is one man to be pick’d out of ten thousand.

Corambis
What doe you read my Lord?

Hamlet
Words, words.

Corambis
What’s the matter my Lord?

Hamlet
Between who?

Corambis
I mean the matter you read my Lord.

Hamlet
Marry most vile heresy:
For here the satyrical satyre writes,
That old men have hollow eyes, weak backs,
Grey beards, pitiful weak hams, gouty legs,
All which sir, I most potently believe not:
For sir, yourself shall be old as I am,
If like a Crab, you could go backward.
Corambis  How pregnant his replies are, and full of wit: 
Yet at first he took me for a fishmonger: 
All this comes by love, the vehemency of love, 
And when I was young, I was very idle, 
And suffered much ecstasy in love, very near this: 
Will you walk out of the air my Lord?

Hamlet  Into my grave.

Corambis  By the mass that’s out of the air indeed, 
Very shrewd answers, 
My lord I will take my leave of you.

Enter Gilderstone, and Rossencraft

Hamlet  You can take nothing from me sir, 
I will more willingly part withal, 
Old doating fool.

Corambis  You seek Prince Hamlet, see, there he is.

Exit

Gilderstone  Health to your lordship.

Hamlet  What, Gilderstone, and Rossencraft, 
Welcome kind School-fellows, to Elsanore.

Gilderstone  We thank your Grace, and would be very glad 
You were as when we were at Wittenberg.

Hamlet  I thank you, but is this visitation free of 
Your selves, or were you not sent for? 
Tell me true, come, I know the good King and Queen 
Sent for you, there is a kind of confession in your eye: 
Come, I know you were sent for.

Gilderstone  What say you?

Hamlet  Nay, then, I see how the wind sits, 
Come, you were sent for.

Rossencraft  My lord, we were, and willingly if we might, 
Know the cause and ground of your discontent.

Hamlet  Why I want preferment.

Rossencraft  I think not so my lord.

Hamlet  Yes faith, this great world you see contents me not, 
No nor the spangled heavens, nor earth nor sea, 
No, nor Man that is so glorious a creature, 
Contents not me, no nor woman too, though you laugh.

Gilderstone  My lord, we laugh not at that.

Hamlet  Why did you laugh then,
When I said, Man did not content me?

**Gilderstone**  
My lord, we laughed, when you said, Man did not content you.  
What entertainment the Players shall have?  
We boarded them a the way: they are coming to you.

**Hamlet**  
Players, what Players be they?

**Rossencraft**  
My Lord, the Tragedians of the City,  
Those that you took delight to see so often.

**Hamlet**  
How comes it that they travel? Do they grow resty?

**Gilderstone**  
No my Lord, their reputation holds as it was wont.

**Hamlet**  
How then?

**Gilderstone**  
I’faith my Lord, novelty carries it away,  
For the principal public audience that  
Came to them, are turned to private plays,  
And to the humour of children.

**Hamlet**  
I do not greatly wonder of it,  
For those that would make mops and mows  
At my uncle, when my father lived,  
Now give a hundred, two hundred pounds  
For his picture: but they shall be welcome,  
He that plays the King shall have tribute of me,  
The ventrous Knight shall use his foil and target,  
The lover shall sigh gratis,  
The clown shall make them laugh  
That are tickled in the lungs, or the blank verse shall halt for’t,  
And the Lady shall have leave to speak her mind freely.

*The Trumpets sound, Enter Corambis*

Do you see yonder great baby?  
He is not yet out of his swaddling clouts.

**Gilderstone**  
That may be, for they say an old man  
Is twice a child.

**Hamlet**  
I’ll prophesy to you, he comes to tell me a the Players,  
You say true, a Monday last, t’was so indeed.

**Corambis**  
My lord, I have news to tell you.

**Hamlet**  
My Lord, I have news to tell you:  
When Rossius was an Actor in Rome.

**Corambis**  
The actors are come hither, my lord.

**Hamlet**  
Buzz, buzz.

**Corambis**  
The best actors in Christendom,  
Either for Comedy, Tragedy, History, Pastoral,
Pastoral, Historical, Historical, Comical,  
Comical historical, Pastoral, Tragedy:  
_Seneca_ cannot be too heavy, _nor Plato_ too light:  
For the law hath writ those are the only men.

_Hamlet_  
O _Jepha_, Judge of _Israel_! what a treasure hadst thou?

_Corambis_  
Why what a treasure had he my lord?

_Hamlet_  
Why one fair daughter, and no more,  
The which he loved passing well.

_Corambis_  
Ah, still harping a my daughter! well my Lord,  
If you call me _Jepha_, I have a daughter that  
I love passing well.

_Hamlet_  
Nay that follows not.

_Corambis_  
What follows then my Lord?

_Hamlet_  
Why by lot, _or God wot_, or as it came to pass,  
And so it was, the first verse of the godly _Ballet_  
Will tell you all: for look you where my abridgement comes:

_Enter Players._

Welcome masters, welcome all  
What my old friend, thy face is valanced  
Since I saw thee last, _com’st_ thou to beard me in _Denmark_?  
My young lady and mistress, _by’r Lady_ but your  
Ladyship is grown by the altitude of a chopine higher than you were:  
Pray God sir your voice, like a piece of uncurrent  
_Gold_, be not cracked in the ring; _come on masters_,  
We’ll even _to’t_, like _French Falconers_,  
Fly at any thing we see, _come_, a _taste_ of your  
_Quality_, a _speech_, a _passionate speech_.

_Players_  
What speech _my good lord_?

_Hamlet_  
I heard thee speak a _speech_ once,  
But it _was_ never _acted_: _or if it were_,  
Never above twice, _for as I remember_,  
It _pleased_ not _the vulgar_, _it was caviary_  
To the million: _but to me_  
And others, _that received_ it _in the like kind_,  
_Cried_ in the _top_ of _their judgments_, _an excellent play_,  
_Set down_ with _as great modesty as cunning_:  
One said there was _no sallets in the lines_ to _make_ them _savory_,  
_But called_ it _an honest method_, _as wholesome as sweet_.  
_Come_, _a speech_ in _it_ _I chiefly remember_  
_Was_ _Aeneas’ tale_ to _Dido_,  
_And then especially where he talks of Princes’ slaughter,_
If it live in thy memory begin at this line,
Let me see.
The rugged Pyrrus, like th’arganian beast:
No ’tis not so, it begins with Pyrrus:
Oh, I have it.
The rugged Pyrrus, he whose sable arms,
Black as his purpose did the night resemble,
When he lay couched in the ominous horse,
Hath now his black and grim complexion smeared
With Heraldry more dismal, head to foot,
Now is he total guise, horridly tricked
With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sons,
Baked and imparched in calagulate gore,
Rifted in earth and fire, old grandsire Pryam seeks:
So, go on.

Corambis Afore God, my Lord, well spoke, and with good accent.

Player Anon he finds him striking too short at Greeks,
His antique sword rebellious to his Arm,
Lies where it falls, unable to resist.
Pyrrus at Pryam drives, but all in rage,
 Strikes wide, but with the whiff and wind
Of his fell sword, th’unnervèd father falls.

Corambis Enough my friend, ’tis too long.

Hamlet It shall to the Barber’s with your beard.
A pox, he’s for a jig, or a tale of bawdry,
Or else he sleeps, come on to Hecuba, come.

Player But who O who had seen the mobled Queen?

Corambis Mobled Queen is good, faith very good.

Player All in the alarum and fear of death rose up,
And o’er her weak and all o’er-teeming loins, a blanket
And a kercher on that head, where late the diadem stood,
Who this had seen with tongue invenomed speech,
Would treason have pronounced,
For if the gods themselves had seen her then,
When she saw Pyrrus with malicious strokes,
Mincing her husband’s limbs,
It would have made milch the burning eyes of heaven,
And passion in the gods.

Corambis Look my lord, if he hath not chang’d his color,
And hath tears in his eyes: no more good heart, no more.

Hamlet ’Tis well, ’tis very well, I pray, my lord,
Will you see the Players will bestowed,
I tell you they are the Chronicles
And brief abstracts of the time,
After your death I can tell you,
You were better have a bad Epitaph,
Than their ill report while you live.

Corambis  My lord, I will use them according to their deserts.

Hamlet  O far better man, use every man after his deserts,
Then who should scape whipping?
Use them after your own honor and dignity,
The less they deserve, the greater credit's yours.

Corambis  Welcome, my good fellows.

Exit

Hamlet  Come hither masters. Can you not play the murder of Gonzago?

Players  Yes my Lord.

Hamlet  And couldst not thou for a need study me
Some dozen or sixteen lines,
Which I would set down and insert?

Players  Yes very easily my good Lord.

Hamlet  'Tis well, I thank you: follow that lord:
And, do you hear sirs? take heed you mock him not. Gentlemen,
for your kindness I thank you,
And for a time I would desire you leave me.

Gilderstone  Our love and duty is at your command.

Exeunt all but Hamlet

Hamlet  Why what a dunghill idiot slave am I?
Why these players here draw water from eyes:
For Hecuba, why, what is Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba?
What would he do an if he had my loss?
His father murdered, and a crown bereft him,
He would turn all his tears to drops of blood,
Amaze the standers by with his laments,
Strike more than wonder in the judicial ears,
Confound the ignorant, and make mute the wise,
Indeed his passion would be general.
Yet I like to an ass and John a Dreams,
Having my father murdered by a villain,
Stand still, and let it pass, why sure I am a coward:
Who plucks me by the beard, or twits my nose,
Gives me the lie i'th' throat down to the lungs,
Sure I should take it, or else I have no gall,
Or by this I should a fatted all the region kites
With this slave’s offal, this damned villain,  
Treachery, bawdy, murderous villain:  
Why this is brave, that I the son of my dear father,  
Should like a scallion, like a very drab  
Thus rail in words. About my brain,  
I have heard that guilty creatures sitting at a play,  
Hath, by the very cunning of the scene, confess’d a murder  
Committed long before.  
This spirit that I have seen may be the Devil,  
And out of my weakness and my melancholy,  
As he is very potent with such men,  
Doth seek to damn me, I will have sounder proofs,  
The play’s the thing,  
Wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the King.

_Exit_

_Enter the King, Queen, and Lords_

**King**  
Lords, can you by no means find  
The cause of our son _Hamlet’s_ lunacy?  
You being so near in love, even from his youth,  
Methinks should gain more than a stranger should.

**Gilderstone**  
My lord, we have done all the best we could,  
To wring from him the cause of all his grief,  
But still he puts us off, and by no means  
Would make an answer to that we expos’d.

**Rossencraft**  
Yet was he something more inclin’d to mirth  
Before we left him, and, I take it,  
He hath given order for a play tonight,  
At which he craves your highness’ company.

**King**  
With all our heart, it likes us very well:  
Gentlemen, seek still to increase his mirth,  
Spare for no cost, our coffers shall be open,  
And we unto yourselves will still be thankful.

**Both**  
In all we can, be sure you shall command.

**Queen**  
Thanks gentlemen, and what the Queen of Denmark  
May pleasure you, be sure you shall not want.

**Gilderstone**  
We’ll once again unto the noble prince.

**King**  
Thanks to you both: Gertred, you’ll see this play.

**Queen**  
My lord I will, and it joys me at the soul  
He is inclin’d to any kind of mirth.

**Corambis**  
Madam, I pray be ruled by me:
And, my good Sovereign, give me leave to speak,
We cannot yet find out the very ground
Of his distemperance, therefore
I hold it meet, if so it please you,
Else they shall not meet, and thus it is.

King What is’t, Corambis?

Corambis Marry my good lord this, soon, when the sports are done,
Madam, send you in haste to speak with him,
And I myself will stand behind the Arras,
There question you the cause of all his grief,
And then in love and nature unto you, he’ll tell you all:
My Lord, how think you on’t?

King It likes us well, Gertred, what say you?

Queen With all my heart, soon will I send for him.

Corambis Myself will be that happy messenger,
Who hopes his grief will be revealed to her.

Exeunt Omnes

Enter Hamlet and the Players

Hamlet Pronounce me this speech trippingly as I taught thee.
Marry an you mouth it, as a many of your players do
I’d rather hear a town bull bellow,
Than such a fellow speak my lines.
Nor do not saw the air thus with your hands,
But give every thing his action with temperance.
O it offends me to the soul, to hear a robustious periwig fellow,
To tear a passion in totters, into very rags,
To split the ears of the ignorant, who for the
Most part are capable of nothing but dumb shows and noises,
I would have such a fellow whipp’d, for o’erdoing, termagant
It out, Herods Herod.

Players My Lord, we have indifferently reformed that among us.

Hamlet The better, the better, mend it altogether:
There be fellows that I have seen play,
And heard others commend them, and that highly too,
That, having neither the gate of Christian, Pagan,
Nor Turk, have so strutted and bellowed,
That you would a thought, some of Nature’s journeymen
Had made men, and not made them well,
They imitated humanity, so abominable:
Take heed, avoid it.

Players I warrant you my Lord.
Hamlet

And do you hear? let not your Clown speak
More than is set down, there be of them, I can tell you
That will laugh themselves, to set on some
Quantity of barren spectators to laugh with them,
Albeit there is some necessary point in the Play
Then to be observed: O ’tis vile, and shows
A pitiful ambition in the fool that useth it.
And then you have some again, that keeps one suit
Of jests, as a man is known by one suit of
Apparel, and gentlemen quotes his jests down
In their tables, before they come to the play, as thus:
Cannot you stay till I eat my porridge? and, you owe me
A quarters wages: and, my coat wants a cullison:
And your beer is sour: and, blabbering with his lips,
And thus keeping in his cinquepace of jests,
When, God knows, the warm Clown cannot make a jest
Unless by chance, as the blind man catcheth a hare:
Masters, tell him of it.

Players

We will my Lord.

Hamlet

Well, go make you ready.

Exeunt Players

Horatio

Here, my lord.

Hamlet

Horatio, thou art even as just a man,
As e’er my conversation cop’d withal.

Horatio

Oh my lord!

Hamlet

Nay why should I flatter thee?
Why should the poor be flattered?
What gain should I receive by flattering thee,
That nothing hath but thy good mind?
Let flattery sit on those time-pleasing tongues,
To gloze with them that loves to hear their praise,
And not with such as thou Horatio.

There is a play tonight, wherein one Scene they have
Comes very near the murder of my father,
When thou shalt see that Act afoot,
Mark thou the King, do but observe his looks,
For I mine eyes will rivet to his face:
And if he doe not bleach, and change at that,
It is a damnèd ghost that we have seen.

Horatio, have a care, observe him well.

Horatio

My lord, mine eyes shall still be on his face,
And not the smallest alteration
That shall appear in him, but I shall note it.
Hamlet

Hark, they come.

Enter King, Queen, Corambis, and other Lords

King

How now, son Hamlet, how fare you, shall we have a play?

Hamlet

I’faith the chameleon’s dish, not capon cramm’d - feed a the air.
Ay father: My lord, you played in the University.

Corambis

That I did, my L: and I was counted a good actor.

Hamlet

What did you enact there?

Corambis

My lord, I did act Julius Caesar. I was killed in the Capitol, Brutus killed me.

Hamlet

It was a brute part of him
To kill so capital a calf.
Come, be these players ready?

Queen

Hamlet come sit down by me.

Hamlet

No by my faith mother, here’s a metal more attractive.
Lady, will you give me leave, and so forth:
To lay my head in your lap?

Ophelia

No my lord.

Hamlet

Upon your lap, what, do you think I meant contrary matters?

Enter, in a Dumb Show, the King and the Queen, he sits down in an Arbor, she leaves him: Then enters Lucianus with poison in a Vial, and pours it in his ears, and goes away: Then the Queen cometh and finds him dead: and goes away with the other.

Ophelia

What means this my Lord?

Enter the Prologue

Hamlet

This is miching Mallico, that means mischief.

Ophelia

What doth this mean my lord?

Hamlet

you shall hear anon, this fellow will tell you all.

Ophelia

Will he tell us what this show means?

Hamlet

Ay, or any show you’ll show him,
Be not afeard to show, he’ll not be afeard to tell:
O these Players cannot keep counsel, they’ll tell all.

Prologue

For us, and for our Tragedy,
Here stooping to your clemency,
We beg your hearing patiently.

Hamlet

Is’t a prologue, or a poesie for a ring?

Ophelia

’Tis short my Lord.

Hamlet

As women’s love.
Enter the Duke and Duchess

Duke

Full forty years are past, their date is gone,
Since happy time joined both our hearts as one:
And now the blood that fill’d my youthful veins
Runs weakly in their pipes, and all the strains
Of music, which whilom pleas’d mine ear,
Is now a burden that Age cannot bear:
And therefore sweet Nature must pay his due,
To heaven must I, and leave the earth with you.

Duchess

O say not so, lest that you kill my heart,
When death takes you, let life from me depart.

Duke

Content thyself, when ended is my date,
Thou mayst (perchance) have a more noble mate,
More wise, more youthful, and one.

Duchess

O speak no more for then I am accurst,
None weds the second, but she kills the first:
A second time I kill my Lord that’s dead,
When second husband kisses me in bed.

Hamlet

O wormwood, wormwood!

Duke

I do believe you, sweet, what now you speak,
But what we do determine oft we break,
For our demises still are overthrown,
Our thought are ours, their end’s none of our own:
So think you will no second husband wed,
But die thy thoughts, when thy first Lord is dead.

Duchess

Both here and there pursue me lasting strife,
If once a widow, ever I be wife.

Hamlet

If she should break now.

Duke

‘Tis deeply sworn, sweet leave me here awhile,
My spirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile the tedious time
with sleep.

Duchess

Sleep rock thy brain,
And never come mischance between us twain.

Exit Lady

Hamlet

Madam, how do you like this play?

Queen

The Lady protests too much.

Hamlet

O but she’ll keep her word.

King

Have you heard the argument, is there no offence in it?

Hamlet

No offence in the world, poison in jest, poison in jest.
King What do you call the name of the play?

Hamlet Mouse-trap: marry, how trapically: this play is
The image of a murder done in Guyana,
Albertus was the Duke’s name, his wife Baptista
Father, it is a knavish piece o’work: but what
A that, it toucheth not us, you and I that have free
Souls, let the gall’d jade wince, this is one
Lucianus nephew to the King.

Ophelia Y’re as good as a chorus my lord.

Hamlet I could interpret the love you bear, if I saw the poopyes dallying.

Ophelia Y’re very pleasant my lord.

Hamlet Who I, your only jig-maker, why, what should a man do but be merry? for look how cheerfully my mother looks, my father died within these two hours.

Ophelia Nay, ’tis twice two months, my lord.

Hamlet Two months, nay then let the devil wear black,
For I’ll have a suit of Sables: Jesus, two months dead,
And not forgotten yet? nay then there’s some
Likelihood, a gentlemen’s death may outlive memory,
But by my faith he must build churches then,
Or else he must follow the old Epitithe,
With hoh, with ho, the hobbyhorse is forgot.

Ophelia Your jests are keen my Lord.

Hamlet It would cost you a groaning to take them off.

Ophelia Still better and worse.

Hamlet So you must take your husband, begin. Murdred
Begin, a pox, leave thy damnable faces and begin.
Come, the croaking raven doth bellow for revenge.

Murderer Thoughts black, hands apt, drugs fit, and time agreeing,
Confederate season, else no creature seeing:
Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected,
With Hecates bane thrice blasted, thrice infected,
Thy natural magic and dire property
One wholesome life usurps immediately.

Exit

Hamlet He poisons him for his estate.

King Lights, I will to bed.

Corambis The king rises, lights, ho.

Exeunt King and Lords
Hamlet
What, frighted with false fires?
Then let the stricken deer go weep,
The heart ungalled play,
For some must laugh, while some must weep,
Thus runs the world away.

Horatio
The king is moved my lord.

Horatio
Ay Horatio, I’ll take the Ghost’s word
For more then all the coin in Denmark.

Enter Rossencraft and Gilderstone

Rossencraft
Now my lord, how is’t with you?

Hamlet
And if the King like not the tragedy,
Why then belike he likes it not perdy.

Rossencraft
We are very glad to see your grace so pleasant,
My good lord, let us again entreat
To know of you the ground and cause of your distemperature.

Gilderstone
My lord, your mother craves to speak with you.

Hamlet
We shall obey, were she ten times our mother.

Rossencraft
But my good Lord, shall I entreat thus much?

Hamlet
I pray will you play upon this pipe?

Rossencraft
Alas my lord I cannot.

Hamlet
Pray will you?

Gilderstone
I have no skill my Lord.

Hamlet
why look, it is a thing of nothing.
‘Tis but stopping of these holes,
And with a little breath from your lips,
It will give most delicate music.

Gilderstone
But this cannot we do my Lord.

Hamlet
Pray now, pray heartily, I beseech you.

Rossencraft
My lord we cannot.

Hamlet
Why how unworthy a thing would you make of me?
You would seem to know my stops, you would play upon me,
You would search the very inward part of my heart
And dive into the secret of my soul.
Zounds do you think I am easier to be play’d
On, than a pipe? call me what Instrument
You will, though you can fret me, yet you can not
Play upon me, besides, to be demanded by a sponge.

Rossencraft
How, a sponge my Lord?
Hamlet
Ay sir, a sponge, that soaks up the kings
Countenance, favours, and rewards, that makes
His liberality your storehouse: but such as you,
Do the king, in the end, best service;
For he doth keep you as an ape doth nuts,
In the corner of his jaw, first mouths you,
Then swallows you: so when he hath need
Of you, ‘tis but squeezing of you,
And sponge, you shall be dry again, you shall.

Rossencraft
Well my Lord we’ll take our leave.

Hamlet
Farewell, farewell, God bless you.

Exit Rossencraft and Gilderstone.

Enter Corambis

Corambis
My lord, the Queen would speak with you.

Hamlet
Do you see yonder cloud in the shape of a camel?

Corambis
‘Tis like a camel indeed.

Hamlet
Now me thinks it’s like a weasel.

Corambis
‘Tis backed like a weasel.

Hamlet
Or like a whale.

Corambis
Very like a whale.

Exit Corambis.

Hamlet
Why then tell my mother I’ll come by and by.
Good night Horatio.

Horatio
Good night unto your Lordship.

Exit Horatio.

Hamlet
My mother she hath sent to speak with me:
O God, let ne’er the heart of Nero enter
This soft bosom.
Let me be cruel, not unnatural.
I will speak daggers. those sharp words being spent,
To do her wrong my soul shall ne’er consent.

Exit.

Enter the King.

King
O that this wet that falls upon my face
Would wash the crime clear from my conscience!
When I look up to heaven, I see my trespass,
The earth doth still cry out upon my fact,
Pay me the murder of a brother and a king,
And the adulterous fault I have committed:
O these are sins that are unpardonable:
Why say thy sins were blacker than is jet,
Yet may contrition make them as white as snow:
Ay but still to persever in a sin,
It is an act against the universal power.
Most wretched man, stoop, bend thee to thy prayer,
Ask grace of heaven to keep thee from despair.

_He kneels._       _Enters Hamlet_

_Hamlet_ Ay so, come forth and work thy last,
And thus he dies; and so am I revenged:
No, not so: he took my father sleeping, his sins brim full,
And how his soul stood to the state of heaven
Who knows, save the immortal powers,
And shall I kill him now,
When he is purging of his soul?
Making his way for heaven, this is a benefit,
And not revenge: no, get thee up again,
When he’s at game swearing, taking his carouse, drinking drunk,
Or in the incestuous pleasure of his bed,
Or at some act that hath no relish
Of salvation in’t, then trip him
That his heels may kick at heaven,
And fall as low as hell: my mother stays,
This physic but prolongs thy weary days.

_Exit Hamlet._

_King_ My words fly up, my sins remain below,
No King on earth is safe, if Gods his foe.

_Exit King._

_Enter Queen and Corambis._

_Corambis_ Madam, I hear young Hamlet coming,
I’ll shrowd myself behind the Arras.

_Exit Corambis._

_Queen_ Do so my Lord.

_Hamlet_ Mother, mother, O are you here?
How is’t with you mother?

_Queen_ How is’t with you?

_Hamlet_ I’ll tell you, but first we’ll make all safe.

_Queen_ Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

_Hamlet_ Mother, you have my father much offended.
Queen

How now boy?

Hamlet

How now, mother! come here, sit down, for you shall hear me speak.

Queen

What wilt thou do? thou wilt not murder me:
Help ho!

Corambis

Help for the Queen.

Hamlet

Ay a rat, dead for a Ducat!
Rash intruding fool, farewell,
I took thee for thy better.

Queen

Hamlet, what hast thou done?

Hamlet

Not so much harm, good mother,
As to kill a king and marry with his brother.

Queen

Hamlet, what mean’st thou by these killing words?

Hamlet

Why this I mean, see here, behold this picture,
It is the portraiture, of your deceased husband,
See here a face, to outface Mars himself,
An eye, at which his foes did tremble at,
A front wherein all virtues are set down
For to adorn a king, and guild his crown,
Whose heart went hand in hand even with that vow
He made to you in marriage, and he is dead.
Murd’red, damnably murd’red, this was your husband,
Look you now, here is your husband,
With a face like Vulcan.
A look fit for a murder and a rape,
A dull dead hanging look, and a hell-bred eye,
To affright children and amaze the world:
And this same have you left to change with this.
What Devil thus hath cozened you at hob-man blind?
Ah! have you eyes and can you look on him
That slew my father, and your dear husband,
To live in the incestuous pleasure of his bed?

Queen

O Hamlet, speak no more.

Hamlet

To leave him that bare a Monarch’s mind
For a king of clouts, of very shreds?

Queen

Sweet Hamlet cease.
*Hamlet*  
Nay but still to persist and dwell in sin,  
To sweat under the yoke of infamy,  
To make increase of shame, to seal damnation.

*Queen*  
Hamlet, no more.

*Hamlet*  
Why appetite with you is in the wane,  
Your blood runs backward now from whence it came,  
Who’ll chide hot blood within a Virgins heart,  
When lust shall dwell within a matrons breast?

*Queen*  
Hamlet, thou cleaves my heart in twain.

*Hamlet*  
O throw away the worser part of it, and keep the better.

*Enter the ghost in his night gown.*

Save me, save me, you gracious  
Powers above, and hover over me,  
With your celestial wings.  
Do you not come your tardy son to chide,  
That I thus long have let revenge slip by?  
O do not glare with looks so pitiful!  
Lest that my heart of stone yield to compassion,  
And every part that should assist revenge,  
Forgo their proper powers, and fall to pity!

*Ghost*  
Hamlet, I once again appear to thee,  
To put thee in remembrance of my death:  
Do not neglect, nor long time put it off.  
But I perceive by thy distracted looks,  
Thy mother’s fearful, and she stands amaz’d:  
Speak to her Hamlet, for her sex is weak,  
Comfort thy mother, Hamlet, think on me.

*Hamlet*  
How is’t with you Lady?

*Queen*  
Nay, how is’t with you  
That thus you bend your eyes on vacancy,  
And hold discourse with nothing but with air?

*Hamlet*  
Why do you nothing hear?

*Queen*  
Not I.

*Hamlet*  
Nor do you nothing see?

*Queen*  
No neither.

*Hamlet*  
No, why see the king my father, my father, in the habit  
As he lived, look you how pale he looks,  
See how he steals away out of the Portal,  
Look, there he goes.

*Exit ghost.*
Queen

Alas, it is the weakness of thy brain,
Which makes thy tongue to blazon thy heart’s grief:
But as I have a soul, I swear by heaven,
I never knew of this most horrid murder:
But Hamlet, this is only fantasy,
And for my love forget these idle fits.

Hamlet

Idle, no mother, my pulse doth beat like yours,
It is not madness that possesseth Hamlet.
O mother, if ever you did my dear father love,
Forbear the adulterous bed tonight,
And win yourself by little as you may,
In time it may be you will loathe him quite:
And mother, but assist me in revenge,
And in his death your infamy shall die.

Queen

Hamlet, I vow, by that Majesty
That knows our thoughts, and looks into our hearts,
I will conceal, consent, and do my best,
What stratagem so’er thou shalt devise.

Hamlet

It is enough, mother good night:
Come sir, I’ll provide for you a grave,
Who was in life a foolish, prating knave.

Exit Hamlet with the dead body.

Enter the King and Lords.

King

Now Gertred, what says our son, how do you find him?

Queen

Alas my lord, as raging as the sea:
Whenas he came, I first bespake him fair,
But then he throws and tosses me about,
As one forgetting that I was his mother:
At last I called for help: and as I cried, Corambis
Call’d, which Hamlet no sooner heard, but whips me
Out his rapier, and cries, a Rat, a Rat, and in his rage
The good old man he kills.

King

Why this his madness will undo our state.
Lords go to him, inquire the body out.

Gilderstone

We will, my lord.

Exeunt Lords.

King

Gertred, your son shall presently to England,
His shipping is already furnished,
And we have sent by Rossencraft and Gilderstone,
Our letters to our dear brother of England,
For Hamlets welfare and his happiness:
Haply the air and climate of the Country
May please him better than his native home:
See where he comes.

Enter Hamlet and the Lords.

Gilderstone  My lord, we can by no means
Know of him where the body is.

King  Now son Hamlet, where is this dead body?

Hamlet  At supper, not where he is eating, but
Where he is eaten, a certain company of politic worms are even
now at him.
Father, your fat King, and your lean Beggar
Are but variable services, two dishes to one mess:
Look you, a man may fish with that worm
That hath eaten of a King,
And a beggar eat that fish,
Which that worm hath caught.

King  What of this?

Hamlet  Nothing father, but to tell you, how a King
May go a progress through the guts of a Beggar.

King  But son Hamlet, where is this body?

Hamlet  In heav’n, if you chance to miss him there,
Father, you had best look in the other parts below
For him, and if you cannot find him there,
You may chance to nose him as you go up the lobby.

King  Make haste and find him out.

Hamlet  Nay do you hear? do not make too much haste,
I’ll warrant you he’ll stay till you come.

King  Well son Hamlet, we, in care of you: but specially
in tender preservation of your health,
The which we prize even as our proper self,
It is our mind you forthwith go for England,
The wind sits fair, you shall aboard tonight,
Lord Rossencraft and Gilderstone shall go along with you.

Hamlet  O with all my heart: farewell mother.

King  Your loving father, Hamlet.

Hamlet  My mother I say: you married my mother,
My mother is your wife, man and wife is one flesh,
And so (my mother) farewell: for England ho.

exeunt all but the king.

King  Gertred, leave me,
And take your leave of Hamlet,
To England is he gone, ne’er to return:
Our Letters are unto the King of England,
That on the sight of them, on his allegiance,
He presently without demanding why,
That Hamlet lose his head, for he must die,
There’s more in him than shallow eyes can see:
He once being dead, why then our state is free.

exit.

Enter Fortenbrasse, Drum and Soldiers.

Fortenbrasse Captain, from us go greet
The King of Denmark:
Tell him that Fortenbrasse, nephew to old Norway,
Craves a free pass and conduct over his land,
According to the Articles agreed on:
You know our Rendezvous, go march away.

exeunt all.

enter King and Queen.

King Hamlet is shipp’d for England, fare him well,
I hope to hear good news from thence ere long,
If everything fall out to our content,
As I do make no doubt but so it shall.

Queen God grant it may, heav’ns keep my Hamlet safe:
But this mischance of old Corambis death,
Hath pierced so the young Ofelia heart,
That she, poor maid, is quite bereft her wits.

King Alas dear heart! And on the other side,
We understand her brother’s come from France,
And he hath half the heart of all our Land,
And hardly he’ll forget his father’s death,
Unless by some means he be pacified.

Queen O see where the young Ofelia is!

Enter Ofelia playing on a Lute, and her hair down singing.

Ofelia How should I your true love know
From another man?
By his cockle hat, and his staff,
And his sandal shoon.
White his shroud as mountain snow,
Larded with sweet flowers,
That bewept to the grave did not go
With true lovers showers:
He is dead and gone Lady, he is dead and gone,  
At his head a grass green turf,  
At his heels a stone.

*King* How is’st with you sweet *Ophelia*?

*Ophelia* Well God yield you,  
It grieves me to see how they laid him in the cold ground,  
I could not choose but weep:  
And will he not come again?  
And will he not come again?  
No, no, he’s gone, and we cast away moan,  
And he never will come again.  
His beard as white as snow:  
All flaxen was his poll,  
He is dead, he is gone,  
And we cast away moan:  
God a mercy on his soul.  
And of all christen souls I pray God.  
God be with you Ladies, God be with you.  
*exit Ophelia.*

*King* A pretty wretch! this is a change indeed:  
O Time, how swiftly runs our joys away?  
Content on earth was never certain bred,  
Today we laugh and live, tomorrow dead.  
How now, what noise is that?  
*A noise within.*  
*enter Leartes.*

*Leartes* Stay there until I come,  
O thou vile king, give me my father:  
Speak, say, where’s my father?

*King* Dead.

*Leartes* Who hath murdred him? Speak, I’ll not  
Be juggled with, for he is murdred.

*Queen* True, but not by him.

*Leartes* By whom, by heav’n I’ll be resolved.

*King* Let him go Gertred, away, I fear him not,  
There’s such divinity doth wall a king  
That treason dares not look on.  
Let him go Gertred, that your father is murdred,  
’Tis true, and we most sorry for it,  
Being the chiefest pillar of our state:  
Therefore will you like a most desperate gamester,  
Swoop-stake-like, draw at friend, and foe, and all?
Leartes  To his good friends thus wide I’ll ope mine arms
And lock them in my heart, but to his foes,
I will no reconcilement but by blood.

King    Why, now you speak like a most loving son:
And that in soul we sorrow for for his death,
Yourself ere long shall be a witness,
Meanwhile be patient, and content yourself.

Enter Ofelia as before.

Leartes  Who’s this, Ofelia? O my dear sister!
Is’t possible a young maids life,
Should be as mortal as an old man’s saw?
O heav’ns themselves! how now Ofelia?

Ofelia  Well God a mercy, I a bin gathering of flowers:
Here, here is rue for you,
You may call it herb a grace a Sundays,
Here’s some for me, too: you must wear your rue
With a difference, there’s a daisy.
Here Love, there’s rosemary for you
For remembrance: I pray Love remember,
And there’s pansy for thoughts.

Leartes  A document in madness, thoughts, remembrance:
O God, O God!

Ofelia  There is fennel for you, I would a giv’n you
Some violets, but they all withered,
When my father died: alas, they say the owl was
A Baker’s daughter, we see what we are,
But cannot tell what we shall be.
For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy.

Leartes  Thoughts and afflictions, torments worse than hell.

Ofelia  Nay Love, I pray you make no words of this now:
I pray now, you shall sing a down,
And you a down a, ’tis a the King’s daughter
And the false steward, and if anybody
Ask you of anything, say you this.
Tomorrow is Saint Valentine’s day,
All in the morning betime,
And a maid at your window
To be your Valentine:
The young man rose, and donn’d his clothes,
And dupp’d the chamber door,
Let in the maid, that out a maid
Never departed more.
Nay I pray mark now,
By Gis, and by saint Charity
Away, and fie for shame:
Young men will do’t when they come to’t:
By Cock, they are too blame.
Quoth she, before you tumbled me,
You promised me to wed.
So would I a done, By yonder Sun,
If thou hadst not come to my bed.
So God be with you all, God bwy Ladies.
God bwy you Love.

exit Ofelia.

Leartes Grief upon grief, my father murdered,
My sister thus distracted:
Cursed be his soul that wrought this wicked act.

King Content you good Leartes for a time,
Although I know your grief is as a flood,
Brim full of sorrow, but forbear a while,
And think already the revenge is done
On him that makes you such a hapless son.

Leartes You have prevail’d, my Lord, a while I’ll strive,
To bury grief within a tomb of wrath,
Which once unhearsed, then the world shall hear
Leartes had a father he held dear.

King No more of that, ere many days be done,
You shall hear that you do not dream upon.

exeunt omnes.

Enter Horatio and the Queen.

Horatio Madam, your son is safe arrived in Denmark,
This letter I even now receiv’d of him,
Whereas he writes how he escap’d the danger,
And subtle treason that the king had plotted,
Being crossed by the contention of the winds,
He found the Packet sent to the king of England,
Wherein he saw himself betray’d to death,
As at his next conversion with your grace,
He will relate the circumstance at full.

Queen Then I perceive there’s treason in his looks
That seem’d to sugar o’er his villany:
But I will soothe and please him for a time,
For murderous minds are always jealous,
But know not you Horatio where he is?
Horatio
Yes Madam, and he hath appointed me
To meet him on the east side of the City
Tomorrow morning.

Queen
O fail not, good Horatio, and withal, commend me
A mothers care to him, bid him awhile
Be wary of his presence, lest that he
Fail in that he goes about.

Horatio
Madam, never make doubt of that:
I think by this the news be come to court:
He is arriv’d, observe the king, and you shall
Quickly find, Hamlet being here,
Things fell not to his mind.

Queen
But what become of Gilderstone and Rossencraft?

Horatio
He being set ashore, they went for England,
And in the Packet there writ down that doom
To be perform’d on them pointed for him:
And by great chance he had his father’s Seal,
So all was done without discovery.

Queen
Thanks be to heaven for blessing of the prince,
Horatio once again I take my leave,
With thousand mothers blessings to my son.

Horatio
Madam, adieu.

Enter King and Leartes.

King
Hamlet from England! is it possible?
What chance is this? they are gone, and he come home.

Leartes
O he is welcome, by my soul he is:
At it my jocund heart doth leap for joy,
That I shall live to tell him, thus he dies.

King
Leartes, content yourself, be rul’d by me,
And you shall have no let for your revenge.

Leartes
My will, not all the world.

King
Nay but Leartes, mark the plot I have laid,
I have heard him often with a greedy wish,
Upon some praise that he hath heard of you
Touching your weapon, which with all his heart,
He might be once tasked for to try your cunning.

Leartes
And how for this?

King
Marry Leartes thus: I’ll lay a wager,
Shall be on Hamlets side, and you shall give the odds,
The which will draw him with a more desire,
To try the maistry, that in twelve venies
You gain not three of him: now, this being granted,
When you are hot in midst of all your play,
Among the foils shall a keen rapier lie,
Steeped in a mixture of deadly poison,
That if it draws but the least dram of blood,
In any part of him, he cannot live:
This being done will free you from suspicion,
And not the dearest friend that Hamlet lov’d
Will ever have Leartes in suspect.

Leartes
My lord, I like it well:
But say Lord Hamlet should refuse this match.

King
I’l warrant you, we’ll put on you
Such a report of singularity,
Will bring him on, although against his will.
And lest that all should miss,
I’l have a potion that shall ready stand,
In all his heat when that he calls for drink,
Shall be his period and our happiness.

Leartes
’Tis excellent, O would the time were come!
Here comes the Queen.

enter the Queen.

King
How now Gertred, why look you heavily?

Queen
O my lord, the young Ofelia
Having made a garland of sundry sorts of flowers,
Sitting upon a willow by a brook,
The envious sprig broke, into the brook she fell,
And for a while her clothes spread wide abroad,
Bore the young Lady up: and there she sat smiling,
Even Mermaid-like, twixt heaven and earth,
Chanting old sundry tunes uncapable
As it were of her distress, but long it could not be,
Till that her clothes, being heavy with their drink,
Dragged the sweet wretch to death.

Leartes
So, she is drown’d:
Too much of water hast thou Ofelia,
Therefore I will not drown thee in my tears,
Revenge it is must yield this heart relief,
For woe begets woe, and grief hangs on grief.

exeunt.

enter Clown and an other.

Clown
I say no, she ought not to be buried
In Christian burial.

2nd Clown Why sir?

Clown Marry because she’s drown’d.

2nd Clown But she did not drown her self.

Clown No, that’s certain, the water drown’d her.

2nd Clown Yea but it was against her will.

Clown No, I deny that, for look you, sir, I stand here,
If the water come to me, I drown not my self:
But if I go to the water, and am there drown’d,
Ergo I am guilty of my own death:
Y’are gone, go y’are gone sir.

2nd Clown Ay but see, she hath Christian burial,
Because she is a great woman.

Clown Marry more’s the pity that great folk
Should have more authority to hang or drown
Themselves, more than other people:
Go fetch me a stoup of drink, but before thou
Goest, tell me one thing, who builds strongest,
Of a Mason, a Shipwright, or a Carpenter?

2nd Clown Why a Mason, for he builds all of stone,
And will endure long.

Clown That’s pretty, to’ again, to’ again.

2nd Clown Why then a Carpenter, for he builds the gallows,
And that brings many a one to his long home.

Clown Pretty again, the gallows doth well, marry, how does it well? the
gallows does well to them that do ill, go get thee gone: And if
anyone ask thee hereafter, say,
A Grave-maker, for the houses he builds
Last till Dooms-day. Fetch me a stoup of beer, go.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio.

Clown A pick-axe and a spade,
A spade, for and a winding sheet,
Most fit it is, for t’will be made, He throws up a shovel.
For such a guest most meet.

Hamlet Hath this fellow any feeling of himself,
That is thus merry in making of a grave?
See how the slave jowls their heads against the earth.

Horatio My lord, Custom hath made it in him seem nothing.

Clown A pick-axe and a spade, a spade,
For and a winding sheet,
Most fit it is for to be made
For such a guest most meet.

Hamlet
Look you, there’s another, Horatio.
Why may’t not be the scull of some Lawyer?
Me thinks he should indict that fellow
Of an action of Battery, for knocking
Him about the pate with’s shovel: now where is your
Quirks and quillets now, your vouchers and
Double vouchers, your leases and free-hold
And tenements? why, that same box there will scarce
Hold the conveyance of his land, and must
The honour lie there? O pitiful transformance!
I prithee tell me Horatio,
Is parchment made of sheepskins?

Horatio
Ay my Lord, and of calves-skins too.

Hamlet
I’faith they prove themselves sheep and calves
That deal with them, or put their trust in them.
There’s another, why may not that be such a ones
Skull, that praised my Lord such a one’s horse,
When he meant to beg him? Horatio, I prithee
Let’s question yonder fellow.
Now my friend, whose grave is this?

Clown
Mine, sir.

Hamlet
But who must lie in it?

Clown
If I should say, I should, I should lie in my throat sir.

Hamlet
What man must be buried here?

Clown
No man sir.

Hamlet
What woman?

Clown
No woman neither sir, but indeed
One that was a woman.

Hamlet
An excellent fellow, by the Lord, Horatio,
This seven years have I noted it: the toe of the peasant
Comes so near the heel of the courtier,
That he galls his kibe, I prithee tell me one thing,
How long will a man lie in the ground before he rots?

Clown
I’faith sir, if he be not rotten before
He be laid in, as we have many pocky corses,
He will last you, eight years, a tanner
Will last you eight years full out, or nine.

Hamlet
And why a tanner?
Clown  Why his hide is so tanned with his trade
That it will hold out water, that’s a parlous
Devourer of your dead body, a great soaker.
Look you, heres a skull hath been here this dozen year
Let me see, ay ever since our last king Hamlet
Slew Fortenbrasse in combat, young Hamlets father,
He that’s mad.

Hamlet  Ay marry, how came he mad?
Clown  I’faith very strangely, by losing of his wits.
Hamlet  Upon what ground?
Clown  A this ground, in Denmark.
Hamlet  Where is he now?
Clown  Why now they sent him to England.
Hamlet  To England! wherefore?
Clown  Why they say he shall have his wits there.
Or if he have not, t’is no great matter there,
It will not be seen there.

Hamlet  Why not there?
Clown  Why there they say the men are as mad as he.
Hamlet  Whose skull was this?
Clown  This, a plague on him, a mad rogues it was,
He poured once a whole flagon of Rhenish of my head,
Why, do not you know him? this was one Yoricks skull.

Hamlet  Was this? I prithee let me see it, alas, poor Yorick:
I knew him Horatio,
A fellow of infinite mirth, he hath carried me twenty times upon
his back, here hung those lips that I have Kissed a hundred times,
and to see, now they abhor me: Wheres your jests now Yorick?
your flashes of merriment: now go to my Lady’s chamber, and
bid her paint her self an inch thick, to this she must come Yorick.
Horatio, I prithee tell me one thing, Dost thou think that
Alexander looked thus?

Horatio  Even so my Lord.
Hamlet  And smelt thus?
Horatio  Ay my lord, no otherwise.

Hamlet  No, why might not imagination work, as thus of Alexander,
Alexander died, Alexander was buried, Alexander became earth,
of earth we make clay, and Alexander being but clay, why might
not time bring to pass, that he might stop the bong hole of a beer-
barrell?
Imperious Caesar dead and turn’d to clay,
Might stop a hole, to keep the wind away.

Enter King and Queen, Leartes, and other Lords, with a Priest after the coffin

Hamlet What funeral’s this that all the Court laments?
It shows to be some noble parentage:
Stand by awhile.

Leartes What ceremony else? say, what ceremony else?

Priest My Lord, we have done all that lies in us,
And more than well the church can tolerate,
She hath had a Dirge sung for her maiden soul:
And, but for favor of the king, and you,
She had been buried in the open fields,
Where now she is allowed Christian burial.

Leartes So, I tell thee, churlish Priest, a ministring Angel
Shall my sister be, when thou liest howling.

Hamlet The fair Ofelia dead!

Queen Sweets to the sweet, farewell:
I had thought to adorn thy bridal bed, fair maid,
And not to follow thee unto thy grave.

Leartes Forbear the earth awhile: sister, farewell:

Leartes leaps into the grave.

Now pour your earth on, Olympus high,
And make a hill to o’ertop old Pellon:

Hamlet leaps in after Leartes

Whats he that conjures so?

Hamlet Behold, ’tis I, Hamlet the Dane.

Leartes The devil take thy soul.

Hamlet O thou prayest not well,
I prithee take thy hand from off my throat,
For there is something in me dangerous,
Which let thy wisdom fear, hold off thy hand:
I lov’d Ofelia as dear as twenty brothers could:
Show me what thou wilt do for her:
Wilt fight, wilt fast, wilt pray,
Wilt drink up vessels, eat a crocodile? I’ll do’t:
Com’st thou here to whine?
And where thou talk’st of burying thee alive,
Here let us stand: and them throw on us,
Whole hills of earth, till with the height thereof
Make Oosell as a wart.

King Forbear Leartes, now is he mad, as is the sea,
Anon as mild and gentle as a Dove:
Therefore a while give his wild humor scope.

Hamlet What is the reason sir that you wrong me thus?
I never gave you cause: but stand away,
A Cat will mew, a Dog will have a day.

Exit Hamlet and Horatio.

Queen Alas, it is his madness makes him thus,
And not his heart, Leartes.

King My lord, ’tis so: but we’ll no longer trifle,
This very day shall Hamlet drink his last,
For presently we mean to send to him,
Therfore Leartes be in readiness.

Leartes My lord, till then my soul will not be quiet.

King Come Gertred, we’ll have Leartes, and our son,
Made friends and Lovers, as befits them both,
Even as they tender us, and love their country.

Queen God grant they may.

exeunt omnes.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio

Hamlet believe me, it grieves me much Horatio,
That to Leartes I forgot my self:
For by my self me thinks I feel his grief,
Though there’s a difference in each others wrong.

Enter a Braggart Gentleman.

Horatio, but mark yon water-fly.
The Court knows him, but he knows not the Court.

Gentleman Now God save thee, sweet prince Hamlet.

Hamlet And you sir: foh, how the musk-cod smells!

Gentleman I come with an embassage from his majesty to you

Hamlet I shall, sir, give you attention:
By my troth me thinks ’tis very cold.

Gentleman It is indeed very rawish cold.

Hamlet ’Tis hot me thinks.

Gentleman Very swoltery hot.:
The King, sweet Prince, hath laid a wager on your side,
Six Barbary horse, against six french rapiers,
With all their acoutrements too, a the carriages:
In good faith they are very curiously wrought.

Hamlet
The carriages sir, I do not know what you mean.

Gentleman
The girdles, and hangers sir, and such like.

Hamlet
The word had been more cousin german to the phrase, if he could have carried the cannon by his side,
And how’s the wager? I understand you now.

Gentleman
Marry sir, that young Leartes in twelve venies
At Rapier and Dagger do not get three odds of you,
And on your side the King hath laid,
And desires you to be in readiness.

Hamlet
Very well, if the King dare venture his wager,
I dare venture my skull: when must this be?

Gentleman
My Lord, presently, the king, and her majesty,
With the rest of the best judgment in the Court,
Are coming down into the outward palace.

Hamlet
Go tell his majesty, I will attend him.

Gentleman
I shall deliver your most sweet answer.

exit.

Hamlet
You may sir, none better, for y’are spiced,
Else he had a bad nose could not smell a fool.

Horatio
He will disclose himself without inquiry.

Hamlet
Believe me Horatio, my heart is on the sudden
Very sore, all hereabout.

Horatio
My lord, forbear the challenge then.

Hamlet
No Horatio, not I, if danger be now,
why then it is not to come, there’s a predestinate providence in
the fall of a sparrow: here comes the King.

Enter King, Queen, Leartes, Lords.

King
Now son Hamlet, we have laid upon your head,
And make no question but to have the best.

Hamlet
Your majesty hath laid a the weaker side.

King
We doubt it not, deliver them the foils.

Hamlet
First Leartes, here’s my hand and love,
Protesting that I never wronged Leartes.
If Hamlet in his madness did amiss,
That was not Hamlet, but his madness did it,
And all the wrong I e’er did to Leartes,
I here proclaim was madness, therefore let’s be at peace,
And think I have shot mine arrow o’er the house,
And hurt my brother.

Leartes
Sir I am satisfied in nature,
But in terms of honour I’ll stand aloof,
And will no reconcilement,
Till by some elder masters of our time
I may be satisfied.

King
Give them the foils.

Hamlet
I’ll be your foil, Leartes, these foils
Have all a length, come on, sir. A hit.

Leartes
No, none.

Here they play:

Hamlet
Judgment.

Gentleman
A hit, a most palpable hit.

Leartes
Well, come again.

They play again.

Hamlet
Another. Judgment.

Leartes
Ay, I grant, a touch, a touch.

King
Here Hamlet, the King doth drink a health to thee.

Queen
Here Hamlet, take my napkin, wipe thy face.

King
Give him the wine.

Hamlet
Set it by, I’ll have another bout first,
I’ll drink anon.

Queen
Here Hamlet, thy mother drinks to thee.

She drinks.

King
Do not drink Gertred. O ’tis the poisoned cup!

Hamlet
Leartes come, you dally with me,
I pray you pass with your most cunning’st play.

Leartes
Ay! Say you so? have at you,
I’ll hit you now my Lord:
And yet it goes almost against my conscience.

Hamlet
Come on sir.

They catch one anothers Rapiers, and both are wounded,

Leartes falls down, the Queen falls down and dies.

King
Look to the Queen.

Queen
O the drink, the drink, Hamlet, the drink.
Hamlet
Treason, ho, keep the gates.

Lords
How is’t my Lord Leartes?

Leartes
Even as a coxcomb should,
Foolishly slain with my own weapon:
Hamlet, thou hast not in thee half an hour of life,
The fatal Instrument is in thy hand.
Unbated and envenomed: thy mother’s pois’ned
That drink was made for thee.

Hamlet
The poisoned Instrument within my hand?
Then venom to thy venom, die damn’d villain:
Come drink, here lies thy union here.

The king dies.

Leartes
O he is justly served:
Hamlet, before I die, here take my hand,
And withal, my love: I do forgive thee.

Leartes dies.

Hamlet
And I thee, O I am dead Horatio, fare thee well.

Horatio
No, I am more an antique Roman,
Than a Dane, here is some poison left.

Hamlet
Upon my love I charge thee let it go,
O fie Horatio, and if thou shouldst die,
What a scandal wouldst thou leave behind?
What tongue should tell the story of our deaths,
If not from thee? O my heart sinks Horatio,
Mine eyes have lost their sight, my tongue his use:
Farewell Horatio, heaven receive my soul.

Hamlet dies.

Enter Voltemar and the Ambassadors from England.
enter Fortenbrasse with his train.

Fortenbrasse
Where is this bloody sight?

Horatio
If aught of woe or wonder you’d behold,
Then look upon this tragic spectacle.

Fortenbrasse
O imperious death! how many Princes
Hast thou at one draft bloodily shot to death?

Ambassador
Our embassy that we have brought from England,
Where be these Princes that should hear us speak?
O most most unlooked for time! unhappy country.

Horatio
Content your selves, I’ll show to all, the ground,
The first beginning of this Tragedy:
Let there a scaffold be rear’d up in the market place,
And let the State of the world be there:
Where you shall hear such a sad story told,
That never mortal man could more unfold.

Fortenbrasse
I have some rights of memory to this kingdom,
Which now to claim my leisure doth invite me:
Let four of our chiefest Captains
Bear Hamlet like a soldier to his grave:
For he was likely, had he lived,
To a prov’d most royal.
Take up the body, such a sight as this
Becomes the fields, but here doth much amiss.

Finis