

The Tragedie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark from
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THE TRAGEDIE OF HAMLET, Prince of Den- marke.

Actus Primus. Scna Prima.

Enter Barnardo and Francisco two Centinels.

Barnardo.

Who's there?

rem

remFran.

Nay answer me: Stand & vnfold your selfe.

rem

remBar.

Long liue the King.

rem

remFran.

Barnardo?

rem

remBar.

He.

rem

remFran.

You come most carefully vpon your houre.

rem

remBar.

'Tis now strook twelue, get thee to bed Francisco.

rem

remFran.

*For this releese much thanks: 'Tis bitter cold,
And I am sicke at heart.*

rem

remBarn.

Haue you had quiet Guard?

rem

remFran.

Not a Mouse stirring.

rem

remBarn.

*Well, goodnight. If you do meet Horatio and
Marcellus, the Riuals of my Watch, bid them make hast.*

Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

rem

remFran.

I thinke I heare them. Stand: who's there?

rem

remHor.

Friends to this ground.

rem

remMar.

And Leigemen to the Dane.

rem

remFran.

Giue you good night.

rem

remMar.

O farwel honest Soldier, who hath relieu'd you?

rem

remFra.

Barnardo ha's my place: giue you goodnight.

Exit Fran.

rem

remMar.

Holla Barnardo.

rem

remBar.

Say, what is Horatio there?

rem

remHor.

A peece of him.

rem

remBar.

Welcome Horatio, welcome good Marcellus.

rem

remMar.

What, ha's this thing appear'd againe to night.

rem

remBar.

I haue seene nothing.

rem

remMar.

Horatio saies, 'tis but our Fantasie,

And will not let beleefe take hold of him

Touching this dreaded sight, twice seene of vs,

Therefore I haue intreated him along

With vs, to watch the minutes of this Night,

That if againe this Apparition come,

He may approue our eyes, and speake to it.

rem

remHor.

Tush, tush, 'twill not appeare.

rem

remBar.

Sit downe awhile,

And let vs once againe assaile your eares,

That are so fortified against our story,

What we two Nights haue seene.

rem

remHor.

Well, sit, we downe,

And let vs heare Barnardo speake of this.

rem

remBarn.

Last night of all,

When yond same Starre that's Westward from the Pole

Had made his course t'illume that part of Heauen

Where now it burnes, Marcellus and my selfe,

The Bell then beating one.

rem

remMar.

Peace, breake thee of:

Enter the Ghost.

Looke where it comes againe.

rem

remBarn.

In the same figure, like the King that's dead.

rem

remMar.

Thou art a Scholler; speake to it Horatio.

rem

remBarn.

Lookes it not likA hole in the page partially obscures this k.e the King? Marke it Horatio.

rem

remHora.

Most like: It harrowes me with fear & wonder

rem

remBarn.

It would be spoke too.

rem

remMar.

Question it Horatio.

rem

remHor.

What art thou that usurp'st this time of night,

Together with that Faire and Warlike forme

In which the Maiesty of buried Denmarke

Did sometimes march: By Heauen I charge thee Speake.

rem

remMar.

It is offended.

rem

remBarn.

See, it stalkes away.

rem

remHor.

Stay: speake; speake: I Charge thee, Speake.

Exit the Ghost.

rem

remMar.

'Tis gone, and will not answer.

rem

remBarn.

How now Horatio? You tremble & look pale:

Is not this something more then Fantasie?

What thinke you on't?

rem

remHor.

Before my God, I might not this beleuee

Without the sensible and true auouch

Of mine owne eyes.

rem

remMar.

Is it not like the King?

rem

remHor.

As thou art to thy selfe,

Such was the very Armour he had on,

When th'Ambitious Norway combatted:

So frown'd he once, when in an angry parle

He smot the sledded Pollax on the Ice.

'Tis strange.

rem

remMar.

Thus twice before, and iust at this dead houre,

With Martiall stalke, hath he gone by our Watch.

rem

remHor.

In what particular thought to work, I know not:

But in the grosse and scope of my Opinion,

This boades some strange erruption to our State.

rem

remMar.

Good now sit down, & tell me he that knowes

Why this same strict and most obseruant Watch,

So nightly toyles the subiect of the Land,

And why such dayly Caft Cast of Brazon Cannon

And Forraigne Mart for Implements of warre:

Why such impresse of Shipwrights, whose sore Taske

Do's not diuide the Sunday 3from the weeke,

What might be toward, that this sweaty hast

Doth make the Night ioyntLabourer with the day:

Who is't that can informe me?

rem

remHor.

That can I,

At least the whisper goes so: Our last King,

Whose Image euen but now appear'd to vs,

Was (as you know) by Fortinbras of Norway,

(Thereto prick'd on by a most emulate Pride)

Dar'd to the Combate. In which, our Valiant Hamlet,

(For so this side of our knowne world esteem'd him)

*Did slay this Fortinbras: who by a Seal'd Compact,
 Well ratified by Law, and Heraldrie,
 Did forfeite (with his life) all those his Lands
 Which he stood seiz'd on, to the Conqueror;
 Against the which, a Moity competent
 Was gaged by our King: which had return'd
 To the Inheritance of Fortinbras,
 Had he bin Vanquisher, as by the same Cou'nant
 And carriage of the Article designe,
 His fell to Hamlet. Now sir, young Fortinbras,
 Of vnimproued Mettle, hot and full,
 Hath in the skirts of Norway, heere and there,
 Shark'd vp a List of Landlesse Resolutes,
 For Foode and Diet, to some Enterprize
 That hath a stomacke m't: which is no other
 (And it doth well appeare vnto our State)
 But to recouer of vs by strong hand
 And termes Compulsatiue, those foresaid Lands
 So by his Father lost: and this (I take it)
 Is the maine Motiue os our Preparations,
 The Sourse of this our Watch, and the cheefe head
 Of this posthast, and Romage in the Land.*

Enter Ghost againe.

*But soft, behold: Loe, where it comes againe:
 Ile crosse it, though it blast me. stay Illusion:
 If thou hast any sound, or vse of Voyce,
 Speake to me. If there be any good thing to be done,
 That may to thee do ease, and grace to me; speak to me.
 If thou art priuy to thy Countries Fate
 (Which happily foreknowing may auoyd) Oh speake.
 Or, if thou hast vphoorded in thy life
 Extorted Treasure in the wombe of Earth,
 (For which, they say, you Spirits oft walke in death)
 Speake of it. Stay, and speake. Stop it Marcellus.*

rem

remMar.

Shall I strike at ir it with my Partizan?

rem

remHor.

Do, if it will not stand.

rem

remBarn.

'Tis heere.

rem

remHor.

'Tis heere.

rem

remMar.

'Tis gone.

Exit Ghost.

*We do it wrong, being so Maiesticall
To offer it the shew of Violence,
For it is as the Ayre, invulnerable,
And our vaine blowes, malicious Mockery.*

rem

remBarn.

It was about to speake, when the Cocke crew.

rem

remHor.

And then it started, like a guilty thing

*Vpon a fearfull Summons. I haue heard,
The Cocke that is the Trumpet to the day,
Doth with his lofty and shrillsounding Throate
Awake the God of Day: and at his warning,
Whether in Sea, or Fire, in Earth, or Ayre,
Th'extrauagant, and erring Spirit, hyes
To his Confine. And of the truth heerein,
This presnt Obiect made probation.*

rem

remMar.

It faded on the crowing of the Cocke.

*Some sayes, that euer 'gainst that Season comes
Wherein our Sauours Birth is celebrated,
The Bird of Dawning singeth all night long:
And then (they say) no Spirit can walke abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no Planets strike,
No Faiery talkes, nor Witch hath power to Charme:
So hallow'd, and so gracious is the time.*

rem

remHor.

So haue I heard, and do in part beleeeue it.

But looke, the Morne in Russet mantle clad,

*Walkes o're the dew of yon high Easterne Hill,
 Breake we our Watch vp, and by my aduice
 Let vs impart what we haue seene to night
 Vnto yong Hamlet. For vpon my life,
 This Spirit dumbe to vs, will speake to him:
 Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,
 As needfull in our Loues, fitting our Duty?*

rem

remMar.

*Let do't I pray, and I this morning know
 Where we shall finde him most conueniently.*

Exeunt

Scena Secunda.

*Enter Claudius King of Denmarke, Gertrude the Queene, Hamlet, Polonius,
 Laertes, and his Sister O phelia, Lords Attendant. There is an ink mark at the end
 of this stage direction.*

rem

remKing.

*Though yet of Hamlet our deere Brothers death
 The memory be greene: and that it vs befitted
 To beare our hearts in greefe, and our whole Kingdome
 To becontracted in one brow of woe:
 Yet so farre hath Discretion fought with Nature,
 That we with wisest sorrow thinke on him,
 Together with remembrance of our selues.
 Therefore our sometimes Sister, now our Queen,
 Th'Imperiall Ioyntresse of this warlike State,
 Haue we, as 'twere, with a defeated ioy,
 With one Auspicious, and one Dropping eye,
 With mirth in Fanerall, and with Dirge in Marriage,
 In equall Scale weighing Delight and Dole
 Taken to Wife; nor haue we heerein barr'd
 Your better Wisedomes, which haue freely gone
 With this affaire along, for all our Thankes.
 Now followes, that you know young Fortinbras, There is an ink mark at the end
 of this line.*

*Holding a weake supposall of our worth;
 Or thinking by our late deere Brothers death,
 Our State to be disioynt, and out of Frame,*

*Colleagued with the dreame of his Aduantage;
He hath not fayl'd to pester vs with Message,
Importing the surrender of those Lands
Lost by his Father: with all Bonds of Law
To our most valiant Brother. So much for him.*

Enter Voltemand and Cornelius.

*Now for our selfe, and for this time of meeting
Thus much the businesse is. We haue heere writ
To Norway, Vncle of young Fortirbras,
Who Impotent and Bedrid, scarsely heares
Of this his Nephewes purpose, to suppress
His further gate heerein. In that the Lewies,
The Lists, and full proportions are all made
Out of his subiect: and we heere dispatch
You good Cornelius, and you Voltemand,
For bearing of this greeting to old Norway,
Giuing to you no further personall power
To businesse with the King, more then the scope
Of these dilated Articles allow:
Farewell, and let your hast commend your duty.*

rem

rem Volt.

In that, and all things, will we shew our duty.

rem

rem King.

We doubt it nothing, heartily farewell.

Exit Voltemand and Cornelius.

*And now Laertes, what's the newes with you?
You told vs of some suite. What is't Laertes?
You cannot speake of Reason to the Dane,
And loose your voyce. What would'st thou beg Laertes,
That shall not be my Offer, not thy Asking?
The Head is not more Natiue to the Heart,
The Hand more Instrumentall to the Mouth,
Then is the Throne of Denmarke to thy Father.
What would'st thou haue Laertes?*

rem

rem Laer.

Dread my Lord,

Your leaue and fauour to returne to France, There is an ink mark at the end of this line.

*From whence, though willingly I came to Denmarke
To shew my duty in your Coronation,
Yet now I must confesse, that duty done,
My thoughts and wishes bend againe towards France,
And bow them to your gracious leaue and pardon.*

rem

remKing.

Haue you your Fathers leaue?

What sayes Pollonius?

rem

remPol.

He hath my Lord1:

I do beseech you giue him leaue to go.

rem

remKing.

*Take thy faire houre, Laertes, time be thine,
And thy best graces spend it at thy will:*

But now my Cosin Hamlet, and my Sonne?

rem

remHam.

A little more then kin, and lesse then kinde.

rem

remKing.

How is it that the Clouds still hang on you?

rem

remHam.

Not so my Lord, I am too much i'th'Sun.

rem

remQueen.

*Good Hamlet cast thy nightly colour off,
And let thine eye looke like a Friend on Denmarke.*

Do not for euer with thy veyled lids

Seeke for thy Noble Father in the dust;

Thou know'st 'tis common, all that liues must dye,

Passing through Nature, to Eternity.

rem

remHam.

I Madam, it is common.

rem

remQueen.

If it be;

Why seemes it so particular with thee.

rem

remHam.

Seemes Madam? Nay, it is: I know not Seemes:
 'Tis not alone my Inky Cloake (good Mother)
 Nor Customary suites of solemne Blacke,
 Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath,
 No, nor the fruitfull Riuer in the Eye,
 Nor the deieted hauiour of the Visage,
 Together with all Formes, Moods, shewes of Griefe,
 That can denote me truly. These indeed Seeme,
 For they are actions that a man might play:
 But I haue that Within, which passeth show;
 These, but the Trappings, and the Suites of woe.

rem

remKing.

'Tis sweet and commendable
 In your Nature Hamlet,
 To giue these mourning duties to your Father:
 But you must know, your Father lost a Father,
 That Father lost, lost his, and the Suruiuer bound
 In filiall Obligation, for some terme
 To do obsequious Sorrow. But to perseuer
 In obstinate Condolement, is a course
 Of impious stubbornnesse. 'Tis vnmanly greefe,
 It shewes a will most incorrect to Heauen,
 A Heart vnfortified, a Minde impatient,
 An Vnderstanding simple, and vnschool'd:
 For, what we know must be, and is as common
 As any the most vulgar thing to sence,
 Why should we in our peeuish Opposition
 Take it to heart? Fye, 'tis a fault to Heauen,
 A fault against the Dead, a fault to Nature,
 To Reason most absurd, whose common Theame
 Is death of Fathers, and who still hath cried,
 From the first Coarse, till he that dyed to day,
 This must be so. We pray you throw to earth
 This vnpreuayling woe, and thinke of vs
 As of a Father; For let the world take note,
 You arc the most immediate to our Throne,
 And with no lesse Nobility of Loue,

*Then that which deerest Father beares his Sonne,
Do I impart towards you. For your intent
In going backe to Schoole in Wittenberg,
It is most retrograde to our desire:
And we beseech you, bend you to remaine
Heere in the cheere and comfort of our eye,
Our cheefest Courtier Cosin, and our Sonne.*

rem

remQu.

Let not thy Mother lose her Prayers Hamlet:

I prythee stay with vs, go not to Wittenberg.

rem

remHam.

I shall in all my beft best

Obey you Madam.

rem

remKing.

Why 'tis a louing, and a faire Reply,

Be as our selfe in Denmarke. Madam come,

This gentle and vnforc'd accord of Hamlet

Sits smiling to my heart; in grace whereof,

No iocond health that Denmarke drinkes to day,

But the great Cannon to the Clouds shall tell,

And the Kings Rouce, the Heauens shall bruite againe,

Respeaking earthly Thunder. Come away.

Exeunt

Manet Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Oh that this too too solid Flesh, would melt,

Thaw, and resoluue it selfe into a Dew:

Or that the Euerlasting had not fixt

His Cannon 'gainst Selfeslaughter. O God, O God!

How weary, stale, flat, and vnprofitable

Seemes to me all the uses of this world?

Fie on't? Oh fie, fie, 'tis an vnweeded Garden

That growes to Seed: Things rank, and grosse in Nature

Possesse it meereley. That it should come to this:

But two months dead: Nay, not so much; not two,

So excellent a King, that was to this

*Hiperion to a Satyre: so louing to my Mother,
 That he might not beteene the windes of heauen
 Visit her face too roughly. Heauen and Earth
 Must I remember: why she would hang on him,
 As if encrease of Appetite had growne
 By what it fed on; and yet within a month?
 Let me not thinke on't: Frailty, thy name is woman.
 A little Month, or ere those shooes were old,
 With which she followed my poore Fathers body
 Like Niobe, all teares. Why she, euen she.
 (O Heauen! A beast that wants discourse of Reason
 Would haue mourn'd longer) married with mine Vnkle,
 My Fathers Brother: but no more like my Father,
 Then I to Hercules. Within a Moneth?
 Ere yet the salt of most vnrighteous Teares
 Had left the flushing of her gauled eyes,
 She married. O most wicked speed, to post
 With such dexterity to Incestuous sheets:
 It is not, nor it cannot come to good.
 But breake my heart, for I must hold my tongue.*

Enter Horatio, Barnard, and Marcellus.

rem

remHor.

Haile to your Lordship.

rem

remHam.

I am glad to see you well:

Horatio, or I do forget my selfe.

rem

remHor.

The same my Lord,

And your poore Seruant euer.

rem

remHam.

Sir my good friend,

Ile change that name with you:

And what make you from Wittenberg Horatio?

Marcellus.

rem

remMar.

My good Lord.

rem

remHam.

I am very glad to see you: good euen Sir.

But what in faith make you srom Wittemberge?

rem

remHor.

A truant disposition, good my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I would not haue your Enemy say so;

Nor shall you doe mine eare that violence,

To make it truster of your owne report

Against your selfe. I know you are no Truant:

But what is your affaire in Elsenour?

Wee'l teach you to drinke deepe, ere you depart.

rem

remHor.

My Lord, I came to see your Fathers Funerall.

rem

remHam.

I pray thee doe not mock me (fellow Student)

I thinke it was to see my Mothers Wedding.

rem

remHor.

Indeed my Lord, it followed hard vpon.

rem

remHam.

Thrift, thrift Horatio: the Funerall Baktmeats

Did coldly furnish forth the Marriage Tables;

Would I had met my dearest foe in heauen,

Ere I had euer seene that day Horatio.

My Father, me thinkes I see my father.

rem

remHor.

Oh where my Lord?

rem

remHam.

In my minds eye (Horatio)

rem

remHor.

I saw him once; he was a goodly King.

rem

remHam.

He was a man, take him for all in all:

I shall not look vpon his like againe.

rem

remHor.

My Lord, I thinke I saw him yesternight.

rem

remHam.

Saw? Who?

rem

remHor.

My Lord, the King your Father.

rem

remHam.

The King my Father?

rem

remHor.

Season your admiration for a while

With an attent eare; till I may deliuer

Vpon the witnesse of these Gentlemen,

This maruell to you.

rem

remHam.

For Heauens loue let me heare.

rem

remHor.

Two nights together, had these Gentlemen

(Marcellus and Barnardo) on their Watch

In the dead wast and middle of the night

Beene thus encountred. A figure like your Father,

Arm'd at all points exactly, Cap a Pe,

Appeares before them, and with sollemne march

Goes slow and stately: By them thrice he walkt,

By their opprest and fearesurprized eyes,

Within his Truncheons length; whilst they bestil'd

Almost to Ielly with the Act of feare,

Stand dumbe and speake not to him. This to me

In dreadfull secrecie impart they did,

And I with them the third Night kept the Watch,

Whereas they had deliuer'd both in time,

Forme of the thing; each word made true and good,

The Apparition comes. I knew your Father:

These hands are not more like.

rem

remHam.

But where was this?

rem

remMar.

My Lord, vpon the platforme where we watcht.

rem

remHam.

Did you not speake to it?

rem

remHor.

My Lord, I did;

But answere made it none: yet once me thought

It lifted vp it its head, and did addresse

It selfe to motion, like as it would speake:

But euen then, the Morning Cocke crew lowd;

And at the sound it shrunke in hast away,

And vanisht from our sight.

rem

remHam.

Tis very strange.

rem

remHor.

As I doe liue my honourd Lord 'tis true;

And we did thinke it writ downe in our duty

To let you know of it.

rem

remHam.

Indeed, indeed Sirs; but this troubles me.

Hold you the watch to Night?

rem

remBoth.

We doe my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Arm'd, say you?

rem

remBoth.

Arm'd, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

From top to toe?

rem

remBoth.

My Lord, from head to foote.

rem

remHam.

Then saw you not his face?

rem

remHor.

O yes, my Lord, he wore his Beauer vp.

rem

remHam.

What, lookt he frowningly?

rem

remHor.

A countenance more in sorrow then in anger.

rem

remHam.

Pale, or red?

rem

remHor.

Nay very pale.

rem

remHam.

And fixt his eyes vpon you?

rem

remHor.

Most constantly.

rem

remHam.

I would I had beene there.

rem

remHor.

It would haue much amaz'd you.

rem

remHam.

Very like, very like: staid it long?

rem

remHor.

While one with moderate hast might tell a hun (dred.

rem

remAll.

Longer, longer.

rem

remHor.

Not when I saw't.

rem

remHam.

His Beard was grisly? no.

rem

remHor.

It was, as I haue seene it in his life,

A Sable Siluer'd.

rem

remHam.

Ile watch to Night; perchance 'twill wake a (gaine.

rem

remHor.

I warrant you it will.

rem

remHam.

If it assume my noble Fathers person,

Ile speake to it, though Hell it selfe should gape

And bid me hold my peace. I pray you all,

Is you have hitherto conceald this sight;

Let it bee treble in your silence still:

And whatsoeuer els shall hap to night,

Giue it an vnderstanding but no tongue;

I will requite your loues; so, fare ye well:

Vpon the Platforme twixt eleuen and twelue,

Ile visit you.

rem

remAll.

Our duty to your Honour.

Exeunt.

rem

remHam.

Your loue, as mine to you: farewell.

My Fathers Spirit in Armes? All is not well:

I doubt some foule play: would the Night were come;

Till then sit still my soule; foule deeds will rise,

Though all the earth orewhelm them to mens eies.

Exit.

Scena Tertia.

Enter Laertes and Ophelia.

rem

remLaer.

My necessaries are imbark't; Farewell:

And Sister, as the Winds giue Benefit,

And Conuoy is assistant; doe not sleepe,

But let me heare from you.

rem

remOphel.

Doe you doubt that?

rem

remLaer.

*For Hamlet, and the trifling of his fauours,
Hold it a fashion and a toy in Bloud;
A Violet in the youth of Primy Nature;
Froward, not permanent; sweet not lasting
The suppliance of a minute? No more.*

rem

remOphel.

No more but so.

rem

remLaer.

Thinke it no more:

*For nature cressant does not grow alone,
In thewes and Bulke: but as his Temple waxes,
The inward seruice of the Minde and Soule
Growes wide withall. Perhaps he loues you now,
And now no soyle nor cautell doth besmerch
The vertue of his feare: but you must feare
His greatnesse weigh'd, his will is not his owne;
For hee himselfe is subiect to his Birth:
Hee may not, as vnuallued persons doe,
Carue for himselfe; for, on his choyce depends
The sanctity and health of the weole State.
And therefore must his choyce be circumscrib'd
Vnto the voyce and yeelding of that Body,
Whereof he is the Head. Then if he sayes he loues you,
It fits your wisdomes so farre to beleue it;
As he in his peculiar Sect and force
May giue his saying deed: which is no further,
Then the maine voyce of Denmarke goes withall.
Then weigh what losse your Honour may sustaine,
If with too credent eare you list his Songs;
Or lose your Heart; or your chast Treasure open
To his vnmastred importunity.
Feare it Ophelia, feare it my deare Sister,
And keepe within the reare of your Affection;
Out of the shot and danger of Desire.
The chariest Maid is Prodigall enough,
If she vnmaske her beauty to the Moone;
Vertue it selfe scapes not calumnious stroakes,
The Canker Galls, the Infants of the Spring*

*Too oft before the buttons be disclos'd,
 And in the Morne and liquid dew of Youth,
 Contagious blastments are most imminent.
 Be wary then, best safety lies in feare;
 Youth to it selfe rebels, though none else neere.*

rem

remOphe.

*I shall th'effect of this good Lesson keepe,
 As watchmen to my heart: but good my Brother
 Doe not as some vngracious Pastors doe,
 Shew me the steepe and thorny way to Heauen;
 Whilst like a puft and recklesse Libertine
 Himselfe, the Primrose path of dalliance treads,
 And reaks not his owne reade.*

rem

remLaer.

Oh, feare me not.

Enter Polonius.

*I stay too long; but here my Father comes:
 A double blessing is a double grace;
 Occasion smiles vpon a second leaue.*

rem

remPalon.

*Yet heere Laertes? Aboord, aboard for shame,
 The winde sits in the shoulder of your saile,
 And you are staid for there: my blessing with you;
 And these few Precepts in thy memory,
 See thou Character. Giue thy thoughts no tongue,
 Nor any vnproportion'd thought his Act:
 Be thou familiar; but by no meanes vulgar:
 The friends thou hast, and their adoption tride,
 Grapple them to thy Soule, with hoopes of Steele;
 But doe not dull thy palme, with entertainment
 Of each vnatch't, vnfledg'd Comrade. Beware
 Of entrance to a quarrell: but being in
 Bear't that th'opposed may beware of thee.
 Giue euery man thine eare; but few thy voyce:
 Take each mans censure; but reserue thy iudgement:
 Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy;
 But not exprest in fancie; rich, not gawdie:
 For the Apparell oft proclaimes the man.*

*And they in France of the best ranck and station,
 Are of a most select and generous cheff in that.
 Neither a borrower, nor a lender be;
 For lone oft loses both it selfe and friend:
 And borrowing duls the edge of Husbandry.
 This aboue all; to thine owne selfe be true:
 And it must follow, as the Night the Day,
 Thou canst not then be false to any man.
 Farewell: my Blessing season this in thee.*

rem

remLaer.

Most humbly doe I take my leaue, my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

The time inuites you, goe, your seruants send.

rem

remLaer.

Farewell Ophelia, and remember well

What I haue said to you.

rem

remOphe.

Tis in my memory lockt,

And you your selfe shall keepe the key of it.

rem

remLaer.

Farewell.

Exit Laer.

rem

remPolon.

What ist Ophelia he hath said to you?

rem

remOphe.

So please you, something touching the Lord¹ Hamlet.

rem

remPolon.

Marry, well bethought:

Tis told me he hath very oft of late

Giuen priuate time to you; and you your selfe

Haue of your audience beene most free and bounteous.

If it be so, as so tis put on me;

And that in way of caution: I must tell you,

¹L.

*You doe not vnderstand your selfe so cleerely,
As it behoues my Daughter, and your Honour.
What is betweene you, giue me vp the truth?*

rem

remOphe.

*He hath my Lord of late, made many tenders
Of his affection to me.*

rem

remPolon.

*Affection, puh. You speake like a greene Girle,
Vnsifted in such perillous Circumstance.
Doe you beleeeue his tenders, as you call them?*

rem

remOphe.

I do not know, my Lord, what I should thinke.

rem

remPolon.

*Marry Ile teach you; thinke your selfe a Baby,
That you haue tane his tenders for true pay,
Which are not starling. Tender your selfe more dearly;
Or not to crack the winde of the poore Phrase,
Roaming it thus, you'l tender me a foole.*

rem

remOphe.

*My Lord, he hath importun'd me with loue,
In honourable fashion.*

rem

remPolon.

I, fashion you may call it, go too, go too.

rem

remOphe.

*And hath giuen countenance to his speech,
My Lord, with all the vowes of Heauen.*

rem

remPolon.

*I, Springes to catch Woodcocks. I doe know
When the Bloud burnes, how Prodigall the Soule
Giues the tongue vowes: these blazes, Daughter,
Giuing more light then heate; extinct in both,
Euen in their promise, as it is a making;
You muft must not take for fire. For this time Daughter,
Be somewhat scanter of your Maiden presence;
Set your entreatments at a higher rate,
Then a command to parley. For Lord Hamlet,*

*Beleeue so much in him, that he is young,
 And with a larger tether may he walke,
 Then may be giuen you. In few, Ophelia,
 Doe not beleeeue his vowes; for they are Broakers,
 Not of the eye, which their Inuestments show:
 But meere implorators of vnholly Sutes,
 Breathing like sanctified and pious bonds,
 The better to beguile. This is for all:
 I would not, in plaine tearmes, from this time forth,
 Haue you so slander any moment leisure,
 As to giue words or talke with the Lord Hamlet:
 Looke too't, I charge you; come your wayes.*

rem

remOphe.

I shall obey my Lord.

Exeunt.

Enter Hamlet, Horatio, Marcellus.

rem

remHam.

The Ayre bites shrewdly: is it very cold?

rem

remHor.

It is a nipping and an eager ayre.

rem

remHam.

What hower now?

rem

remHor.

I thinke it lacks of twelue.

rem

remMar.

No, it is strooke.

rem

remHor.

Indeed I heard it not: then it drawes neere the (season,

Wherein the Spirit held his wont to walke.

This page is either worn or imperfectly inked, so parts of many letters are missing.

What does this meane my Lord?

rem

remHam.

The King doth Wake to night, and takes his (rouse,

Keepes wassels and the swaggering vpspring reeles,

*And as he dreines his draughts of Renish downe,
The kettle Drum and Trumpet thus bray out
The triumph of his Pledge.*

rem

remHorat.

Is it a custome?

rem

remHam.

I marry ist;

And to my mind, though I am natiue heere,

And 1 the manner borne: It is a Custome
The final "e" here and in the previous line are only partially inked.

More honour'd in the breach, then the obseruance.

Enter Ghost.

rem

remHor.

Looke my Lord, it comes.

rem

remHam.

Angels and Ministers of Grace defend vs:

Be thou a Spirit of health, or Goblin damn'd,

Bring with thee ayres from Heauen, or blasts from Hell,

Be thy euentz wicked or charitable,

Thou com'st in such a questionable shape

That I will speake to thee. Ile call thee Hamlet,

King, Father, Royall Dane: Oh, oh, answer me,

Let me not burst in Ignorance; but tell

Why thy Canoniz'd bones Hearsed in death,

Haue burst their cerments, why the Sepulcher

Wherein we saw thee quietly enurn'd,

Hath op'd his ponderous and Marble iawes,

To cast thee vp againe? What may this meane?

That thou dead Coarse againe in compleat steele,

Reuisits thus the glimpses of the Moone,

Making Night hidious? And we fooles of Nature,

So horridly to shake our disposition,

With thoughts beyond thee; reaches of our Soules,

Say, why is this? wherefore? what should we doe?

Ghost beckens Hamlet.

rem

remHor.

*It beckons you to goe away with it,
As if it some impartment did desire
To you alone.*

rem

remMar.

*Looke with what courteous action
It wafts you to a more remoued ground:
But doe not goe with it.*

rem

remHor.

No, by no meanes.

rem

remHam.

It will not speake: then will I follow it.

rem

remHor.

Doe not my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Why, what should be the feare?

*I doe not set my life at a pins fee;
And for my Soule, what can it doe to that?
Being a thing immortall as it selfe:
It waues me forth againe; Ile follow it.*

rem

remHor.

*What if it tempt you toward the Floud my Lord?
Or to the dreadfull Sonnet of the Cliffe,
That beetles o're his base into the Sea,
And there assumes some other horrible forme,
Which might depriue your Soueraignty of Reason,
And draw you into madnesse thinke of it?*

rem

remHam.

It wafts me still: goe on, Ile follow thee.

rem

remMar.

You shall not goe my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Hold off your hand.

rem

remHor.

Be rul'd, you shall not goe.

rem

remHam.

My fate cries out,

And makes each petty Artire in this body,

As hardy as the Nemian Lions nerue:

Still am I cal'd? Vnhand me Gentlemen:

By Heau'n, Ile make a Ghost of him that lets me:

I say away, goe on, Ile follow thee.

Exeunt Ghost & Hamlet.

rem

remHor.

He waxes desperate with imagination.

rem

remMar.

Let's follow; 'tis not fit thus to obey him.

rem

remHor.

Haue after, to what issue will this come?

rem

remMar.

Something is rotten in the State of Denmarke.

rem

remHor.

Heauen will direct it.

rem

remMar.

Nay, let's follow him.

Exeunt.

Enter Ghost and Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Where wilt thou lead me? speak; Ile go no fur (ther.

rem

remGho.

Marke me.

rem

remHam.

I will.

rem

remGho.

My hower is almost come,

When I to sulphurous and tormenting Flames

Must render vp my selfe.

rem

remHam.

Alas poore Ghost.

rem

remGho.

Pitty me not, but lend thy serious hearing

To what I shall vnfold.

rem

remHam.

Speake, I am bound to heare.

rem

remGho.

So art thou to reuenge, when thou shalt heare.

rem

remHam.

What?

rem

remGho.

I am thy Fathers Spirit,

Doom'd for a certain terme to walke the night;

And for the day confin'd to fast in Fiers,

Till the foule crimes done in my dayes of Nature

Are burnt and purg'd away? But that I am forbid

To tell the secrets of my PrisonHouse;

I could a Tale vnfold, whose lightest word

Would harrow vp thy soule, freeze thy young blood,

Make thy two eyes like Starres, start from their Spheres,

Thy knotty and combined locks to part,

And each particular haire to stand an end,

Like Quilles vpon the fretfull Porpentine:

But this eternall blason must not be

To eares of flesh and bloud; list Hamlet, oh list,

If thou didst euer thy deare Father loue.

rem

remHam.

Oh Heauen!

rem

remGho.

Reuenge his foule and most vnnaturall Murther.

rem

remHam.

Murther?

rem

remGhost.

Murther most foule, as in the best it is;

But this most foule, strange, and vnnaturall.

rem

remHam.

Hast, hast me to know it,

That with wings as swift

As meditation, or the thoughts of Loue,

May sweepe to my Reuenge.

rem

remGhost.

I finde thee apt,

And duller should'st thou be then the fat weede

That rots it selfe in ease, on Lethe Wharfe,

Would'st thou not stirre in this. Now Hamlet heare:

It's giuen out, that sleeping in mine Orchard,

A Serpent stung me: so the whole eare of Denmarke,

Is by a forged processe of my death

Rankly abus'd: But know thou Noble youth,

The Serpent that did sting thy Fathers life,

Now weares his Crowne.

rem

remHam.

O my Propheticke soule: mine Vncle?

rem

remGhost.

I that incestuous, that adulterate Beast

With witchcraft of his wits, hath Traitorous gifts.

Oh wicked Wit, and Gifts, that haue the power

So to seduce? Won to to to this shamefull Lust

The will of my most seeming vertuous Queene:

Oh Hamlet, what a falling off was there,

From me, whose loue was of that dignity,

That it went hand in hand, euen with the Vow

I made to her in Marriage; and to decline

Vpon a wretch, whose Naturall gifts were poore

To those of mine. But Vertue, as it neuer wil be moued,

Though Lewdnesse court it in a shape of Heauen:

So Lust, though to a radiant Angell link'd,

Will sate it selfe in a Celestiall bed, & prey on Garbage.

But soft, me thinkes I sent the Mornings Ayre;

Briefe let me be: Sleeping within mine Orchard,

*My custome alwayes in the afternoone;
 Vpon my secure hower thy Vncle stole
 With iuyce of cursed Hebenon in a Violl,
 And in the Porches of mine eares did poure
 The leaperous Distilment; whose effect
 Holds such an enmity with bloud of Man,
 That swift as Quicksiluer, it courses through
 The naturall Gates and Allies of the Body;
 And with a sodaine vigour it doth posset
 And curd, like Aygre droppings into Milke,
 The thin and wholsome blood: so did it mine;
 And a most instant Tetter bak'd about,
 Most Lazarlike, with vile and loathsome crust,
 All my smooth Body.
 Thus was I, sleeping, by a Brothers hand,
 Of Life, of Crowne, and Queene at once dispatcht;
 Cut off euen in the Blossomes of my Sinne,
 Vnhouzzled, disappointed, vnnaneld,
 No reckoning made, but sent to my account
 With all my imperfections on my head;
 Oh horrible, Oh horrible, most horrible:
 If thou hast nature in thee beare it not;
 Let not the Royall Bed of Denmarke be
 A Couch for Luxury and damned Incest.
 But howsoever thou pursuest this Act,
 Taint not thy mind; nor let thy Soule contriue
 Against thy Mother ought; leaue her to heauen,
 And to those Thornes that in her bosome lodge,
 To pricke and sting her. Fare thee well at once;
 The Glowworme shoves the Matine to be neere,
 And gins to pale his vneffectuall Fire:
 Aduē, adue, Hamlet: remember me.*

Exit.

rem

remHam.

*Oh all you host of Heauen! Oh Earth; what els?
 And shall I couple Hell? Oh fie: hold my heart;
 And you my sinnewes, grow not instant Old;
 But beare me stiffely vp: Remember thee?*

*I, thou poore Ghost, while memory holds a seate
 In this distracted Globe: Remember thee?
 Yea, from the Table of my Memory,
 Ile wipe a way all triuiall fond Records,
 All sawes of Bookes, all formes, all presures past,
 That youth and obseruation coppied there;
 And thy Commandment all alone shall liue
 Within the Booke and Volume of my Braine,
 Vnmixt with baser matter; yes, yes, by Heauen:
 Oh most pernicious woman!
 Oh Villaine, Villaine, smiling damned Villaine!
 My Tables, my Tables; meet it is I set it downe,
 That one may smile, and smile and be a Villaine;
 At least I'm sure it may be so in Denmarke;
 So Vnckle there you are: now to my word;
 It is; Aduē, Aduē, Remember me: I haue I sworn't.*

rem

remHor. & Mar.

within.

My Lord, my Lord.

Enter Horatio and Marcellus. There is an ink mark at the end of this stage direction.

rem

remMar.

Lord Hamlet.

rem

remHor.

Heauen secure him.

rem

remMar.

So be it.

rem

remHor.

Illo, ho, ho, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Hillo, ho, ho, boy; come bird, come.

rem

remMar.

How ist't is't my Noble Lord?

rem

remHor.

What newes, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Oh wonderfull!

rem

remHor.

Good my Lord tell it.

rem

remHam.

No you'l reueale it.

rem

remHor.

Not I, my Lord, by Heauen.

rem

remMar.

Nor I, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

How say you then, would heart of man once (think it?

But you'l be secret?

rem

remBoth.

I, by Heau'n, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

There's nere a villaine dwelling in all Denmarke

But hee's an arrant knaue.

rem

remHor.

There needs no Ghost my Lord, come from the

Graue, to tell vs this.

rem

remHam.

Why right, you are i'th'right;

And so, without more circumstance at all,

I hold it fit that we shake hands, and part:

You, as your busines and desires shall point you:

For euery man ha's businesse and desire,

Such as it is: and for mine owne poore part,

Looke you, Ile goe pray.

rem

remHor.

These are but wild and hurling words, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I'm sorry they offend you heartily:

Yes faith, heartily,

rem

remHor.

There's no offence my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Ycs, by Saint Patricke, but there is my Lord,

And much offence too, touching this Vision heere:

It is an honest Ghost, that let me tell you:

For your desire to know what is betweene vs,

O'remaster't as you may. And now good friends,

As you are Friends, Schollers and Soldiers,

Giue me one poore request.

rem

remHor.

What is't my Lord? we will.

rem

remHam.

Neuer make known what you haue seen to night.

rem

remBoth.

My Lord, we will not.

rem

remHam.

Nay, but swear't.

rem

remHor.

Infaith my Lord, not I.

rem

remMar.

Nor I my Lord: in faith.

rem

remHam.

Vpon my sword.

rem

remMarcell.

We haue sworne my Lord already.

rem

remHam.

Indeed, vpon my sword, Indeed.

rem

remGho.

Sweare.

Ghost cries vnder the Stage.

rem

remHam.

Ah ha boy. sayest thou so. Art thou there true penny? Come one you here this fellow in the selleredge Consent to sweare.

rem

remHor.

Propose the Oath my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Neuer to speake of this that you haue seene. Sweare by my sword.

rem

remGho.

Sweare.

rem

remHam.

Hic & vbiq̄e? Then wee'l shift for ground,

Come hither Gentlemen,

And lay your hands againe vpon my sword,

Neuer to speake of this that you haue heard:

Sweare by my Sword.

rem

remGho.

Sweare.

rem

remHam.

Well said old Mole. can't worke i'th' ground so (fast?

A worthy Pioner, once more remoue good friends.

rem

remHor.

Oh day and night; but this is wondrous strange.

rem

remHam.

And therefore as a stranger giue it welcome.

There are more things in Heauen and Earth, Horatio,

Then are dream't of in our Philosophy Here a full-stop has not been inked. But come,

Here as before, neuer so helpe you mercy,

How strange or odde so ere I beare my selfe;

(As I perchance heereafter shall thinke meet

To put an Anticke disposition on:)

That you at such time seeing me, neuer shall

With Armes encombred thus, or thus, head shake;

*Or by pronouncing of some doubtfull Phrase;
 As well, we know, or we could and if we would,
 Or if we list to speak; or there be and if there might,
 Or such ambiguous giuing out to note,
 That you know ought of me; this not to doe:
 So grace and mercy at your most neede helpe you:
 Swear.*

*rem
 remGhost.*

Swear.

*rem
 remHam.*

*Rest, rest perturbed Spirit: so Gentlemen,
 With all my loue I doe commend me to you;
 And what so poore a man as Hamlet is,
 May doe t'expresse his loue and friending to you,
 God willing shall not lacke: let vs goe in together,
 And still your fingers on your lippes I pray,
 The time is out of ioynt: Oh Cursed spight,
 That euer I was borne to set it right,
 Nay, come let's goe together.*

Exeunt.

Actus Secundus.

Enter Polonius, and Reynoldo.

*rem
 remPolon.*

Giue him his money, and these notes Reynoldo.

*rem
 remReynol.*

I will my Lord.

*rem
 remPolon.*

*You shall doe maruels wisely: good Reynoldo,
 Before you visite him you make inquiry
 Of his behauiour.*

*rem
 remReynol.*

My Lord, I did intend it.

*Polon. Marry, well said;
 Very well said. Looke.you Sir,*

*Enquire me first what Danskers are in Paris;
 And how, and who; what meanes; and where they keepe:
 What company, at what expence: and finding
 By this encompassment and drift of question,
 That they doe know my sonne: Come you more nearer
 Then your particular demands will touch it,
 Take you as 'twere some distant knowledge of him.
 And thus I know his father and his friends,
 And in part him. Doe you marke this Reynoldo?*

rem

remReynol.

I, very well my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

*And in part him, but you may say not well;
 But if't be hee I meane, hees very wilde;
 Addicted so and so; and there put on him
 What forgeries you please; marry, none so ranke,
 As may dishonour him; take need of that:
 But Sir, such wanton, wild, and usuall slips,
 As are Companions noted and most knowne
 To youth and liberty.*

rem

remReynol.

As gaming my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

*I, or drinking, fencing. swearing,
 Quarelling, drabbing. You may goe so farre.*

rem

remReynol.

My Lord that would dishonour him.

rem

remPolon.

*Faith no, as you may season it in the charge;
 You must not put another scandall on him,
 That hee is open to Incontinencie;
 That's not my meaning: but breath his faults so quaintly,
 That they may seeme the taints of liberty;
 The flash and outbreake of a fiery minde,
 A sauagenes in vnreclaim'd bloud of generall assault.*

rem

remReynol.

But my good Lord.

rem

remPolon.

Wherefore should you doe this?

rem

remReynol.

I my Lord, I would know that.

rem

remPolon.

Marry Sir, here's my drift,

And I believe it is a fetch of warrant:

You laying these slight sulleyes on my Sonne,

As 'twere a thing a little soil'd i'th'working:

Marke you your party in conuerse; him you would (sound,

Hauing euer seene. In the prenominate crimes,

The youth you breath of guilty, be assur'd

He closes with you in this consequence:

Good sir, or so, or friend, or Gentleman.

According to the Phrase and the Addition,

Of man and Country.

rem

remReynol.

Very good my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

And then Sir does he this?

He does: what was I about to say?

I was about to say something: where did I leaue?

rem

remReynol.

At closes in the consequence:

At friend, or so, and Gentleman.

rem

remPolon.

At closes in the consequence, I marry,

He closes with you thus. I know the Gentleman,

I saw him yesterday, or tother day;

Or then or then, with such and such; and as you say,

There was he gaming, there o'retooke in's Rouse,

There falling out at Tennis; or perchance,

I saw him enter such a house of saile;

Videlicet, a Brothell, or so forth. See you now;

*Your bait of falshood, takes this Cape of truth;
 And thus doe we of wisdome and of reach
 With windlesses, and with assaies of Bias,
 By indirections finde directions out:
 So by my former Lecture and aduice
 Shall you my Sonne; you haue me, haue you not?*

rem

remReynol.

My Lord I haue.

rem

remPolon.

God buy you; fare you well.

rem

remReynol.

Good my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

Obserue his inclination in your selfe.

rem

remReynol.

I shall my Lord.

rem

remPolon.

And let him plye his Musicke.

rem

remReynol.

Well, my Lord.

Exit.

Enter Ophelia.

rem

remPolon.

Farewell:

How now Ophelia, what's the matter?

rem

remOphe.

Alas my Lord, I haue beene so affrighted.

rem

remPolon.

With what, in the name of Heauen?

rem

remOphe.

My Lord, as I was sowing in my Chamber,

Lord Hamlet with his doublet all vnbrac'd,

*No hat vpon his head, his stockings foul'd,
Vngartred, and downe giued to his Anckle,
Pale as his shirt, his knees knocking each other,
And with a looke so pitious in purport,
As if he had been loosed out of hell,
To speake of horrors: he comes before me.*

rem

remPolon.

Mad for thy Loue?

rem

remOphe.

My Lord, I doe not know: but truly I do feare it.

rem

remPolon.

What said he?

rem

remOphe.

*He tooke me by the wrist, and held me hard;
Then goes he to the length of all his arme;
And with his other hand thus o're his brow
He fals to such perusall of my face,
As he would draw it. Long staid he so,
At last, a little shaking of mine Arme:
And thrice his head thus wauing vp and downe;
He rais'd a sigh, so pittious and profound,
That it did seeme to shatter all his bulke,
And end his being. That done, he lets me goe,
And with his head ouer his shoulders turn'd,
He seem'd to finde his way without his eyes,
For out adores he went without their helpe;
And to the last, bended their light on me.*

rem

remPolon.

*Goe with me, I will goe seeke the King,
This is the very extasie of Loue,
Whose violent property foredoes it selfe,
And leads the will to desperate Vndertakings,
As oft as any passion vnder Heauen,
That does afflict our Natures. I am sorrie,
What haue you giuen him any hard words of late?*

rem

remOphe.

*No my good Lord: but as you did command,
I did repell his Letters, and deny'de
His accesse to me.*

rem

remPol.

That hath made him mad.

*I am sorrie that with better speed and iudgement
I had not quoted him. I feare he did but trifle,
And meant to wracke thee: but beshrew my iealousie:
It seemes it is as proper to our Age,
To cast beyond our selues in our Opinions,
As it is common for the yonger sort
To lacke discretion. Come, go we to the King,
This must be knowne, we being kept close might moue
More greefe to hide, then hate to vtter loue.*

Exeunt.

Scena Secunda.

Enter King, Queene, Rosincrane Rosincrance , and Guilden sterne Cumalijs.

rem

remKing.

Welcome deere Rosincrance and Guildensterne.

*Moreouer, that we much did long to see you,
The neede we haue to use you, did prouoke
Our hastie sending. Something haue you heard
Of Hamlets transformation: so I call it,
Since not th'exterior, nor the inward man
Resembles that it was. What it should bee
More then his Fathers death, that thus hath put him
So much from th'vnderstanding of himselfe,
I cannot deeme of. I intreat you both,
That being of so young dayes brought vp with him:
And since so Neighbour'd to his youth, and humour,
That you vouchsafe your rest heere in our Court
Some little time: so by your Companies
To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather
So much as from Occasions you may gleane,
That open'd lies within our remedie.*

rem

remQu.

*Good Gentlemen, he hath much talk'd of you,
 And sure I am, two men there are not liuing,
 To whom he more adheres. If it will please you
 To shew vs so much Gentry, and good will,
 As to expend your time with vs awhile,
 For the supply and profit of our Hope,
 Your Visitation shall receiue such thankes
 As fits a Kings remembrance.*

rem

remRosin.

*Both your Maiesties
 Might by the Soueraigne power you haue of vs,
 Put your dread pleasures, more into Command
 Then to Entreatie.*

rem

remGuil.

*We both obey,
 And here giue vp our selues, in the full bent,
 To lay our Seruices freely at your feete,
 To be commanded.*

rem

remKing.

Thankes Rosinrance, and gentle Guildensterne.

rem

remQu.

*Thankes Guildensterne and gentle Rosinrance.
 And I beseech you instantly to visit
 My too much changed Sonne.
 Go some of ye,
 And bring the Gentlemen where Hamlet is.*

rem

remGuil.

*Heauens make our presence and our practices
 Pleasant and helpfull to him.*

Exit.

rem

remQueene.

Amen.

Enter Polonius.

rem

remPol.

*Th' Ambassadors from Norway, my good Lord,
Are ioyfully return'd.*

rem

remKing.

Thou still hast bin the Father of good Newes.

rem

remPol.

*Haue I, my Lord? Assure you, my good Liege,
I hold my dutie, as I hold my Soule,
Both to my God, one to my gracious King:
And I do thinke, or else this braine of mine
Hunts not the traile of Policie, so sure
As I haue vs'd to do: that I haue found
The very cause of Hamlets Lunacie.*

rem

remKing.

Oh speake of that, that I do long to heare.

rem

remPol.

*Giue first admittance to th' Ambassadors,
My Newes shall be the Newes to that great Feast.*

rem

remKing.

*Thy selfe do grace to them, and bring them in.
He tels me my sweet Queene, that he hath found
The head and sourse of all your Sonnes distemper.*

rem

remQu.

*I doubt it is no other, but the maine,
His Fathers death, and our o'rehasty Marriage.*

Enter Polonius, Voltumand, and Cornelius.

rem

remKing.

*Well, we shall sift him. Welcome good Friends:
Say Voltumand, what from our Brother Norway?*

rem

remVolt.

*Most faire returne of Greetings, and Desires.
Vpon our first, he sent out to suppressse
His Nephewes Lewies, which to him appear'd
To be a preparation 'gainst the Poleak:
But better look'd into, he truly found
It was against your Highnesse, whereat greeued,*

*That so his Sicknesse, Age, and Impotence
 Was falsely borne in hand, sends out Arrests
 On Fortinbras, which he (in breefe) obeyes,
 Receiues rebuke from Norway: and in fine,
 Makes Vow before his Vnkle, neuer more
 To giue th'assay of Armes against your Maiestie.
 Whereon old Norway, ouercome with ioy,
 Giues him three thousand Crownes in Annuall Fee,
 And his Commission to imploy those Soldiers
 So leuied as before, against the Poleak:
 With an intreaty heerein further shewne,
 That it might please you to giue quiet passe
 Through your Dominions, for his Enterprize,
 On such regards of safety and allowance,
 As therein are set downe.*

rem

remKing.

It likes vs well:

*And at our more consider'd time wee'l read,
 Answer, and thinke vpon this Businesse.
 Meane time we thanke you, for your welltooke Labour.
 Go to your rest, at night wee'l Feast together.
 Most welcome home.*

Exit Ambass.

rem

remPol.

This businesse is very well ended.

*My Liege, and Madam, to expostulate
 What Maiestie should be, what Dutie is,
 Why day is day; night, night; and time is time,
 Were nothing but to waste Night, Day and Time.
 Therefore, since Breuitie is the Soule of Wit,
 And tediousnesse, the limbes and outward flourishes,
 I will be breefe. Your Noble Sonne is mad:
 Mad call I it; for to define true Madnesse,
 What is't, but to be nothing else but mad.
 But let that go.*

rem

remQu.

More matter, with lesse Art.

rem

remPol.

Madam I sweare I vse no Art at all:

That he is mad, 'tis true: 'Tis true 'tis pittie,

And pittie it is true: A foolish figure,

But farewell it: for I will vse no Art.

Mad let vs grant him then: and now remaines

That we finde out the cause of this effect,

Or rather say, the cause of this defect;

For this effect defectiue, comes by cause,

Thus it remaines, and the remainder thus. Perpend,

I haue a daughter: haue, whil'st she is mine,

Who in her Dutie and Obedience, marke,

Hath giuen me this: now gather, and surmise.

The Letter.

To the Celestiall, and my Soules Idoll, the most beautified O phelia. That's an ill Phrase, a vilde Prase, beautified is a vilde Phrase: but you shall heare these in her excellent white bosome, these.

rem

remQu.

Came this from Hamlet to her.

rem

remPol.

*Good Madam stay*The "y" here is only partially inked. *awhile, I will be faithfull.*

Doubt thou, the Starres are fire,

Doubt, that the Sunne doth moue:

Doubt Truth to be a Lier,

Bt never Doubt, I loue.

O deere Ophelia, I am ill at these Numbers: I haue not Art to reckon my grones; but that I loue thee best, oh most Best be leeuie it. Adieu. Thine euermore most deere Lady, whilst this Machine is to him, Hamlet.

This in Obedience hath my daughter shew'd me:

And more aboue hath his solociting,

As they fell out by Time, by Meanes, and Place,

All giuen to mine eare.

rem

remKing.

But how hath she receiu'd his Loue?

rem

remPol.

What do you thinke of me?

rem

remKing.

As of a man, faithfull and Honourable.

rem

remPol.

I wold faine proue so. But what might you think?

When I had seene this hot loue on the wing,

As I perceiued it, I must tell you that

Before my Daughter told me, what might you

Or my dcere deere Maiestie your Queene heere, think,

If I had playd the Deske or Tablebooke,

Or giuen my heart a winking, mute and dumbe,

Or look'd vpon this Loue, with idle sight,

What might you thinke? No, I went round to worke,

And (my yong Mistris) thus I did bespeake

Lord Hamlet is, a Prince out of thy Starre,

This must not be: and then, I Precepts gaue her,

That she should locke her selfe from his Resort,

Admit no Messengers, receiue no Tokens:

Which done, she tooke the Fruites of my Aduice,

And he repulsed. A short Tale to make,

Fell into a Sadnesse, then into a Fast,

Thence to a Watch, thence into a Weaknesse,

Thence to a Lightnesse, and by this declension

Into the Madnesse whereon now he raues,

And all we waile for.

rem

remKing.

Do you thinke 'tis this?

rem

remQu.

It may be very likely.

rem

remPol.

Hath there bene such a time, I'de fain know that,

That I haue possitiuely said, 'tis so,

When it prou'd otherwise?

rem

remKing.

Not that I know.

rem

remPol.

*Take this from this; if this be otherwise,
If Circumstances leade me, I will finde
Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeede
Within the Center.*

rem

remKing.

How may we try it further?

rem

remPol.

*You know sometimes
He walkes foure houres together, here
In the Lobby.*

rem

remQu.

So he ha's indeed.

rem

remPol.

*At such a time Ile loose my Daughter to him,
Be you and I behinde an Arras then,
Marke the encounter: If he loue her not,
And be not from his reason falne thereon;
Let me be no Assistant for a State,
And keepe a Farme and Carters.*

rem

remKing.

We will try it.

Enter Hamlet reading on a Booke.

rem

remQu.

*But looke where sadly the poore wretch
Comes reading.*

rem

remPol.

*Away I do beseech you, both away,
Ile boord him presently.*

Exit King & Queen.

Oh giue me leaue. How does my good Lord Hamlet?

rem

remHam.

Well, Godamercy.

rem

remPol.

Do you know me, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Excellent, excellent well: y'are a Fishmonger.

rem

remPol.

Not I my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Then I would you were so honest a man.

rem

remPol.

Honest, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

I sir, to be honest as this world goes, is to bee one man pick'd out of two thousand.

rem

remPol.

That's very true, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

For if the Sun breed Magots in a dead dogge, being a good kissing Carrion Haue you a daughter?

rem

remPol.

I haue my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Let her not walke i'th'Sunne; Conception is a blessing, but not as your daughter may conceiue. Friend looke too't.

rem

remPol.

How say you by that? Still harping on my daugh ter: yet he knew me not at first; he said I was a Fishmon ger: he is farre gone, farre gone: and truly in my youth, I suffred much extreamity for loue: very neere this. Ile speake to him againe. What do you read my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Words, words, words.

rem

remPol.

What is the matter, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Betweene who?

rem

remPol.

I meane the matter you meane, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Slanders Sir: for the Satyricall slaue saies here, that old men haue gray Beards; that their faces are wrin kled; their eyes purging thicke Amber, or PlumTree Gumme: and that they haue a plentifull locke of Wit, together with weake Hammes. All which Sir, though I most powerfully, and potently beleeeue; yet I holde it not Honestie to haue it thus set downe: For you your selfe Sir, should be old as I am, if like a Crab you could go backward.

rem

remPol.

Though this be madnesse,

Yet there is Method in't: will you walke

Out of the ayre my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Into my Graue?

rem

remPol.

Indeed that is out o'th'Ayre:

How pregnant (sometimes) his Replies are?

A happinesse,

That often Madnesse hits on,

Which Reason and Sanitie could not

So prosperously be deliuer'd of.

I will leaue him,

And sodainely contriue the meanes of meeting

Betweene him, and my daughter.

My Honourable Lord, I will most humbly

Take my leaue of you.

rem

remHam.

You cannot Sir take from me any thing, that I will more willingly part withall, except my life, my life.

rem

remPolon.

Fare you well my Lord.

rem

remHam.

These tedious old fooles.

rem

remPolon.

You goe to seeke my Lord Hamlet; there hee is.

Enter Rosincran Rosincrance and Guildensterne.

rem

remRosin.

God saue you Sir.

rem

remGuild.

Mine honour'd Lord?

rem

remRosin.

My most deare Lord?

rem

remHam.

My excellent good friends? How do'st thou Guildensterne? Oh, Rosincrane Rosincrance ; good Lads: How doe ye both?

rem

remRosin.

As the indifferent Children of the earth.

rem

remGuild.

Happy, in that we are not ouerhappy: on For tunes Cap, we are not the very Button.

rem

remHam.

Nor the Soales of her Shoo?

rem

remRosin.

Neither my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Then you liue about her waste, or in the mid dle of her fauour?

rem

remGuil.

Faith, her priuates, we.

rem

remHam.

In the secret parts of Fortune? Oh, most true: she is a Strumpet. What's the newes?

rem

remRsin.

None my Lord; but that the World's growne honest.

rem

remHam.

Then is Doomesday neere: But your newes is not true. Let me question more in particular: what haue you my good friends, deserued at the hands of Fortune, that she sends you to Prison hither?

rem

remGuil.

Prison, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Denmark's a Prison.

rem

remRosin.

Then is the World one.

rem

remHam.

A goodly one, in which there are many Con fines, Wards and Dungeons; Denmarke being one o'th' worst.

rem

remRosin.

We thinke not so my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Why then 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison.

rem

remRosin.

Why then your Ambition makes it one: 'tis too narrow for your minde.

rem

remHam.

O God, I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count my selfe a King of infinite space; were it not that I haue bad dreames.

rem

remGuil.

Which dreames indeed are Ambition: for the very substance of the Ambitious, is meerey the shadow of a Dreame.

rem

remHam.

A dreame it selfe is but a shadow.

rem

remRosin.

Truely, and I hold Ambition of so ayry and light a quality, that it is but a shadowes shadow.

rem

remHam.

Then are our Beggers bodies; and our Mo narchs and outstretcht Heroes the Beggers Shadowes: shall wee to th'Court: for, by my fey I cannot rea son?

rem

remBoth.

Wee'l wait vpon you.

rem

remHam.

No such matter. I will not sort you with the rest of my seruants: for to speake to you like an honest man: I am most dreadfully attended; but in the beaten way of friendship, What make you at Elsonower?

rem

remRosin.

To visit you my Lord, no other occasion.

rem

remHam.

Begger that I am, I am euen poore in thankes; but I thanke you: and sure deare friends my thanks are too deare a halfe peny; were you not sent for? Is it your owne inclining? Is it a free visitation? Come, deale iustly with me: come, come; nay speake.

rem

remGuil.

What should we say my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Why any thing. But to the purpose; you were sent for; and there is a kinde confession in your lookes; which your modesties haue not craft enough to co lor, I know the good King & Queene haue sent for you.

rem

remRosin.

To what end my Lord?

rem

remHam.

That you must teach me: but let mee coniure you by the rights of our fellowship, by the consonancy of our youth, by the Obligation of our euerpreserued loue, and by what more deare, a better proposer could charge you withall; be euen and direct with me, whether you were sent for or no.

rem

remRosin.

What say you?

rem

remHam.

Nay then I haue an eye of you; if you loue me hold not off.

rem

remGuil.

My Lord, we were sent for.

rem

remHam.

I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation preuent your discouery of your secricie to the King and Queene: moult no feather, I haue of late, but wherefore I know not, lost all my mirth, forgone all custome of ex ercise; and indeed, it goes so heauenly with my dispositi on; that this goodly frame the Earth, seemes to me a ster rill Promontory; this most excellent Canopy the Ayre, look you, this braue orehanging, this Maiesticall Roofe, fretted with golden fire: why, it appeares no other thing to mee, then a foule and pestilent congregation of va pours. What a piece of worke is

a man! how Noble in Reason? how infinite in faculty? in some and moving how expresse and admirable? in Action, how like an Angel? in apprehension, how like a God? the beauty of the world, the Parragon of Animals; and yet to me, what is this Quintessence of Dust? Man delights not me; no, nor Woman neither; though by your smiling you seeme to say so.

rem

remRosin.

My Lord, there was no such stuffe in my thoughts.

rem

remHam.

Why did you laugh, when I said, Man delights not me?

rem

remRosin.

To thinke, my Lord, if you delight not in Man, what Lenton entertainment the Players shall receiue from you: wee coated them on the way, and hither are they comming to offer you Seruice.

rem

remHam.

He that playes the King shall be welcome; his Maiesty shall haue Tribute of mee: the aduenturous Knight shal vse his Foyle and Target: the Louer shall not sigh gratis, the humorous man shall end his part in peace: the Clowne shall make those laugh whose lungs are tickled a'th'sere: and the Lady shall say her minde freely; or the blanke Verse shall halt for't: what Players are they?

rem

remRosin.

Euen those you were wont to take delight in the Tragedians of the City.

rem

remHam.

How chances it they trauaile? their resi dence both in reputation and profit was better both wayes.

rem

remRosin.

I thinke their Inhibition comes by the meanes of the late Innouation?

rem

remHam.

Doe they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the City? Are they so follow'd?

rem

remRosin.

No indeed, they are not.

rem

remHam.

How comes it? doe they grow rusty?

rem

remRosin.

Nay, their indeauour keepes in the wonted pace; But there is Sir an ayrie of Children, little Yases, that crye out on the top of question; and are most tyrannically clap't

for't: these are now the fashion, and so beratled the common Stages (so they call them) that many wearing Rapiers, are affraide of Goosequils, and dare scarce come thither.

rem

remHam.

What are they Children? Who maintains 'em? How are they escoted? Will they pursue the Quality no longer then they can sing? Will they not say afterwards if they should grow themselues to common Players (as it is like most if their meanes are no1 better) their Wri ters do them wrong, to make them exclaim against their owne Succession.

rem

remRosin.

Faith thre ha's bene much to do on both sides: and the Nation holds it no sinne, to tarre them to Con trouersie. There was for a while, no mony bid for argu ment, vnlesse the Poet and the Player went to Cuffes in the Question.

rem

remHam.

Is't possible?

rem

remGuild.

Oh there ha's beene much throwing about of Braines.

rem

remHam.

Do the Boyes carry it away?

rem

remRosin.

I that they do my Lord, Hercules & his load too.

rem

remHam.

It is not strange: for mine Vnckle is King of Denmarke, and those that would make mowes at him while my Father liued; giue twenty, forty,, an hundred Ducates a peece, for his picture in Little. There is some thing in this more then Naturall, if Philosophie could finde it out.

Flourish for the players.

rem

remGuil.

There are the Players.

rem

remHam.

Gentlemen, you are welcom to Elsonower: your hands, come: The appurtenance of Welcome, is Fashion and Ceremony. Let me comply with you in the Garbe, lest my extent to the Players (which I tell you must shew fairely outward) should more appeare like entertainment then yours. You are welcome: but my Vnckle Father, and Aunt Mother are deceiu'd.

rem

remGuil.

In what my deere Lord?

rem

remHam.

I am but mad North, NorthWest: when the Winde is Southerly, I know a Hawke from a Handsaw.

Enter Polonius.

rem

remPol.

Well be with you Gentlemen.

rem

remHam.

Hearke you Guildensterne, and you too: at each eare a hearer: that great Baby you see there, is not yet out of his swathing clouts.

rem

remRosin.

Happily he's the second time come to them: for they say, an old man is twice a childe.

rem

remHam.

I will Prophetie. Hee comes to tell me of the Players. Mark it, you say right Sir: for a Monday mor ning 'twas so indeed.

rem

remPol.

My Lord, I haue Newes to tell you.

rem

remHam.

My Lord, I haue Newes to tell you. When Rossius an Actor in Rome

rem

remPol.

The Actors are come hither my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Buzze, buzze.

rem

remPol.

Vpon mine Honor.

rem

remHam.

Then can each Actor on his Asse

rem

remPolon.

The best Actors in the world, either for Trage die, Comedie, Historie, Pastorall: PastoricallComicall HistoricallPastorall: TragicallHistoricall: Tragicall ComicaliHistoricallPastorall: Scene indiuible, or Po em vnlimited. Seneca cannot be too heauy, nor Plautus too light, for the law of Writ, and the Liberty. These are the onely men.

rem

remHam.

O Iephtha Iudge of Israel, what a Treasure had'st thou?

rem

remPol.

What a Treasure had he, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

*Why one faire Daughter, and no more,
The which he loued passing well.*

rem

remPol.

Still on my Daughter.

rem

remHam.

Am I not i'th'right old Iephtha?

rem

remPolon.

If you call me Iephtha my Lord, I haue a daugh ter that I loue passing well.

rem

remHam.

Nay that followes not.

rem

remPolon.

What followes then, my Lord?

rem

remHa.

Why, As by lot, God wot: and then you know, It came to passe, as most like it was: The first rowe of the Pons Chanson will shew you more. For looke where my Abridgements come.

Enter foure or fiae Players.

Y'are welcome Masters, welcome all. I am glad to see thee well: Welcome good Friends. O my old Friend? Thy face is valiant since I saw thee last: Com'st thou to beard me in Denmarke? What, my yong Lady and Mi stris? Byrlady your Ladiship is neerer Heauen then when I saw you last, by the altitude of a Choppine. Pray God your voice like a peece of vncurrant Gold be not crack'd within the ring. Masters, you are all welcome:wee'l e'ne to't like French Faulconers, flie at any thing we see: wee'l haue a Speech straight. Come giue vs a tast of your qua lity: come, a passionate speech.

rem

rem1. Play.

What speech, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

I heard thee speak me a speech once, but it was neuer Acted: or if it was, not aboue once, for the Play I remember pleas'd not the Million, 'twas Cauiarie to the Generall: but it was (as I receiu'd it and others, whose iudgement in such matters, cried in the top of mine) an excellent Play; well digested in the Scnes, set downe

with as much modestie, as cunning. I remember one said, there was no Sallets in the lines, to make the matter sa uoury; nor no matter in the phrase, that might indite the Author of affection, but cal'd it an honest method. One cheefe Speech in it, I cheefely lou'd, 'twas neas Tale to Dido, and thereabout of it especially, where he speaks of Priams slaughter. If it liue in your memory, begin at this Line, let me see, let me see: The rugged Pyrrhus like th'Hyrceanian Beast. It is not so: it begins with Pyrrhus

*The rugged Pyrrhus, he whose Sable Armes
Blacke as his purpose, did the night resemble
When he lay couched in the Ominous Horse,
Hath now this dread and blacke Complexion smear'd
With Heraldry more dismall: Head to foote
Now is he to take Geulles, horridly Trick'd
With blood of Fathers, Mothers, Daughters, Sonnes,
Bak'd and impasted with the parching streets,
That lend a tyrannous, and damned light
To their vilde Murthers, roasted in wrath and fire,
And thus o'resized with coagulate gore,
VVith eyes like Carbuncles, the hellish Pyrrhus
Old Grandsire Priam seeks.*

rem

remPol.

Fore God, my Lord, well spoken, with good ac cent, and good discretion.

rem

rem1. Player.

Anon he findes him,

*Striking too short at Greekes. His anticke Sword,
Rebellious to his Arme, lyes where it falles
Repugnant to command: vnequall match,
Pyrrhus at Priam driues, in Rage strikes wide:
But with the whiffe and winde of his fell Sword,
Th'vnnnerued Father fals. Then senseless Illium,
Seeming to feele his blow, with flaming top
Stoopest to his Bace, and with a hideous crash
Takes Prisoner Pyrrhus eare. For loe, his Sword
Which was declining on the Milkie head
Of Reuerend Priam, seem'd i'th'Ayre to stieke sticke :
So as a painted Tyrant Pyrrhus stood,
And like a Newtrall to his will and matter, did nothing.
But as we often see against some storme,
A silence in the Heauens, the Racke stand still,*

*The bold windes speechlesse, and the Orbe below
 As hush as death: Anon the dreadfull Thunder
 Doth rend the Region. So after Pyrrhus pause,
 A ro used Vengeance sets him new aworke, An ink mark follows this line.
 And neuer did the Cyclops hammers fall
 On Mars his Armour, forg'd for prooffe Eterne,
 With lesse remorse then Pyrrhus bleeding sword
 Now falles on Priam.
 Out, out, thou Strumpet Fortune, all you Gods,
 In generall Synod take away her power:
 Breake all the Spokes and Fallies from her wheele,
 And boule the round Naue downe the hill of Heauen,
 As low as to the Fiends.*

rem

remPol.

This is too long.

rem

remHam.

*It shall to'th Barbar, with your beard. Pry thee say on: He's for a Iigge, or a tale
 of Baudry, or hee sleepes. Say on; come to Hecuba.*

rem

rem1. Play.

But who, O who, had seen the inobled Queen.

rem

remHam.

The inobled Queene?

rem

remPol.

That's good: Inobled Queene is good.

rem

rem1. Play.

Run barefoot vp and downe,

Threatmng the flame

With Bisson Rheume: A clout about that head,

Where late the Diadem stood, and for a Robe

About her lanke and all oreteamed Loines,

A blanket in th'Alarum of feare caught vp.

Who this had seene, with tongue in Venome steep'd,

'Gainst Fortunes State, would Treason haue pronounc'd?

But if the Gods themselues did see her then,

When she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport

In mincing with his Sword her Husbands limbes,

*The instant Burst of Clamour that she made
(Vnlesse things mortall moue them not at all)
Would haue made milche the Burning eyes of Heauen,
And passion in the Gods.*

rem

remPol.

Looke where he ha's not turn'd his colour, and ha's teares in's eyes. Pray you no more.

rem

remHam.

'Tis well, Ile haue thee speake out the rest, soone. Good my Lord, will you see the Players wel be stow'd. Do ye heare, let them be well vs'd: for they are the Abstracts and breefe Chronicles of the time. After your death, you were better haue a bad Epitaph, then their ill report while you liued.

rem

remPol.

My Lord, I will use them according to their de sart.

rem

remHam.

Gods bodykins man, better. Vse euerie man after his desart, and who should scape whipping: vse them after your own Honor and Dignity. The lesse they deserue, the more merit is in your bountie. Take them in.

rem

remPol.

Come sirs.

Exit Polon.

rem

remHam.

Follow him Friends: wee'l heare a play to mor row. Dost thou heare me old Friend, can you play the murther of Gonzago?

rem

remPlay.

I my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Wee'l ha't to morrow night. You could for a need study a speech of some dosen or sixteene lines, which I would set downe, and insert in't? Could ye not?

rem

remPlay.

I my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Very well. Follow that Lord, and looke you mock him not. My good Friends, Ile leaue you til night you are welcome to Elsonower?

rem

remRosin.
Good my Lord.

Exeunt.

Manet Hamlet.

rem
remHam.
I so, God buy'ye: Now I am alone.
Oh what a Rogue and Pesant slaue am I?
Is it not monstrous that this Player heere,
But in a Fixion, in a dreame of Passion,
Could force his soule so to his whole conceit,
That from her working, all his visage warm'd:
Teares in his eyes, distraction in's Aspect,
A broken voyce, and his whole Function suiting
With Formes, to his Conceit? And all for nothing?
For Hecuba?
What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba,
That he should weepe for her? What would he doe,
Had he the Motiue and the Cue for passion
That I haue? He would drowne the Stage with teares,
And cleaue the generall eare with horrid speech:
Make mad the guilty, and apale the free,
Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeed,
The very faculty, of Eyes and Eares, Yet I, A mark has been drawn in pencil
following the end of this line.
A dull and muddymetled Rascall, peake
Like Iohn adreames, vnpregnant of my cause,
And can say nothing: No, not for a King,
Vpon whose property, and most deere life,
A damn'd defeate was made. Am I a Coward?
Who calles me Villaine? breakes my pate acroffe?
Pluckes off my Beard, and blowes it in my face?
Tweakes me by'th'Nose? giues me the Lye i'th'Throate,
As deepe as to the Lungs? Who does me this?
Ha? Why I should take it: for it cannot be,
But I am PigeonLiuer'd, and lacke Gall
To make Oppression bitter, or ere this,
I should haue fatted all the Region Kites
With this Slaues Offall, bloudy: a Bawdy villaine,

Remorselesse, Treacherous, Letcherous, kindles villaine!

Oh Vengeance!

Who? What an Asse am I? I sure, this is most braue,

That I, the Sonne of the Deere murdered,

Prompted to my Reuenge by Heauen, and Hell,

Must (like a Whore) vnpacke my heart with words,

And fall a Cursing like a very Drab,

A Scullion? Fye vpon't: Foh. About my Braine.

I haue heard, that guilty Creatures sitting at a Play, Marks have been drawn in pencil on either side of this line.

Haue by the very cunning of the Scne,

Bene strooke so to the soule, that presently

They haue proclaim'd their Malefactions.

For Murther, though it haue no tongue, will speake

With most myraculous Organ. Ile haue these Players,

Play something like the murder of my Father,

Before mine Vnkle. Ile obserue his lookes,

Ile rent him to the quicke: If he but blench

I know my course. The Spirit that I haue seene

May be the Diuell, and the Diuel hath power

T'assume a pleasing shape, yea and perhaps

Out of my Weaknesse, and my Melancholly,

As he is very potent with such Spirits,

Abuses me to damne me. Ile haue grounds

More Relatiue then this: The Play's the thing,

Wherein Ile catch the Conscience of the King.

Exit.

Enter King, Queene, Polonius, Ophelia, Ro sincrance, Guildenstern, and Lords.

rem

remKing.

And can you by no drift of circumstance

Get from him why he puts on this Confusion:

Grating so harshly all his dayes of quiet

With turbulent and dangerous Lunacy.

rem

remRosin.

He does confesse he feeles himselfe distracted,

But from what cause he will by no meanes speake.

rem

remGuil.

*Nor do we finde him forward to be sounded,
But with a crafty Madnesse keepes aloofe:
When we would bring him on to some Confession
Of his true state.*

rem

remQu.

Did he receiue you well?

rem

remRosin.

Most like a Gentleman.

rem

remGuild.

But with much forcing of his disposition.

rem

remRosin.

*Niggard of question, but of our demands
Most free in his reply.*

rem

remQu.

Did you assay him to any pastime?

rem

remRosin.

Madam.it so fell out, that certain Players

*We orewrought on the way: of these we told him,
And there did seeme in him a kinde of ioy
To heare of it: They are about the Court,
And (as I thinke) they haue already order
This night to play before him.*

rem

remPol.

'Tis most true:

*And he beseech'd me to intreate your Maiesties
To heare, and see the matter.*

rem

remKing.

*With all my heart, and it doth much content me
To heare him so inclin'd. Good Gentlemen,
Giue him a further edge, and driue his purpose on
To these delights.*

rem

remRosin.

We shall my Lord.

Exeunt.

rem

remKing.

Sweet Gertrude leaue vs too,

For we haue closely sent for Hamlet hither,

That he, as 'twere by accident, may there

Affront Ophelia. Her Father.and my selfe (lawful espials)

Will so bestow our selues, that seeing vnseene

We may of their encounter frankely iudge,

And gather by him, as he is behaued,

If't be th'affliction of his loue, or no.

That thus he suffers for.1

rem

remQu.

I shall obey you,

And for your part Ophelia, I do wish

That your good Beauties be the happy cause

Of Hamlets wildenesse: so shall I hope your Vertues

Will bring him to his wonted way againe,

To both your Honors.

rem

remOphe.

Madam, I wish it may.

rem

remPol.

Ophelia, walke you heere. Gracious so please ye

We will bestow our selues: Reade on this booke,

That shew of such an exercise may colour

Your lonelinesse. We are oft too blame in this,

'Tis too much prou'd, that with Deuotions visage,

And pious Action, we do surge o're

The diuell himselfe.

rem

remKing.

Oh'tis true:

How smart a lash that speech doth giue my Conscience?

The Harlots Cheeke beautied with plaist'ring Art

Is not more vgly to the thing that helps it,

Then is my deede, to my most painted word.

Oh heauie burthen!

rem

remPol.

I heare him comming, let's withdraw my Lord.

Exeunt.

Enter Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

To be, or not to be, that is the Question:

*Whether 'tis Nobler in the minde to suffer
The Slings and Arrowes of outragious Fortune,
Or to take Armes against a Sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them: to dye, to sleepe
No more; and by a sleepe, to say we end
The Heartake, and the thousand Naturall shockes
That Flesh is heyre too? 'Tis a consummation
Deuoutly to be wish'd. To dye to sleepe,
To sleepe, perchance to Dreame; I, there's the rub,
For in that sleepe of death, what dreames may come,
When we haue shuffel'd off this mortall coile,
Must giue vs pause. There's the respect
That makes Calamity of so long life:
For who would beare the Whips and Scornes of time,
The Oppressors wrong, the poore mans Contumely,
The pang of dispriz'd Loue, the Lawes delay,
The infolence of Office, and the Spurnes
That patient merit of the vnworthy takes,
When he himselfe might his Quietus make
With a bare Bodkin? Who would these Fardles beare
To grunt and sweat vnder a weary life,
But that the dread of something after death,
The vndiscovered Countrey, from whose Borne
No Traueller returnes, Puzels the will,
And makes vs rather beare those illes we haue,
Then flye to others that we know not of.
Thus Conscience does make Cowards of vs all,
And thus the Natiue hew of Resolution
Is sicklied o're, with the pale cast of Thought,
And enterprizes of great pith and moment,
With this regard their Currants turne away,*

*And loose the name of Action. Soft you now,
The faire Ophelia? Nimph, in thy Orizons
Be all my sinnes remembred.*

rem

remOphe.

Good my Lord,

How does your Honor for this many a day?

rem

remHam.

I humbly thanke you: well, well, well.

rem

remOphe.

My Lord, I haue Remembrances of yours,

That I haue longed long to redeliuer.

I pray you now, receiue them.

rem

remHam.

No, no, I neuer gaue you ought.

rem

remOphe.

My honor'd Lord, I know right well you did,

And with them words of so sweet breath compos'd,

As made the things more rich, then perfume left:

Take these againe, for to the Noble minde

Rich gifts wax poore, when giuers proue vnkinde.

There my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Ha, ha: Are you honest?

rem

remOphe.

My Lord.

rem

remHam.

Are you faire?

rem

remOphe.

What meanes your Lordship?

rem

remHam.

*That if you be honest and faire, your Honesty should admit no discourse to your
Beautie.*

rem

remOphe.

Could Beautie my Lord, haue better Commerce then your Honestie?

rem

remHam.

I trulie: for the power of Beautie, will sooner transforme Honestie from what it is, to a Bawd, then the force of Honestie can translate Beautie into his likenesse. This was sometime a Paradox, but now the time giues it prooffe. I did loue you once.

rem

remOphe.

Indeed my Lord, you made me beleue so.

rem

remHam.

You should not haue beleued me. For verThis r is partially worn away.tue cannot so innoculate our old stocke, but we shall rThis r is partially worn away.ellish of it. I loued you not.

rem

remOphe.

I was the more deceiued.

rem

remHam.

Get thee to a Nonnerie. Why would'st thou be a breeder of Sinners? I am my selfe indifferent honest, but yet I could accuse me of such things, that it were bet ter my Mother had not borne me. I am very prouwd, re uengefull, Ambitious, with more offences at my becke, then I haue thoughts to put them in imagination, to giue them shape, or time to acte them in. What should such Fellows as I do crawling between heaven and Earth. We are arrant knaues all, beleue none of vs. Goe thy wayes to a Nunnery. Where's your Father?

rem

remOphe.

At home, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Let the doores be shut vpon him, that he may play the Foole no way, but in's owne house. Farewell.

rem

remOphe.

O helpe him, you sweet Heauens.

rem

remHam.

If thou doest Marry, Ile giue thee this Plague for, thy Dowrie. Be thou as chast as Ice, as pure as Snow, thou shalt not escape Calumny. Get thee to a Nunnery. Go, Farewell. Or if thou wilt needs Marry, marry a fool: for Wise mem know well enough, what monsters you make of them. To a Nunnery go, and quickly too. Far well.

rem

remOphe.

O heauenly Powers, restore him.

rem

remHam.

I haue heard of your pratlings too wel enough. God has giuen you one pace, and you make your selfe an other: you gidge, you amble, and you lisper, and nickname Gods creatures, and make your Wantonnesse, your Ignorance. Go too, Ile no more on't, it hath made me mad, I say, we will haue no more Marriages. Those that are married already, all but one shall liue, the rest shall keep as they are. To a Nunnery, go.

Exit Hamlet.

rem

remOphe.

O what a Noble minde is heere o'rethrowne?

The Courtiers, Soldiers, Schollers: Eye, tongue, sword,

Th'expectansie and Rose of the faire State,

The glasse of Fashion, and the mould of Forme,

Th'obseru'd of all Obseruers, quite, quite downe.

Haue I of Ladies most deiect and wretched,

That suck'd the Honie of his Musicke Vowes:

Now see that Noble, and most Soueraigne Reason,

Like sweet Bels iangled out of tune, and harsh,

That vnmatch'd Forme and Feature of blowne youth,

Blasted with extasie. Oh, woe is me,

T'haue seene what I haue seene: see what I see.

Enter King, and Polonius.

rem

remKing.

Loue? His affections do not that way tend,

Nor what he spake, though it lack'd Forme a little,

Was not like Madnesse. There's something in his soule?

O're which his Melancholly sits on brood,

And I do doubt the hatch, and the disclose

Will be some danger, which to preuent

I haue in quicke determination

Thus set it downe. He shall with speed to England

For the demand of our neglected Tribute:

Haply the Seas and Countries different

With variable Obiects, shall expell

This something settled matter in his heart:

Whereon his Braines still beating, puts him thus

From fashion of himselfe. What thinke youon't?

rem

remPol.

*It shall do well. But yet do I beleue
The Origin and Commencement of this greefe
Sprung from neglected loue. How now Ophelia?
You neede not tell vs, what Lord Hamlet saide,
We heard it all. My Lord, do as you please,
But if you hold it fit after the Play,
Let his Queene Mother all alone intreat him
To shew his Greefes: let her be round with him,
And Ile be plac'd so, please you in the eare
Of all their conference. If she finde him not,
To England send him: Or confine him where
Your wisdome best shall thinke.*

rem

remKing.

It shall be so:

Madnesse in great Ones, must not vnwatch'd go.

Exeunt.

Enter Hamlet, and two or three of the Players.

rem

remHam.

*Speake the Speech I pray you, as I pronounc'd it to you trippingly on the Tongue;
But if you mouth it, as many of your Players do, I had as liue the TownCryer had
spoke my Lines: Nor do not saw the Ayre too much your hand thus, but use all
gently; for in the verie Tor rent, Tempest, and (as I may say) the Whirlewinde of
Passion, you must acquire and beget a Temperance that may giue it Smoothnesse. O
it offends mee to the Soule, to see a robustious Perywigpated Fellow, teare a Passi
on to tatters, to verie ragges, to split the eares of the Groundlings: who (for the
most part) are capeable of nothing, but inexplicable dumbe shewes, & noise: I could
haue such a Fellow whipt for o'redoing Termagant: it outHerod's Herod. Pray you
auoid it.*

rem

remPlayer.

I warrant your Honor.

rem

remHam.

*Be not too tame neyther: but let your owne Discretion be your Tutor. Sute the
Action to the Word, the Word to the Action, with this speciall obseruance: That
you orestop not the modestie of Nature; for any thing so ouerdone, is from² the
purpose of Playing, whose end both at the first and now, was and is, to hold as
'twer the Mirrour vp to Nature; to shew Vertue her owne Feature, Scorne her owne*

²fr

Image, and the verie Age and Bodie of the Time, his forme and pressure. Now, this ouerdone, or come tardie off, though it make the vnskil full laugh, cannot but make the Iudicious greeue; The censure of the which One, must in your allowance o're way a whole Theater of Others. Oh, there bee Players that I haue seene Play, and heard others praise, and that highly (not to speake it prophanely) that neyther hauing the accent of Christians, nor the gate of Christian, Pagan, or Norman, haue so strutted and bellowed, that I haue thought some of Natures Iouerneymen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated Humanity so ab hominably.

rem

remPlay.

I hope we haue reform'd that indifferently with vs, Sir.

rem

remHam.

O reforme it altogether. And let those that play your Clownes, speake no more then is set downe for them. For there be of them, that will themselues laugh, to set on some quantitie of barren Spectators to laugh too, though in the meane time, some necessary Question of the Play be then to be considered: that's Villanous, & shewes a most pittifull Ambition in the Foole that uses it. Go make you readie.

Exit Players.

Enter Polonius, Rosinrance, and Guildensterne.

How now my Lord,

Will the King heare this peece of Worke?

rem

remPol.

And the Queene too, and that presently.

rem

remHam.

Bid the players make hast.

Exit Polonius.

Will you two helpe to hasten them?

rem

remBoth.

We will my Lord.

Exeunt.

Enter Horatio.

rem

remHam.

What hoa, Horatio?

rem

remHora.

Heere sweet Lord, at your Seruice.

rem

remHam.

*Horatio, thou art eene as just a man
As ere my Conuersation coop'd withall.*

rem

remHora.

O my deere Lord.

rem

remHam.

Nay, do not thinke I flatter:

*For what aduancement may I hope from thee,
That no Reuennew hast, but thy good spirits
To feed & cloath thee. Why shold the poor be flatter'd?
No, let the Candied tongue, like absurd pompe,
And crooke the pregnant Hindges of the knee,
Where thrift may follow faining? Dost thou heare,
Since my deere Soule was Mistris of my choyse,
And could of men distinguish, her election
Hath seal'd thee for her selfe. For thou hast bene
As one in suffering all, that suffers nothing.
A man that Fortunes buffets, and Rewards
Hath 'tane with equall Thankes. And blest are those,
Whose Blood and Iudgement are so well comingled,
That they are not a Pipe for Fortunes finger,
To sound what stop she please. Giue me that man,
That is not Passions Slaue, and I will weare him
In my hearts Core: I, in my Heart of heart,
As I do thee. Something too much of this.
There is a Play to night before the King.
One Scne of it comes neere the Circumstance
Which I haue told thee, of my Fathers death.
I prythee, when thou see'st that Acte afoot,
Euen with the verie Comment of my Soule
Obserue mine Vnkle: If his occulted guilt,
Do not it selfe vnkennell in one speech,
It is a damned Ghost that we haue seene:
And my Imaginations are as foule
As Vulcans Stythe. Giue him needfull note,
For I mine eyes will riuet to his Face:
And after we will both our iudgements ioyne,
To censure of his seeming.*

rem

remHora.

Well my Lord.

*If he steale ought the whil'st this Play is Playing,
And scape detecting, I will pay the Theft.*

*Enter King, Queene, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosinrance, Guidensterne, and other
Lords attendant with his Guard carrying Torches. Danish March. Sound a Flour-
ish.*

rem

remHam.

They are comming to the Play: I must be idle.

Get you a place.

rem

remKing.

How fares our Cosin Hamlet?

rem

remHam.

*Excellent I faith, of the Camelions dish: I eate the Ayre promisecramm'd, you cannot
feed Capons so.*

rem

remKing.

I haue nothing with this answer Hamlet, these words are not mine.

rem

remHam.

No, nor mine. Now my Lord, you plaid once i'th'Vniuersity, you say?

rem

remPolon.

That I did my Lord, and was accounted a good Actor.

rem

remHam.

And what did you enact?

rem

remPol.

I did enact Iulius Csar, I was kill'd i'th'Capitol: Brutus kill'd me.

rem

remHam.

It was a brute part of him, to kill so Capitall a Calfe there. Be the Players ready?.

rem

remRosin.

I my Lord, they stay vpon your patience.

rem

remQu.

Come hither my good Hamlet, sit by me.

rem

remHa.

No good Mother, here's Mettle more attractiue.

rem

remPol.

Oh ho, do you marke that?

rem

remHam.

Ladie, shall I lye in your Lap?

rem

remOphe.

No my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I meane, my Head vpon your Lap?

rem

remOphe.

I my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Do you thinke I meant Country matters?

rem

remOphe.

I thinke nothing, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

That's a faire thought to ly between Maids legs

rem

remOphe.

What is my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Nothing.

rem

remOphe.

You are merrie, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Who I?

rem

remOphe.

I my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Oh God, your onely Iiggemaker: what should a man do, but be merrie. For looke you how cheereful ly my Mother lookes, and my Father dyed within's two Houres.

rem

remOphe.

Nay, 'tis twice two moneths, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

So long? Nay then let the Diuel weare blacke, for Ile haue a suite of Sables. Oh Heauens! dye two mo neths ago, and not forgotten yet? Then there's hope, a great mans Memorie, may outliue his life halfe a yeare: But byrlady he must builde Churches then: or else shall he suffer not thinking on, with the Hobyhorsse, whose Epitaph is, For o, For o, the Hobyhorse is forgot.

Hoboyes play. The dumbe shew enters.

Enter a King and Queene, very louingly; the Queene embra cing him. She kneeles and makes shew of Protestation vnto him. He takes her vp, and dcclines declines his head vpon her neck: Laves him downe vpon a Banke of Flowers. She seeing him asleepe, leaues him. Anon comes in a Fellow, takes off his Crowne, kisses it, and powres poyson in the Kings eares, and Exits. The Queene returnes, findes the King dead, and makes passionate Action. The Poysoner, with some two or three Mutes comes in againe, seeming to lament with her. The dead body is carried away: The Poysoner Wooes the Queene with Gifts, she seemes loath and vnwilling awhile, but in the end, accepts his loue.

Exeunt.

rem

remOphe.

What meanes this, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Marry this is Miching Malicho, that meanes Mischeefe.

rem

remOphe.

Belike this shew imports the Argument of the Play?

rem

remHam.

We shall know by these Fellowes: the Players cannot keepe counsell, they'l tell all.

rem

remOphe.

Will they tell vs what this shew meant?

rem

remHam.

I, or any shew that you'l shew him. Bee not you asham'd to shew, hee'l not shame to tell you what it meanes.

rem

remOphe.

You are naught, you are naught, Ile marke the Play.

Enter Prologue.

For vs, and for our Tragedie,

Heere stooping to your Clemencie:

We begge your hearing Patientlie.

rem

remHam.

Is this a Prologue, or the Poesie of a Ring?

rem

remOphe.

'Tis briefe my Lord.

rem

remHam.

As Womans loue.

Enter King and his Queene.

rem

remKing.

*Full thirtie times hath Phbus Cart gon round,
Neptunes salt Wash, and Tellus Orbed ground:
And thirtie dozen Moones with borrowed sheene,
About the World haue times twelue thirties beene,
Since loue our hearts, and Hymen did our hands
Vnite comutuall, in most sacred Bands.*

rem

remBap.

*So many iournies may the Sunne and Moone
Make vs againe count o're, ere loue be done.
But woe is me, you are so sicke of late,
So farre from cheere, and from your forme state,
That I distrust you: yet though I distrust,
Discomfort you (my Lord) it nothing must:
For womens Feare and Loue, holds quantitie,
In neither ought, or in extremity:
Now what my loue is, prooffe hath made you know,
And as my Loue is siz'd, my Feare is so.*

rem

remKing.

*Faith I must leaue thee Loue, and shortly too:
My operant Powers my Functions leaue to do:
And thou shalt liue in this faire world behinde,
Honour'd, belou'd, and haply, one as kinde.
For Husband shalt thou*

rem

remBap.

Oh confound the rest:

*Such Loue, must needs be Treason in my brest:
In second Husband, let me be accurst,*

None wed the second. but who kill'd the first.

An ink mark follows the end of this line.

rem

remHam.

Wormwood, Wormwood.

rem

remBapt.

The instances that second Marriage moue,

Are base respects of Thrift, but none of Loue.

A second time, I kill my Husband dead,

When second Husband kisses me in Bed.

rem

remKing.

I do beleue you. Think what now you speak:

But what we do determine, oft we breake:

Purpose is but the slaue to Memorie,

Of violent Birth, but poore validitie:

Which now like Fruite vnripe stickes on the Tree,

But fall vnshaken, when they mellow bee.

Most necessary 'tis, that we forget

To pay our selues, what to our selues is debt:

What to our selues in passion we propose,

The passion ending, doth the purpose lose.

The violence of other Greefe or Ioy,

Their owne enactors with themselues destroy:

Where Ioy most Reuels, Greefe doth most lament;

Greefe ioyes, Ioy greeues on slender accident.

This world is not for aye, nor 'tis not strange

That euen our Loues should with our Fortunes change.

For 'tis a question left vs yet to proue,

Whether Loue lead Fortune, or else Fortune Loue.

The great man downe you marke his fauourites flies,

The poore aduanc'd, makes Friends of Enemies:

And hitherto doth Loue on Fortune tend,

For who not needs, shall neuer lacke a Friend:

And who in want a hollow Friend doth try,

Directly seasons him his Enemy.

But orderly to end, where I begun,

Our Willes and Fates do so contrary run,

That our Deuices still are ouerthrowne,

Our thoughts are ours, their ends, none of our owne.

*So thinke thou wilt no second Husband wed.
But die thy thoughts, when thy first Lord is dead.*

rem

remBap.

*Nor Earth to giue me food, not Heauen light,
Sport and repose locke from me day and night:
Each opposite that blankes the face of ioy,
Meet what I would haue well, and it destroy:
Both heere, and hence, pursue me lasting strife,
If once a Widdow, euer I be Wife.*

rem

remHam.

If she should breake it now.

rem

remKing.

'Tis deeply sworne:

*Sweet, leaue me heere a while,
My spirits grow dull, and faine I would beguile
The tedious day with sleepe.*

rem

remQu.

Sleepe rocke thy Braine,

Sleepes

And neuer come mischance betweene vs twaine.

Exit.

rem

remHam.

Madam, how like you this Play?

rem

remQu.

The Lady protests to much me thinkes.

rem

remHam.

Oh but shée'l keepe her word.

rem

remKing.

Haue you heard the Argument, is there no Of fence in't?

rem

remHam.

No, no, they do but iest, poyson in iest, no Of fence i'th'world.

rem

remKing.

What do you call the Play?

rem

remHam.

The Mousetrap: Marry how? Tropicallly: This Play is the Image of a murder done in Vienna: Gon zago is the Dukes name, his wife Baptista: you shall see anon: 'tis a knauish peece of worke: But what o'that? Your Maiestie, and wee that haue free soules, it touches vs not: let the gall1d iade winch: our withers are vnrunng.

Enter Lucianus.

This is one Lucianus nephew to the King.

rem

remOphe.

You are a good Chorus, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I could interpret betweene you and your loue: if I could see the Puppets dallying.

rem

remOphe.

You are keene my Lord, you are keene.

rem

remHam.

It would cost you a groaning, to take off my edge.

rem

remOphe.

Still better and worse.

rem

remHam.

So you mistake Husbands. Begin Murderer. Pox, leaue thy damnable Faces, and begin. Come, the croaking Rauens doth bellow for Re uenge.

rem

remLucian.

Thoughts blacke, hands apt,

Drugges fit, and Time agreeing:

Confederate season, else, no Creature seeing:

Thou mixture ranke, of Midnight Weeds collected,

With Hecats Ban, thrice blasted, thrice infected,

Thy naturall Magicke, and dire propertie,

On wholesome life, vsurpe immediately.

Powres the poyson in his eares.

rem

remHam.

He poysons him i'th'Garden for's estate: His name's Gonzago: the Story is extant and writ in choyce Italian. You shall see anon how the Murtherer gets the loue of Gonzago's wife.

rem

remOphe.

The King rises.

rem

remHam.
What, frighted with false fire.
rem
remQu.
How fares my Lord?
rem
remPol.
Giue o're the Play.
rem
remKing.
Giue me some Light. Away.
rem
remAll.
Lights, Lights, Lights.

Exeunt

Manet Hamlet & Horatio.

rem
remHam.
Why let the strucken Deere go weepe,
The Hart vngalled play:
For some must watch, while some must sleepe;
So runnes the world away.
Would not this Sir, and a Forrest of Feathers, if the rest of my Fortunes turne
tutne Turke with me; with two Prounciall Roses on my rac'd Shooes, get me a
Fellowship in a crie of Players sir.
rem
remHor.
Halfe a share.
rem
remHam.
A whole one I,
For thou dost know: Oh Damon deere,
This Realme dismantled was of Ioue himselfe,
And now reignes heere.
A verie verie Paiocke.
rem
remHora.
You might haue Rim'd.
rem
remHam.
Oh good Horatio, Ile take the Ghosts word for a thousand pound. Did'st perceiue?
rem
remHora.

Verie well my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Vpon the talke of the poysoning?

rem

remHor.

I did verie well note him.

Enter Rosinrance and Guildensterene.

rem

remHam.

Oh, ha? Come some Musick. Come y Recorders:

For if the King like not the Comedie,

Why then belike he likes it not perdie.

Come some Musicke.

rem

remGuild.

Good my Lord, vouchsafe me a word with you.

rem

remHam.

Sir a whole History.

rem

remGuild.

The King, sir.

rem

remHam.

I sir, what of him?

rem

remGuild.

Is in his retyrement, maruellous distemper'd.

rem

remHam.

With drinke Sir?

rem

remGuild.

No my Lord, rather with choller.

rem

remHam.

Your wisedome should shew it selfe more ri cher, to signifie this to his Doctor: for for me to put him to his Purgation, would perhaps plundge him into farre more Choller.

rem

remGuild.

Good my Lord put your discourse into some frame, and start not so wildely from my affayre.

rem

remHam.

I am tame Sir, pronounce.

rem

remGuild.

The Queene your Mother, in most great affli- ction of spirit, hath sent me to you.

rem

remHam.

You are welcome.

rem

remGuild.

Nay, good my Lord, this courtesie is not of the right breed. If it shall please you to make me a whol some answer, I will doe your Mothers command'ment: if not, your pardon, and my returne shall bee the end of my Businesse.

rem

remHam.

Sir, I cannot.

rem

remGuild.

What, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Make you a wholsome answere: my wits dis eas'd. But sir, such answers as I can make, you shal com mand: or rather you say, my Mother: therefore no more but to the matter. My Mother you say.

rem

remRosin.

Then thus she sayes: your behavior hath stroke her into amazement, and admiration.

rem

remHam.

Oh wonderfull Sonne, that can so astonish a Mother. But is there no sequell at the heeles of this Mo thers admiration?

rem

remRosin.

She desires to speake with you in her Closset, ere you go to bed.

rem

remHam.

We shall obey, were she ten times our Mother. Haue you any further Trade with vs?

rem

remRosin.

My Lord, you once did loue me.

rem

remHam.

So I do still, by these pickers and stealers.

rem

remRosin.

Good my Lord, what is your cause of distemThis m, and other letters on this page, are distorted by a crease running diagonally across the paper. per? You do freely barre the doore of your owne Liber tie, if you deny your greefes to your Friend.

rem

remHam.

Sir I lacke Aduancement.

rem

remRosin.

How can that be, when you haue the voyce of the King himselfe, for your Succession in Denmarke?

rem

remHam.

I, but while the grasse growes, the Prouerbe is something musty.

Enter one with a Recorder.

O the Recorder. Let me see, to withdraw with you, why do you go about to recouer the winde of mee, as if you would driue me into a toyle?

rem

remGuild.

O my Lord, if my Dutie be too bold, my loue is too vnmannerly.

rem

remHam.

I do not well vnderstand that. Will you play vpon this Pipe?

rem

remGuild.

My Lord, I cannot.

rem

remHam.

I pray you.

rem

remGuild.

Beleeue me, I cannot.

rem

remHam.

I do beseech you.

rem

remGuild.

I know no touch of it, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

'Tis as easie as lying: gouerne these Ventiges with your finger and thumbe, giue it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most excellent Musicke. Looke you, these are the stoppes.

rem

remGuild.

But these cannot I command to any vtterance of hermony, I haue not the skill.

rem

remHam.

Why looke you now, how vnworthy a thing you make of me: you would play vpon mee; you would seeme to know my stops: you would pluck out the heart of my Mysterie; you would sound mee from my lowest Note, to the top of my Compasse: and there is much Mu sicke, excellent Voice, in this little Organe, yet cannot you make it. Why do you thinke, that I am easier to bee plaid on, then a Pipe? Call me what Instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play vpon me, God blesse you Sir.

Enter Polonius.

rem

remPolon.

My Lord; the Queene would speak with you, and presently.

rem

remHam.

Do you see that Clowd? that's almost in shape like a Camell.

rem

remPolon.

By'th'Misse, and it's like a Camell indeed.

rem

remHam.

Me thinkes it is like a Weazell.

rem

remPolon.

It is back'd like a Weazell.

rem

remHam.

Or like a Whale?

rem

remPolon.

Verie like a Whale.

rem

remHam.

Then will I come to my Mother, by and by: They foole me to the top of my bent. I will come by and by.

rem

remPolon.

I will say so.

Exit. Brown ink smudge.

rem

remHam.

By and by, is easily said. Leau me Friends:

'Tis now the verie witching time of night,

When Churchyards yawne, and Hell it selfe breaths out

Contagion to this world. Now could I drink hot blood,

And do such bitter businesse as the day

*Would quake to looke on. Soft now, to my Mother:
 Oh Heart, loose not thy Nature; let not euer
 The Soule of Nero, enter this firme bosome:
 Let me be cruell, not vnnaturall,
 I will speake Daggers to her, but use none:
 My Tongue and Soule in this be Hypocrites.
 How in my words someuer she be shent,
 To giue them Seales, neuer my Soule consent.*

Enter King, Rosinrance, and Guildensterne.

rem

remKing.

*I like him not, nor stands it safe with vs,
 To let his madnesse range. Therefore prepare you,
 I your Commission will forthwith dispatch,
 And he to England shall along with you:
 The termes of our estate, may not endure
 Hazard so dangerous as doth hourely grow
 Out of his Lunacies.*

rem

remGuild.

*We will our selues provide:
 Most holie and Religious feare it is
 To keepe those many many bodies safe
 That liue and feede vpon your Maiestie.*

rem

remRosin.

The single

*And peculiar life is bound
 With all the strength and Armour of the minde,
 To keepe it selfe from noyance: but much more,
 That Spirit, vpon whose spirit depends and rests
 The liues of many, the cease of Maiestie
 Dies not alone; but like a Gulfe doth draw
 What's neere it, with it. It is a massie wheele
 Fixt on the Somnet of the highest Mount,
 To whose huge Spoakes, ten thousand lesser things
 Are mortiz'd and adioyn'd: which when it falles,
 Each small annexment, pettie consequence
 Attends the boystrous Ruine. Neuer alone
 Did the King sighe, but with a generall grone.*

rem

remKing.

*Arme you, I pray you to this speedie Voyage;
For we will Fetters put upon this feare,
Which now goes too freefooted.*

rem

remBoth.

We will haste vs.

Exeunt Gent.

Enter Polonius.

rem

remPol.

*My Lord, he's going to his Mothers Closset:
Behinde the Arras Ile conuey my selfe
To heare the Processe. Ile warrant shee'l tax him home,
And as you said, and wisely was it said,
'Tis meete that some more audience then a Mother,
Since Nature makes them partiall, should o'reheare
The speech of vantage. Fare you well my Liege,
Ile call vpon you ere you go to bed,
And tell you what I know.*

rem

remKing.

*Thankes deere my Lord.
Oh my offence is ranke, it smels to heauen.
It hath the primall eldest curse vpon't,
A Brothers murther. Pray can I not,
Though inclination be as sharpe as will:
My stronger guilt, defeats my strong intent,
And like a man to double businesse bound,
I stand in pause where I shall first begin,
And both neglect; what if this cursed hand
Were thicker then it selfe with Brothers blood,
Is there not Raine enough in the sweet Heaues
To wash it white as Snow? Whereto serues mercy,
But to confront the visage of Offence?
And what's in Prayer, but this twofold force,
To be forestalled ere we come to fall,
Or pardon'd being downe? Then Ile looke vp,
My fault is past. But oh, what forme of Prayer*

*Can serue my turne? Forgiue me my foule Murther:
 That cannot be, since I am still possesst
 Of those effects for which I did the Murther.
 My Crowne, mine owne Ambition, and my Queene:
 May one be pardon'd, and retaine th'offence?
 In the corrupted currants of this world,
 Offences gilded hand may shoue by Iustice,
 And oft 'tis seene, the wicked prize it selfe
 Buyes out the Law; but 'tis not so aboue,
 There is no shuffling, there the Action lyes
 In his true Nature, and we our selues compell'd
 Euen to the teeth and forehead of our faults,
 To giue in euidence. What then? What rests?
 Try what Repentance can. What can it not?
 Yet what can it, when one cannot repent?
 Oh wretched state! Oh bosome, blacke as death!
 Oh limed soule, that struggling to be free,
 Art more ingag'd: Helpe Angels, make assay:
 Bow stubborne knees, and heart with strings of Steele,
 Be soft as sinewes of the newborne Babe,
 All may be well.*

Enter Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

*Now might I do it pat, now he is praying,
 And now Ile doo't, and so he goes to Heauen,
 And so am I reueng'd: that would be scann'd,
 A Villaine killes my Father, and for that
 I his foule Sonne, do this same Villaine send
 To heauen. Oh this is hyre and Sallery, not Reuenge.
 He tooke my Father grossely, full of bread,
 With all his Crimes broad blowne, as fresh as May,
 And how his Audit stands, who knowes, saue Heauen:
 But in our circumstance and course of thought
 'Tis heauie with him; and am I then reueng'd,
 To take him in the purging of his Soule,
 When he is fit and season'd for his passage? No.
 Vp Sword, and know thou a more horrid hent
 When he is drunke asleepe: or in his Rage,*

*Or in th'incestuous pleasure of his bed,
 At gaming, swearing, or about some acte
 That ha's no rellish of Saluation in't,
 Then trip him, that his heeles may kicke at Heauen,
 And that his Soule may be as damn'd and blacke
 As Hell, whereto it goes. My Mother stayes,
 This Physicke but prolongs thy sickly dayes.*

Exit.

rem

remKing.

*My words flye vp, my thoughts remain below,
 Words without thoughts, neuer to Heauen go.*

Exit.

Enter Queene and Polonius.

rem

remPol.

He will come straight:

*Looke you lay home to him,
 Tell him his pranke haue been too broad to beare with,
 And that your Grace hath scree'nd screen'd , and stooede betweene
 Much heate, and him. Ile silence me e'ene heere:
 Pray you be round with him.*

rem

remHam.

within.

Mother, mother, mother.

rem

remQu.

Ile warrant you, feare me not.

Withdraw, I heare him comming.

Enter Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Now Mother, what's the matter?

rem

remQu.

Hamlet, thou hast thy Father much offended.

rem

remHam.

Mother, you haue my Father much offended.

rem

remQu.

Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

rem

remHam.

Go, go, you question with an idle tongue.

rem

remQu.

Why how now Hamlet?

rem

remHam.

Whats the matter now?

rem

remQu.

Haue you forgot me?

rem

remHam.

No by the Rood, not so:

You are the Queene, your Husbands Brothers wife,

But would you were not so. You are my Mother.

rem

remQu.

Nay, then Ile set those to you that can speake.

rem

remHam.

Come, come, and sit you downe, you shall not boudge:

You go not till I set you vp a glasse,

Where you may see the inmost part of you?

rem

remQu.

What Wilt thou do? thou wilt not murther me?

Helpe, helpe, hoa.

rem

remPol.

What hoa, helpe, helpe, helpe.

rem

remHam.

How now, a Rat? dead for a Ducate, dead.

rem

remPol.

Oh I am slaine.

Killes Polonius.

rem

remQu.

Oh me, what hast thou done?

rem

remHam.

Nay I know not, is it he King?

rem

remQu.

Oh what a rash, and bloody deed is this?

rem

remHam.

A bloody deed, almost as bad good Mother,

As kill a King, and marrie with his Brother.

rem

remQu.

As kill a King?

rem

remHam.

I Lady, 'twas my word.

Thou wretched, rash, intruding foole farewell,

I tooke thee for thy Betters, take thy Fortune,

Thou find'st to be too busie, is some danger.

Leaue wringing of your hands, peace, sit you downe,

And let me wring your heart, for so I shall

If it be made of penetrable stuffe;

If damned Custome haue not braz'd it so,

That it is prooffe and bulwarke against Sense.

rem

remQu.

What haue I done, that thou dar'st wag thy tong,

In noise so rude against me?

rem

remHam.

Such an Act

That blurres the grace and blush of Modestie,

Cals Vertue Hypocrite, takes off the Rose

From the faire forehead of an innocent loue,

And makes a blister there. Makes marriage vowes

As false as Dicers Oathes. Oh such a deed,

As from the body of Contraction pluckes

The very soule, and sweete Religion makes

A rapsidie of words. Heauens face doth glow,

Yea this solidity and compound masse,

With tristfull visage as against the doome,

Is thoughtsicke at the act.

rem

remQu.

Aye me; what act; that roares so lowd, & thun ders in the Index.

rem

remHam.

Looke heere vpon this Picture, and on this,

The counterfet presentment of two Brothers:

See what a grace was seated on his Brow,

Hyperions curls, the front of Ioue himselfe,

An eye like Mars, to threaten or command

A Station, like the Heraland Mercurie

New lighted on a heauenkissing hill:

A Combination, and a forme indeed,

Where euery God did seeme to set his Seale,

To giue the world assurance of a man.

This was your Husband. Looke you now what followes.

Heere is your Husband, like a Mildew'd eare

Blasting his wholsom breath. Haue you eyes?

Could you on this faire Mountaine leaue to feed,

And batten on this Moore? Ha? Haue you eyes?

You cannot call it Loue: For at your age,

The heyday in the blood is tame, it's humble,

And waites vpon the Iudgement: and what Iudgement

Would step from this, to this? What diuell was't,

That thus hath cousend yon at hoodmanblinde?

O Shame! where is thy Blush? Rebellious Hell,

If thou canst mutine in a Matrons bones,

To flaming youth, let Vertue be as waxe,

And melt in her owne fire. Prodaime no shame,

When the compulsiue Ardure giues the charge,

Since Frost it selfe, as actiuely doth burne,

As Reason panders Will.

rem

remQu.

O Hamlet, speake no more.

Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soule,

And there I see such blacke and grained spots,

As will not leaue their Tinct.

rem

remHam.

Nay, but to liue

*In the ranke sweat of an enseamed bed,
Stew'd in Corruption; honying and making loue
Ouer the nasty Sty.*

*rem
remQu.*

*Oh speake to me no more,
These words like Daggers enter in mine eares.
No more sweet Hamlet.*

*rem
remHam.*

*A Murderer, and a Villaine:
A Slaue, that is not twentieth patt part the tythe
Of your precedent Lord. A vice of Kings,
A Cutpurse of the Empire and the Rule.
That from a shelve, the precious Diadem stole,
And put it in his Pocket.*

*rem
remQu.*

No more.

Enter Ghost.

*rem
remHam.*

*A King of shreds and patches.
Saue me; and houer o're me with your wings
You heavenly Guards. What would you gracious figure?*

*rem
remQu.*

Alas he's mad.

*rem
remHam.*

*Do you not come your tardy Sonne to chide,
That laps't in Time and Passion, lets go by
Th'important acting of your dread command? Oh say.*

*rem
remGhost.*

*Do not forget: this Visitation
Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose.
But looke, Amazement on thy Mother sits;
O step betweene her, and her fighting Soule,
Conceit in weakest bodies, strongest workes.
Speake to her Hamlet.*

rem

remHam.

How is it with you Lady?

rem

remQu.

Alas, how is't with you?

*That you bend your eye on vacancie,
And with their corporall ayre do hold discourse.
Forth at your eyes, your spirits wildely peepe,
And as the sleeping Soldiours in th'Alarme,
Your bedded haire, like life in excrements,
Start vp, and stand an end. Oh gentle Sonne,
Vpon the heate and flame of thy distemper
Sprinkle coole patience. Whereon do you looke?*

rem

remHam.

On him, on him: look you how pale he glares.

*His forme and cause conioyn'd, preaching to stones,
Would make them capeable. Do not looke vpon me,
Least with this pitteous action you conuert
My sterne effects: then what I haue to do,
Will want true colour; teares perchance for blood.*

rem

remQu.

To who do you speake this?

rem

remHam.

Do you see nothing there?

rem

remQu.

Nothing at all, yet all that is I see.

rem

remHam.

Nor did you nothing heare?

rem

remQu.

No, nothing but our selues.

rem

remHam.

Why look you there: looke how it steals away:

*My Father in his habite, as he liued,
Look where he goes euen now out at the Portall.*

Exit.

rem

remQu.

*This is the very coynage of your Braine,
This bodilesse Creation extasie is very cunning in.*

rem

remHam.

Extasie?

*My Pulse as yours doth temperately keepe time,
And makes as healthful Musicke. it is not madnesse
That I haue vttered; bring me to the Test
And I the matter will reword . which madnesse
Would gamboll from. Mother, for loue of Grace,
Lay not a flattering Vnction to your soule,
That not your trespasse, but my madnesse speakes;
It will but skin and f2me the Vlcerous place,
Whil'st ranke Corruption mining all within,
Infects vnseene. Confesse your selfe to Heauen,
Repent what's past, auoyd what is to come,
And do not spred the Compost or the Weedes,
To make them ranke. Forgiue me this my Vertue,
For in the fatnesse of this pursie times,
Vertue it selfe, of Vice must pardon begge,
Yea courb, and woe, for leaue to do him good.*

rem

remQu.

Oh Hamlet,

Thou hast cleft my heart in twaine.

rem

remHam.

O throw away the worser past of it,

And liue the purer with the other halfe.

Good night, but go not to mine Vnkles bed,

Assume a Vertue, if you haue it not, refraine to night,

And that shall lend a kinde of easinesse

To the next abstinence. Once more goodnight,

And when you are desirous o be blest, An ink mark follows the end of this line.

Ile blessing begge of you. For this fame Lord,

I do repent: but heauen hath pleased it so,

To punish me with this, and this with me,

That I must be their Scourge and Minister.

I will bestow him, and will answer well

The death I gaue him: so againe, good night,

*I must be cruell, onely to be kinde;
Thus bad begins, and worse remaines behinde.*

rem

remQu.

What shall I do?

rem

remHam.

Not this by no meanes that I bid you do:

*Let the blunt King tempt you againe to bed,
Pinch Wanton on your cheek, call you his Mouse,
And let him for a paire of reechie kisses,
Or padding in your necke with his damn'd Fingers,
Make you to rauell all this matter out,
That I essentially am not in madnesse,
But made in craft. 'Twere good you let him know,
For who that's but a Queene, faire, sober, wise,
Would from a Paddocke, from a Bat, a Gibbe,
Such deere concernings hide, Who would do so,
No in despight of Sense and Secrecie,
Vnpegge the Basket on the houses top:
Let the Birds flye, and like the famous Ape
To try Conclusions in the Basket, creepe
And breake your owne necke downe.*

rem

remQu.

*Be thou assur'd, if words be made of breath,
And breath of life: I haue no life to breath
What thou hast saide to me.*

rem

remHam.

I must to England, you know that?

rem

remQu.

Alacke I had forgot: 'Tis so concluded on.

rem

remHam.

This man shall set me packing:

*Ile lugge the Guts into the Neighbor roome,
Mother goodnight. Indeede this Counsellor
Is now most still, most secret, and most graue,
Who was in life, a foolish prating Knaue.
Come sir, to draw toward an end with you.*

Good night Mother.

Exit Hamlet tugging in Polonius.

Enter King.

rem

remKing.

There's matters in these sighes.

These profound heaues

You must translate; Tis fit we vnderstand them.

Where is your Sonne?

rem

remQu.

Ah my good Lord, what haue I seene to night?

rem

remKing.

What Gertrude? How do's Hamlet?

rem

remQu.

Mad as the Seas, and winde, when both contend

Which is the Mightier in his lawless fit

Behinde the Arras, hearing some thing stirre,

He whips his Rapier out, and cries a Rat, a Rat,

And in his brainish apprehension killes

The vnseene good old man.

rem

remKing.

Oh heauy deed:

It had bin so with vs had we beene there:

His Liberty is full of threats to all,

To you your selfe, to vs, to euery one.

Alas, how shall this bloody deede be answered?

It will be laide to vs, whose prouidence

Should haue kept short, restrain'd, and out of haunt,

This mad yong man. But so much was our loue,

We would not vnderstand what was most fit,

But like the Owner of a foule disease,

To keepe it from divulging, let's it feede

Euen on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

rem

remQu.

To draw apart the body he hath kild,

O're whom his very madnesse like some Oare

*Among a Minerall of Mettels base
Shewes it selfe pure. He weepes for what is done.*

rem

remKing.

Oh Gertrude, come away:

*The Sun no sooner shall the Mountaines touch,
But we will ship him hence, and this vilde deed,
We must with all our Maiesty and Skill
Both countenance, and excuse.*

Enter Ros. & Guild.

Ho Guildenstern:

*Friends both go ioyne you with some further ayde:
Hamlet in madnesse hath Polonius slaine,
And from his Mother Clossets hath he drag'd him.
Go seeke him out, speake faire, and bring the body
Into the Chappell. I pray you hast in this.*

Exit Gent.

*Come Gertrude, wee'l call vp our wisest friends,
To let them know both what we meane to do,
And what's vntimely done. Oh come away,
My soule is full of discord and dismay.*

Exeunt.

Enter Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Safely stowed.

rem

remGentlemen

within.

Hamlet, Lord Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

What noise? Who cals on Hamlet?

Oh heere they come.

Enter Ros. and Guildensterne.

rem

remRo.

What haue you done my Lord with the dead body?

rem

remHam.

Compounded it with dust, whereto 'tis Kinne.

rem

remResin.

Tell vs where 'tis, that we may take it thence,

And beare it to the Chappell.

rem

remHam.

Do not beleeeue it.

rem

remRosin.

Beleeue what?

rem

remHam.

That I can keepe your counsell, and not mine owne. Besides, to be demanded of a Spundge, what re plication should be made by the Sonne of a King.

rem

remRosin.

Take you me for a Spundge, my Lord?

rem

remHam.

I sir, that sokes vp the Kings Countenance, his Rewards, his Authorities (but such Officers do the King best seruice in the end. He keepes them like an Ape in the corner of his iaw, first mou1h'd to be last swallowed, when he needes what you haue glean'd1, it is but squee zing you, and Spundge you shall be dry againe.

rem

remRosin.

I vnderstand you not my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I am glad of it: a knauish speech sleepes in a foolish eare.

rem

remRosin.

My Lord, you must tell vs where the body is, and go with vs to the King.

rem

remHam.

The body is with the King, but the King is not With the body. The King, is a thing

rem

remGuild.

A thing my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Of nothing: bring me to him, hide Fox, and all after.

Exeunt

Enter King.

rem

remKing.

*I haue sent to seeke him, and to find the bodie:
How dangerous is it that this man goes loose:
Yet must not we put the strong Law on him:
Hee's loued of the distracted multitude,
Who like not in their iudgement, but their eyes:
And where 'tis so, th'Offenders scourge is weigh'd
But neerer the offence: to beare all smooth, and euen,
This sodaine sending him away, must seeme
Deliberate pause, diseases desperate growne,
By desperate appliance are releued,
Or not at all.*

Enter Rosincrane Rosincrance .

How now? What hath befallne?

rem

remRosin.

*Where the dead body is bestow'd my'Lord,
We cannot get from him.*

rem

remKing.

But where is he?

rem

remRosin.

Without my Lord, guarded to know your pleasure.

rem

remKing.

Bring him before vs.

rem

remRosin.

Hoa, Guildensterne? Bring in my Lord.

Enter Hamlet and Guildensterne.

rem

remKing.

Now Hamlet, where's Polonius?

rem

remHam.

At Supper.

rem

remKing.

At Supper? Where?

rem

remHam.

Not where he eats, but where he is eaten, a cer taine conuocation of wormes are e'ne at him. Your worm is your onely Emperor for diet. We fat all creatures else to fat vs, and we fat our selfe for Magots. Your fat King, and your leane Begger is but variable seruice to dishes, but to one Table that's the end.

rem

remKing.

What dost thou meane by this?

rem

remHam.

Nothing but to shew you how a King may go a Progresse through the guts of a Begger.

rem

remKing.

Where is Polonius.

rem

remHam.

In heauen, send thither to see. If your Messen ger finde him not there, seeke him i'th other place your selfe: but indeed, if you finde him not this moneth, you shall nose him as you go vp the staires into the Lobby.

rem

remKing.

Go seeke him there.

rem

remHam.

He will stay till ye come.

rem

remK.

Hamlet, this deed of thine, for thine especial safety

Which we do tender, as we deerely greeue

For that which thou hast done, must send thee hence

With fierie Quicknesse. Therefore prepare thy selfe,

The Barke is readie, and the winde at helpe,

Th'Associates tend, and euery thing at bent

For England.

rem

remHam.

For England?

rem

remKing.

I Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Good.

rem

remKing.

So is it, if thou knew'st our purposes.

rem

remHam.

I see a Cherube that see's him: but come, for England. Farewell deere Mother.

rem

remKing.

Thy louing Father Hamlet.

rem

remHamlet.

My Mother: Father and Mother is man and wife: man & wife is one flesh, and so my mother. Come, for England.

Exit

rem

remKing.

Follow him at foote,

Tempt him with speed aboard:

Delay it not, Ile haue him hence to night.

Away, for euery thing is Seal'd and done

That else leanes on th'Affaire, pray you make hast.

And England, if my loue thou holdst at ought,

As my great power thereof may giue thee sense,

Since yet thy Cicatrice lookes raw and red

After the Danish Sword, and thy free awe

Payes homage to vs; thou maist not coldly set

Our Soueraigne Processe, which imports at full

By Letters coniuring to that effect

The present death of Hamlet. Do it England,

For like the Hecticke in my blood he rages,

And thou must cure me: Till I know 'tis done,

How ere my happes, my ioyes were ne're begun.

Exit

Enter Fortinbras with an Armie.

rem

remFor.

Go Captaine, from me greet the Danish King,

Tell him that by his license, Fortinbras

Claimes the conueyance of a promis'd March

Ouer his Kingdome. You know the Rendeuous:

If that his Maiesty would ought with vs,

*We shall expresse our dutie in his eye,
And let him know so.*

rem

remCap.

I will doo't, my Lord.

rem

remFor.

Go safely on.

Exit.

Enter Queene and Horatio.

rem

remQu.

I will not speake with her.

rem

remHor.

She is importunate, indeed distract her moode will needs be pittied.

rem

remQu.

What would she haue?

rem

remHor.

She speakes much of her Father; saies she heares

There's trickes i'th'world, and hems, and beats her heart,

Spumes enuiously at Strawes, speakes things in doubt,

That carry but halfe sense: Her speech is nothing,

Yet the vnshaped use of it doth moue

The hearers to Collection; they ayme at it,

And botch the words vp fit to their owne thoughts,

Which as her winkes, and nods, and gestures yeeld them,

Indeed would make one thinke there would be thought,

Though nothing sure, yet much unhappily.

rem

remQu.

'Twere good she were spoken with,

For she may strew dangerous coniectures

In ill breeding minds. Let her come in.

To my sicke soule (as sinnes true Nature is)

Each toy seemes Prologue, to some great amisse,

So full of Artlesse ieaalousie is guilt,

It spill's it selfe, in fearing to be spilt.

Enter Ophelia distracted.

rem

remOphe.

Where is the beauteous Maiesty of Denmark.

rem

remQu.

How now Ophelia?

rem

remOphe.

How shonld I your true loue know from another one?

By his Cockle hat and staffe, and his Sandal shoone.

rem

remQu.

Alas sweet Lady: what imports this Song?

rem

remOphe.

Say you? Nay pray you marke.

He is dead and gone Lady, he is dead and gone,

At his head a grassegreene Turfe, at his heeles a stone.

Enter King.

rem

remQu.

Nay but Ophelia.

rem

remOphe.

Pray you marke.

White his Shrow'd as the Mountaine Snow.

rem

remQu.

Alas, looke heere my Lord.

rem

remOphe.

Larded with sweet flowers:

rend="italic"¿ Which bewept to the graue did not go,

With trueloue showres.

rem

remKing.

How do ye, pretty Lady?

rem

remOphe.

Well, God dil'd you. They say the Owle was a Bakers daughter. Lord, wee know what we are, but know not what we may be. God be at your Table.

rem

remKing.

Conceit upon her Father.

rem

remOphe.

Pray you let's haue no words of this: but when they aske you what it meanes, say you this:

*To morrow is Saint³ Valentines day, all in the morning betime,
And I a Maid at your Window, to be your Valentine.
Then vp he rose, & don'd his clothes, & dupt the chamber dore,
Let in the Maid, that out a Maid, neuer departed more.*

rem

remKing.

Pretty Ophelia.

rem

remOphe.

Indeed la? without an oath Ile make an end ont.

*By gis, and by Saint⁴ Charity,
Alacke, and fie for shame:
Yong men wil doo't, if they come too't,
By Cocke they are too blame.
Quoth she before you tumbled me,
Yon promis'd me to Wed:
So would I ha done by yonder Sunne,
And thou hadst not come to my bed.*

rem

remKing.

How long hath she bin this?

rem

remOphe.

I hope all will be well. We must bee patient, but I cannot choose but weepe, to thinke they should lay him i'th'cold ground: My brother shall knowe of it, and so I thanke you for your good counsell. Come, my Coach: Goodnight Ladies: Goodnight sweet Ladies: Goodnight, goodnight.

Exit.

rem

remKing.

Follow her close,

*Giue her good watch I pray you:
Oh this is the poyson of deepe greefe, it springs
All from her Fathers death. Oh Gertrude, Gertrude,
When sorrowes comes, they come not single spies,*

³S.

⁴S.

*But in Battaliaes. First, her Father slaine,
 Next your Sonne gone, and he most violent Author
 Of his owne iust remoue: the people muddied,
 Thicke and vnwholsome in their thoughts, and whispers
 For good Polonius death; and we haue done but greenly
 In hugger mugger to interre him. Poore Ophelia
 Diuided from her selfe, and her faire Iudgement,
 Without the which we are Pictures, or meere Beasts.
 Last, and as much containing as all these,
 Her Brother is in secret come from France,
 Keepes on his wonder, keepes himselfe in clouds,
 And wants not Buzzers to infect his eare
 With pestilent Speeches of his Fathers death,
 Where in necessitie of matter Beggard,
 Will nothing sticke our persons to Arraigne
 In eare and eare. O my deere Gertrude, this,
 Like to a murdering Peece in many places,
 Giues me superfluous death.*

A Noise within.

Enter a Messenger.

rem

remQu.

Alacke, what noyse is this?

rem

remKing.

Where are my Switzers?

Let them guard the doore. What is the matter?

rem

remMes.

Saue your selfe, my Lord.

The Ocean (ouerpeering of his List)

Eates not the Flats with more impittious haste

Then young Laertes, in a Riotous head,

Orebeares your Officers, the rabble call him Lord,

And as the world were now but to begin,

Antiquity forgot, Custome not knowne,

The Ratifiers and props of euery word,

They cry choose we? Laertes shall be King,

Caps, hands, and tongues, applaud it to the clouds,

Laertes shall be King, Laertes King.

rem

remQu.

How cheerefully on the false Traile they cry.

Oh this is Counter you false Danish Dogges.

Noise within.

Enter Laertes.

rem

remKing.

The doores are broke.

rem

remLaer.

Where is the King, sirs? Stand you all without.

rem

remAll.

No, let's come in.

rem

remLaer.

I pray you giue me leaue.

rem

remAl.

We will, we will.

rem

remLaer.

I thanke you: Keepe the doore.

Oh thou vilde King, giue me my Father.

rem

remQu.

Calmely good Laertes.

rem

remLaer.

That drop of blood, that calmes

Proclaimes me Bastard:

Cries Cuckold to my Father, brands the Harlot

Euen here between the chaste vnsmirched brow

Of my true Mother.

rem

remKing.

What is the cause Laertes,

That thy Rebellion lookes so Gyantlike?

Let him go Gertrude: Do not feare our person:

There's such Diuinity doth hedge a King,

That Treason can but peepe to what it would,

Acts little of his will. Tell me Laertes,

Why thou art thus Incenst? Let him go Gertrude.

Speake man.

rem

remLaer.

Where's my Father?

rem

remKing.

Dead.

rem

remQu.

But not by him.

rem

remKing.

Let him demand his fill.

rem

remLaer.

How came he dead? Ile not be Iuggel'd with.

To hell Allegance: Vowes, to the blackest diuell.

Conscience and Grace, to the profoundest Pit.

I dare Damnation: to this point I stand,

That both the worlds I giue to negligence,

Let come what comes: onely Ile be reueng'd

Most throughly for my Father.

rem

remKing.

Who shall stay you?

rem

remLaer.

My Will, not all the world,

And for, my meanes, Ile husband them so well,

They shall go farre with little.

rem

remKing.

Good Laertes:

If you desire to know the certaintie

Of your deere Fathers death, if writ in your reuenge,

That Soopstake you will draw both Friend and Foe,

Winner and Looser.

rem

remLaer.

None but his Enemies.

rem

remKing.

Will you know them then.

rem

remLa.

To his good Friends, thus wide Ile ope1my Armes:

And like the kinde Liferend'ring Politician,

Repast them with my blood.

rem

remKing.

Why now you speake

Like a good Childe, and a true Gentleman.

That I am guiltlesse of your Fathers death,1

And am most sensible in greefe for it,

It shall as leuell to your Iudgement pierce

As day do's to your eye.

A noise within.

Let her come in.

Enter Ophelia.

rem

remLaer.

How now? what noise is that?

Oh heate drie vp my Braines, teares seuen times salt,

Burne out the Sence and Vertue of mine eye.

By Heauen, thy madnesse shall be payed by waight,

Till our Scale turnes the beame. Oh Rose of May,

Deere Maid, kinde Sister, sweet Ophelia:

Oh Heauens, is't possible, a yong Maids wits,

Should be as mortall as an old mans life?

Nature is fine in Loue, and where 'tis fine,

It sends some precious instance of it selfe

After the thing it loues.

rem

remOphe.

They bore him Bare fac'd on the Beer,

Hey non nony, nony, hey nony:

And on his graue raines many a teare,

Fare you well my Doue.

rem

remLaer.

Had'st thou thy wits, and did'st perswade Re uenge, it could not moue thus.

rem

remOphe.

You must sing downe adowne, and you call him adownea. Oh, how the wheele becomes it? It is the false steward that stole his masters daughter.

rem

remLaer.

This nothings more then matter.

rem

remOphe.

There's Rosemary, that's for Remembraunce. Pray loue remember: and there is Paconcies, that's for Thoughts.

rem

remLaer.

A document in madnesse, thoughts & remem brance fitted.

rem

remOphe.

There's Fennell for you, and Columbines: ther's Rew for you, and heere's some for me. Wee may call it Herbe Grace a Sundaies: Oh you must weare your Rew with a difference. There's a Daysie, I would giue you some Violets, but they wither'd all when my Father dy ed: They say, he made a good end;

For bonny sweet Robin is all my ioy.

rem

remLaer.

Thought, and Affliction, Passion, Hell it selfe:

She turnes to Fauour, and to prettinesse.

rem

remOphe.

And will he not come againe,

And will he not come againe:

No, no, he is dead, go to thy Deathbed,

He neuer wil come againe.

His Beard as white as Snow,

All Flaxen was his Pole:

He is gone, he is gone, and we cast away mone,

Gramercy on his Soule.

And of all Christian Soules, I pray God.

God buy ye.

Exeunt Ophelia

rem

remLaer.

Do you see this, you Gods?

rem

remKing.

Laertes, I must common with your greefe,

Or you deny me right: go but apart,

*Make choice of whom your wisest Friends you will,
 And they shall heare and iudge 'twixt you and me;
 If by direct or by Colaterall hand
 They finde vs touch'd, we will our Kingdome giue,
 Our Crowne, our Life, and all that we call Ours
 To you in satisfaction. But if not,
 Be you content to lend your patience to vs,
 And we shall ioyntly labour with your soule
 To giue it due content.*

rem

remLaer.

Let this be so:

*His meanes of death, his obscure buriall;
 No Trophée, Sword, nor Hatchment o're his bones,
 No Noble rite, nor formall ostentation,
 Cry to be heard, as 'twere from Heauen to Earth,
 That I must call in question.*

rem

remKing.

So you shall:

*And where th'offence is, let the great Axe fall.
 I pray you go with me.*

Exeunt

Enter Horatio, with an Attendant.

rem

remHora.

What are they that would speake with me?

rem

remSer.

Saylors sir, they say they haue Letters for you.

rem

remHor.

Let them come in,

*I do not know from what part of the world
 I should be greeted, if not from Lord Hamlet.*

Enter Saylor.

rem

remSay.

God blesse you Sir.

rem

remHor.

Let him blesse thee too.

rem

remSay.

Hee shall Sir, and't please him. There's a Letter for you Sir: It comes from th'Ambassadors that was bound for England, if your name be Horatio, as I am let to know it is.

Reads the Letter.

*H*Oratio, *When thou shalt haue ouerlook'd this, giue these Fellowes some meanes to the King: They haue Letters For him. Ere we were two dayes old at Sea, a Pyrate of very Warlicke appointment gaue vs Chace. Finding our selues too slow of Saile, we put on a compelled Valour. In the Grapple, I boorded them: On the instant they got cleare of our Shippe, so I alone became their Prisoner. They haue dealt with mee, like Theeues of Mercy, but they knew what they did. I am to doe A good turne for them. Let the King haue the Letters I haue sent, and repaire thou to me with as much hast as thou wouldest flye death. I haue words to speake in your eare, will make thee dumbe, yet are they much too light for the bore of the Matter. These good Fellows will bring thee where I am. Rosincrance and Guildensterne, hold their course for England. Of them I haue much to tell thee, Farewell. He that thou knowest thine, Hamlet.*

*Come, I will giue you way for these your Letters,
And do't the speedier, that you may direct me
To him from whom you brought them.*

Exit.

Enter King and Laertes.

rem

remKing.

*Now must your conscience my acquittance seal,
And you must put me in your heart for Friend,
Sith you haue heard, and with a knowing eare,
That he which hath your Noble Father slaine,
Pursued my life.*

rem

remLaer.

*It well appeares. But tell me,
Why you proceeded not against these feates,
So crimefull, and so Capitall in Nature,
As by your Safety, Wisedome, all things else,
You mainly were stirr'd vp?*

rem

remKing.

O for two speciall Reasons,

*Which may to you (perhaps) seeme much vsinnowed,
 And yet to me they are strong. The Queen his Mother,
 Liues almost by his looks: and for my selfe,
 My Vertue or my Plague, be it either which,
 She's so coniunctiue to my life and soule;
 That as the starre moues not but in his Sphere,
 I could not but by her. The other Motiue,
 Why to a publike count I might not go,
 Is the great loue the generall gender beare him,
 Who dipping all his Faults in their affection,
 Would like the Spring that turneth Wood to Stone,
 Conuert his Gyues to Graces. So that my Arrowes
 Too slightly timbred for so loud a Winde,
 Would haue reuerted to my Bow againe,
 And not where I had arm'd them.*

rem

remLaer.

*And so haue I a Noble Father lost,
 A Sister driuen into desperate tearmes,
 Who was (if praises may go backe againe)
 Stood Challenger on mount of all the Age
 For her perfections. But my reuenge will come.*

rem

remKing.

*Breake not your sleepes for that,
 You must not thinke
 That we are made of stuffe, so flat, and dull,
 That we can let our Beard be shooke with danger,
 And thinke it pastime. You shortly shall heare more,
 I lou'd your Father, and we loue our Selfe,
 And that I hope will teach you to imagine*

Enter a Messenger.

How now? What Newes?

rem

remMes.

Letters my Lord from Hamlet. This to your Maiesty: this to the Queene.

rem

remKing.

From Hamlet? Who brought them?

rem

remMes.

Saylors my Lord they say, I saw them not:

They were giuen me by Claudio, he receiu'd them.

rem

remKing.

Laertes you shall heare them:

Leaue vs.

Exit Messenger

High and Mighty, you shall know I am set naked on your Kingdome. To morrow shall I begge leaue to see your Kingly Eyes. When I shall (first asking your Pardon thereunto) re count th'Occasions of my sodaine, and more strange returne. Hamlet.

What should this meane? Are all the rest come backe?

Or is it some abuse? Or no such thing?

rem

remLaer.

Know you the hand?

rem

remKin.

'Tis1 Hamlets Character, naked and in a Post script here he sayes alone: Can you aduise me?

rem

remLaer.

I'm lost in it my Lord; but let him come,

It warmes the very sicknesse in my heart,

That I shall liue and tell him to his teeth;

Thus diddest thou.

rem

remKin.

If it be so Laertes, as how should it be so:

How other wise will you be rul'd by me?

rem

remLaer.

If so you'l not o'rrerule me to a peace.

rem

remKin.

To thine owne peace: if he be now return'd,

As checking at his Voyage, and that he meanes

No more to vndertake it; I will worke him

To an exploit now ripe in my Deuice,

Vnder the which he shall not choose but fall;

And for his death no winde of blame shall breath,

But euen his Mother shall vncharge the practice,

And call it accident: Some two Monthes hence

Here was a Gentleman of Normandy,

*I'ue seene my selfe, and seru'd against the French,
 And they ran well on Horsebacke; but this Gallant
 Had witchcraft in't; he grew into his Seat,
 And to such wondrous doing brought his Horse,
 As had he beene encorps't and demyNatur'd
 With the braue Beast, so farre he past my thought,
 That I in forgery of shapes and trickes,
 Come short of what he did.*

rem

remLaer.

A Norman was't?

rem

remKin.

A Norman.

rem

remLaer.

Vpon my life Lamound.

rem

remKin.

The very same.

rem

remLaer.

*I know him well, he is the Brooch indeed,
 And Iemme of all our Nation.*

rem

remKin.

Hee mad confession of you,

And gaued you such a Masterly report,

For Art and exercise in your defence;

And for your Rapier most especially,

That he cryed out, t'would be a sight indeed,

If one could match you Sir. This report of his

Did Hamlet so envenom with his Enuy,

That he could nothing doe but wish and begge,

Your sodaine comming ore to play with him;

Now out of this.

rem

remLaer.

Why out of this, my Lord?

rem

remKin.

Laertes was your Father deare to you?

Or are you like the painting of a sorrow,

A face without a heart?

rem

remLaer.

Why aske you this?

rem

remKin.

Not that I thinke you did not loue your Father,

But that I know Loue is begun by Time:

And that I see in passages of prooffe,

Time qualifies the sparke and fire of it:

Hamlet comes backe: what would you vndertake,

To show your selfe your Fathers sonne indeed,

More then in words?

rem

remLaer.

To cut his throat i'th'Church.

rem

remKin.

No place indeed should murder Sancturize;

Reuenge should haue no bounds: but good Laertes

Will you doe this, keepe close within your Chamber,

Hamlet return'd, shall know you are come home:

Wee'l put on those shall praise your excellence,

And set a double varnish on the fame

The Frenchman gaue you, bring you in fine together,

And wager on your heads, he being remisse,

Most generous, and free from all contriuing,

Will not peruse the Foiles? So that with ease,

Or with a little shuffling, you may choose

A Sword vnbaited, and in a passe of practice,

Requit him for your Father.

rem

remLaer.

I will doo't,

And for that purpose Ile annoint my Sword:

I bought an Vnction of a Mountebanke

So mortall, I but dipt a knife in it,

Where it drawes blood, no Cataplasme so rare,

Collected from all Simples that haue Vertue

Vnder the Moone, can saue the thing from death,

That is but scratcht withall: Ile touch my point,

With this contagion that if I gall him slightly,

It may be death.

rem

remKin.

Let's further thinke of this,

Weigh what conuenience both of time and meanes

May fit vs to our shape, if this should faile;

And that our drift looke through our bad performance,

'Twere better not assaid; therefore this Project

Should haue a backe or second, that might hold,

If this should blast in prooffe: Soft, let me see

Wee'l make a solemne wager on your commings,

I ha't: when in your motion you are hot and dry,

As make your bowts more violent to the end,

And that he cals for drinke; Ile haue prepar'd him

A Chalice for the nonce; whereon but sipping,

If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck,

Our purpose may hold there; how sweet Queene.

Enter Queene.

rem

remQueen.

One woe doth tread vpon anothers heele,

So fast they'l follow: your Sister's drown'd Laertes.

rem

remLaer.

Drown'd! O where?

rem

remQueen.

There is a Willow growes aslant a Brooke,

That shewes his hore leaues in the glassie streame:

There with fantasticke Garlands did she come,

Of Crowflowers, Nettles, Daysies, and long Purples,

That liberall Shepheards giue a grosser name;

But our cold Maids doe Dead Mens Fingers call them:

There on the pendant boughes, her Coronet weeds

Clambring to hang; an enuious sliuer broke,

When downe the weedy Trophies, and her selfe,

Fell in the weeping Brooke, her cloathes spred wide,

And Mermaidlike, a while they bore her vp,

Which time she chaunted snatches of old tunes,

As one incapable of her owne distresse,

Or like a creature Natiue, and indued

*Vnto that Element: but long it could not be,
Till that her garments, heauy with her drinke,
Pul'd the poore wretch from her melodious buy,
To muddy death.*

rem

remLaer.

Alas then, is she drown'd?

rem

remQueen.

Drown'd, drown'd.

rem

remLaer.

*Too much of water hast thou poore Ophelia,
And therefore I forbid my teares: but yet
It is our tricke, Nature her custome holds,
Let shame say what it will; when these are gone
The woman will be out: Aduē my Lord.
I haue a speech of fire, that faine would blaze,
But that this folly doubts it.*

Exit.

rem

remKin.

Let's follow, Gertrude:

How much I had to doe to calme his rage?

Now feare I this will giue it start againe;

Therefore let's follow.

Exeunt.

Enter two Clownes.

rem

remClown.

Is she to bee buried in Christian buriall, that wilfully seeks her owne saluation?

rem

remOther.

I tell thee she is, and therefore make her Graue straight. the Crowner hath sate on her, and finds it Chri stian buriall.

rem

remClo.

How can that be, vnlesse she drowned her selfe in her owne defence?

rem

remOther.

Why 'tis found so.

rem

remClo.

It must be Se offendendo, it cannot bee else: for heere lies the point; If I drowne my selfe wittingly, it ar gues an Act: and an Act hath three branches. It is an Act to doe and to performe; argall she drown'd her selfe wittingly.

rem

remOther.

Nay but heare you Goodman Deluer.

rem

remClown.

Giue me leaue; heere lies the water; good: heere stands the man; good: If the man goe to this wa ter and drowne himselfe; it is will he nill he, he goes; marke you that? But if the water come to him & drowne him; hee drownes not himselfe. Argall, hee that is not guilty of his owne death, shortens not his owne life.

rem

remOther.

But is this law?

rem

remClo.

I marry is't, Crowners Quest Law.

rem

remOther.

Will you ha the truth on't: if this had not beene a Gentlewoman, shee should haue beene buried out of Christian Buriall.

rem

remClo.

Why there thou say'st. And the more pittie tha¹ great folke should haue countenance in this world to drowne or hang themselves, more then their euen Christi an. Come, my Spade; there is no ancient Gentlemen, but Gardiners, Ditchers and Grauemakers; they hold vp Adams Profession.

rem

remOther.

Was he a Gentleman?

rem

remClo.

He was the first that euer bore Armes.

rem

remOther.

Why he had none.

rem

remClo.

What, ar't a Heathen? how dost thou vnder stand the Scripture? the Scripture sayes Adam dig'd; could hee digge without Armes? Ile put another que stion to thee; if thou answerest me not to the purpose, con fesse thy selfe

rem

remOther.

Go too.

rem

remClo.

What is he that builds stronger then either the Mason, the Shipwright, or the Carpenter?

rem

remOther.

The Gallowes maker; for that Frame outliues a thousand Tenants.

rem

remClo.

I like thy wit well in good faith, the Gallowes does well; but how does it well? it does well to those that doe ill: now, thou dost ill to say the Gallowes is built stronger then the Church: Argall, the Gallowes may doe well to thee. Too't againe, Come.

rem

remOther.

Who builds stronger then a Mason, a Ship wright, or a Carpenter?

rem

remClo.

I, tell me that, and vnyoake.

rem

remOther.

Marry, now I can tell.

rem

remClo.

Too't.

rem

remOther.

Masse, I cannot tell.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio a farre off.

rem

remClo.

Cudgell thy braines no more about it; for your dull Asse will not mend his pace with beating; and when you are ask't this question next, say a Grauemaker: the Houses that he makes, lasts till Doomesday: go, get thee to Taughan, fetch me a stoupe of Liquor.

Sings.

In youth when I did loue, did loue,

me thought it was very sweete:

To contract O the time for a my behoue,

O me thought there was nothing meete.

rem

remHam.

Ha's this fellow no feeling of his businesse, that he sings at Grauemaking?

rem

remHor.

Custome hath made it in him a property of ea sinesse.

rem

remHam.

Tis ee'n so; the hand of little Imployment hath the daintier sense.

rem

remClowne

sings.

But Age with his stealing steps

hath caught me in his clutch:

And hath shipped me intill the Land,

as if I had neuer beene such.

rem

remHam.

That Scull had a tongue in it, and could sing once: how the knaue iowles it to th' grownd, as if it were Caines Iawbone, that did the first murther: It might be the Pate of a Polititian which this Asse o're Of fices: one that could circumuent God, might it not?

rem

remHor.

It might, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Or of a Courtier, which could say, Good Mor row sweet Lord: how dost thou, good Lord? this might be my Lord such a one, that prais'd my Lord such a ones Horse, when he meant to begge it; might it not?

rem

remHor.

I, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Why ee'n so: and now my Lady Wormes, Chaplesse, and knockt about the Mazard with a Sextons Spade; heere's fine Reuolution, if wee had the tricke to fee't. Did these bones cost no more the breeding, but to play at Loggets with 'em? mine ake to thinke on't.

rem

remClowne

sings.

A Pickhaxe and a Spade, a Spade.

for and a shrowdingSheete:

O a Pit of Clay for to be made,

for such a Guest is meete.

rem

remHam.

There's another: why might not that bee the Scull of of a Lawyer? where be his Quiddits now? his Quillets? his Cases? his Tenures, and his Tricks? why doe's he suffer this rude knaue now to knocke him about the Sconce with a dirty Shouell, and will not tell him of his Action of Battery? hum. This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of Land, with his statutes, his Recog nizances, his Fines, his double Vouchers, his Recoueries: Is this the fine of his Fines, and the recouery of his Reco ueries, to haue his fine Pate full of fine Dirt? will his Vouchers vouch him no more of his Purchases, and dou ble ones too, then the length and breadth of a paire of Indentures? the very Conueyances of his Lands will hardly lye in this Boxe; and must the Inheritor himselfe haue no more? ha?

rem

remHor.

Not a iot more, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

Is not Parchment made of Sheepskinnes?

rem

remHor.

I my Lord, and of Calueskinnes too.

rem

remHam.

They are Sheepe and Calues that seek out assu rance in that. I will speake to this fellow; whose Graue's this Sir?

rem

remClo.

Mine Sir:

*O a Pit of Clay for to be made,
for such a Guest is meete.*

rem

remHam.

I thinke it be thine indeed: for thou liest in't.

rem

remClo.

You lye out on't Sir, and therefore it is not yours: for my part, I doe not lye in't; and yet it is mine.

rem

remHam.

Thou dost lye in't, to be in't and say 'tis thine: 'tis for the dead, not for the quicke, therefore thou lyeest.

rem

remClo.

'Tis a quicke lye Sir, 'twill away againe from me to you.

rem

remHam.

What man dost thou digge it for?

rem

remClo.

For no man Sir.

rem

remHam.

What woman then?

rem

remClo.

For none neither.

rem

remHam.

Who is to be buried in't?

rem

remClo.

One that was a woman Sir; but rest her Soule, shee's dead.

rem

remHam.

How absolute the knaue is? wee must speake by the Carde, or equiuocation will vndoe vs: by the Lord Horatio, these three yeares I haue taken note of it, the Age is growne so picked, that the toe of the Pesant comes so neere the heeles of our Courtier, hee galls his Kibe. How long hast thou been a Grauemaker?

rem

remClo.

Of all the dayes i'th yeare, I came too't that day that our last King Hamlet o'recame Fortinbras.

rem

remHam.

How long is that since?

rem

remClo.

Cannot you tell that? euery foole can tell that: It was the very day, that young Hamlet was borne, hee that was mad, and sent into England.

rem

remHam.

I marry, why was he sent into England?

rem

remClo.

Why, because he was mad; hee shall recouer his wits there; or if he do not, it's no great matter there.

rem

remHam.

Why?

rem

remClo.

'Twill not beseene in him, there the men are as mad as he.

rem

remHam.

How came he mad?

rem

remClo.

Very strangely they say.

rem

remHam.

How strangely?

rem

remClo.

Faith e'ene with loosing his wits.

rem

remHam.

Vpon what ground?

rem

remClo.

Why heere in Denmarke: I haue bin sixeteene heere, man and Boy thirty yeares.

rem

remHam.

How long will a man lie'ith'earth ere he rot?

rem

remClo.

Ifaith, if he be not rotten before he die (as we haue many pocky Coarses now adaies, that will scarce hold the laying in) he will last you some eight yeare, or nine yeare.

A Tanner will last you nine year e.

rem

remHam.

Why he, more then another?

rem

remClo.

Why sir, his hide is so tan'd with his Trade, that he will keepe out water a great while. And your water, is a sore Decayer of your horson dead body. Heres a Scull now: this Scul, has laine in the earth three & twenty years.

rem

remHam.

Whose was it?

rem

remClo.

A whorson mad Fellowes it was; Whose doe you think it was?

rem

remHam.

Nay, I know not.

rem

remClo.

A pestlence on him for a mad Rogue, a pou'rd pour'd a Flaggon of Renish on my head once. This same Scull Sir, this same Scull sir, was Yoricks Scull, the Kings Iester.

rem

remHam.

This?

rem

remClo.

E'ene that.

rem

remHam.

Let me see. Alas poore Yorick, I knew him Ho ratio, a fellow of infinite Iest; of most excellent fancy, he hath borne me on his backe a thousand times. And how abhorred my Imagination is, my gorge rises at it. Heere hung those lipps, that I have kist I know not how oft. VVhere be your Iibes now? Your Gambals? Your Songs? Your flashes of Merriment that were wont to set the Table on a Rore? No one now to mock your own Ieering? Quite chopfalne? Now get you to my Ladies Chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thicke, to this fauour she must come. Make her laugh at that: pry thee Horatio tell me one thing.

rem

remHor.

What's that my Lord?

rem

remHam.

Dost thou thinke Alexander lookt o'this fa shion i'th'earth?

rem

remHor.

E'ene so.

rem

remHam.

And smelt so? Puh.

rem

remHor.

E'ene so, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

To what base uses we may returne Horatio. Why may not Imagination trace the Noble dust of A lexander, till he find it stopping a bunghole.

rem

remHor.

'Twere to consider: to curiously to consider so.

rem

remHam.

No faith, not a iot. But to follow him thether with modestie enough, & likelielihood to lead it; as thus. Alexander died: Alexander was buried: Alexander re turneth into dust; the dust is earth; of earth we make Lome, and why of that Lome (whereto he was conuer ted) might they not stopp a Beerebarrell?

Imperiall Csar, dead and turn'd to clay,

Might stop a hole to keepe the winde away.

Oh, that that earth, which kept the world in awe,

*Should patch a Wall, t'expell the winters flaw.
But soft, but soft, aside; heere comes the King.*

*Enter King, Queen, Laertes, and a Coffin, with Lords attendant.
The Queene, the Courtiers. Who is that they follow,
And with such maimed rites? This doth betoken,
The Coarse they follow, did with disperate hand,
Fore do it owne life; 'twas fome Estate.
Couch we a while, and mark.*

rem

remLaer.

What Cerimony else?

rem

remHam.

That is Laertes, a very Noble youth: Marke.

rem

remLaer.

What Cerimony else?

rem

remPriest.

Her Obsequies haue bin as farre inlarg'd.

*As we haue warrantis, her death was doubtfull,
And but that great Command, o'reswaies the order,
She should in ground vnsanctified haue lodg'd,
Till the last Trumpet. For charitable praier,
Shardes, Flints, and Peebles, I should be throwne on her:
Yet heere she is allowed her Virgin Rites,
Her Maiden streuments, and the bringing home
Of Bell and Buriall.*

rem

remLaer.

Must there no more be done?

rem

remPriest.

No more be done:

*We should prophane the seruice of the dead,
To sing sage Requiem, and such rest to her
As to peaceparted Soules.*

rem

remLaer.

Lay her i'th'earth,

*And from her faire and vnpolluted flesh,
May Violets spring. I tell thee (churlish Priest)*

*A Ministring Angell shall my Sister be,
When thou liest howling?*

rem

remHam.

What, the faire Ophelia?

rem

remQueene.

Sweets, to the sweet farewell.

I hop'd thou should'st haue bin my Hamlets wife:

I thought thy Bridebed to haue deckt (sweet Maid)

And not t'haue strew'd thy Graue.

rem

remLaer.

Oh terrible woer,

Fall ten times trebble, on that cursed head

Whose wicked deed, thy most Ingenious sence

Depriu'd thee of. Hold off the earth a while,

Till I haue caught her once more in mine armes:

Leaps in the graue.

Now pile your dust, vpon the quick, and dead,

Till of this flat a Mountaine you haue made,

To o're top old Pelion, or the skyish head

Of blew Olympus.

rem

remHam.

What is he, whose griefes

Beares such an Emphasis? whose phrase of Sorrow

Coniure the wandrinig Starres, and makes them stand

Like wonderwounded hearers? This is I,

Hamlet the Dane.

rem

remLaer.

The deuill take thy soule.

rem

remHam.

Thou prai'st not well,

I prythee take thy fingers from my throat;

Sir though I am not Spleenatiue, and rash,

Yet haue I fomthing in me dangerous,

Which let thy wisenesse feare. Away thy hand.

rem

remKing.

Pluck them asunder.

rem

remQu.

Hamlet, Hamlet.

rem

remGen.

Good my Lord be quiet.

rem

remHam.

Why I will fight with him vppon this Theme,

Vntill my eielids will no longer wag.

rem

remQu.

Oh my Sonne, what Theame?

rem

remHam.

I lou'd Ophelia; fortie thousand Brothers

Could not (with all there quantie of Loue)

Make vp my summe. What wilt thou do for her?

rem

remKing.

Oh he is mad Laertes,

rem

remQu.

For loue of God forbear him.

rem

remHam.

Come show me what thou'lt doe.

Woo't weepe? Woo't fight? Woo't teare thy selfe?

Woo't drinke vp Esile, eate a Crocodile?

Ile doo't. Dost thou come heere to whine;

To outface me with leaping in her Graue?

Be buried quicke with her, and so will I.

And if thou prate of Mountaines; let them throw

Millions of Akers on vs; till our ground

Sindging his pate against the burning Zone,

Make Ossa like a wart. Nay, and thoul't mouth,

Ile rant as well as thou.

rem

remKin.

This is meere Madnesse;

And thus awhile the fit will worke on him:

Anon as patient as the female Doue,

*When that her golden Cuplet are disclos'd;
His silence will sit drooping.*

rem

remHam.

Heare you Sir:

*What is the reason that you vse me thus?
I loud' lou'd you euer; but it is no matter:
Let Hercules himselfe doe what he may,
The Cat will Mew, and Dogge will haue his day.*

Exit.

rem

remKin.

*I pray you good Horatio wait vpon him,
Strengthen you patience in our last nights speech,
Wee'l put the matter to the present push:
Good Gertrude set some watch ouer your Sonne,
This Graue shall haue a liuing Monument:
An houre of quiet shortly shall we see;
Till then, in patience our proceeding be.*

Exeunt.

Enter Hamlet and Horatio.

rem

remHam.

*So much for this Sir; now let me see the other,
You doe remember all the Circumstance.*

rem

remHor.

Remember it my Lord?

rem

remHam.

*Sir, in my heart there was a kinde of fighting,
That would not let me sleepe; me thought I lay
Worse then the mutines in the Bilboes, rashly,
(And praise be rashnesse for it) let vs know,
Our indiscretion sometimes serues vs well,
When our deare plots do paule, and that should teach vs,
There's a Diuinity that shapes our ends,
Roughhew them how we will.*

rem

remHor.

That is most certaine.

rem

remHam.

Vp from my Cabin

*My seagowne scarft about me in the darke,
Grop'd I to finde out them; had my desire,
finger'd their Packet, and in fine, withdrew
To mine owne roome againe, making so bold,
(My feares forgetting manners) to vnseale
Their grand Commission, where I found Horatio,
Oh royall knauery: An exact command,
Larded with many seuerall sorts of reason;
Importing Denmarks health, and Englands too,
With hoo, such Bugges and Goblins in my life,
that on the superuize no leasure bated,
No not to stay the grinding of the Axe,
My head should be struck off.*

rem

remHor.

Ist possible?

rem

remHam.

Here's the Commission, read it at more leysure:

But wilt thou heare me how I did proceed?

rem

remHor.

I beseech you.

rem

remHem.

Being thus benetted round with Villaines,

*Ere I could make a Prologue to my braines,
They had begun the Play. I sate me downe,
Deuis'd a new Commission, wrote it faire,
I once did hold it as our Statists doe,
A basenesse to write faire; and laboured much
How to forget that learning: but Sir now,
It did me Yeomans seruice: wilt thou know
The effects of what I wrote?*

rem

remHor.

I, good my Lord.

rem

remHam.

*An earnest Coniuration from the King,
 As England was his faithfull Tributary,
 As loue betweene them, as the Palme should flourish,
 As Peace should still her wheaten Garland weare,
 And stand a Comma 'twene their amities,
 And many such like Assis of great charge,
 That on the view and know of these Contents,
 Without debatement further, more or lesse,
 He should the bearers put to sodaine death,
 Not shriuing time allow1d.*

rem

remHor.

How was this seal'd?

rem

remHam.

*Why, euen in that was Heauen ordinate;
 I had my fathers Signet in my Purse,
 Which was the Model of that Danish Seale:
 Folded the Writ vp in forme of the other,
 Subscrib'd it, gau't th'impression, plac't it safely,
 The changeling neuer knowne: Now, the next day
 Was our Sea fight, and what to this was sement,
 Thou know'st already.*

rem

remHor.

So Guildensterne and Rosincrance, go too't.

rem

remHam.

*Why man, they did make loue to this employment
 They are not neere my Conscience; their debate
 Doth by their owne insinuation grow:
 'Tis dangerous, when the baser nature comes
 Betweene the passe, and fell incensed points
 Of mighty opposites.*

rem

remHor.

Why, what a King is this?

rem

remHam.

*Does it not, thinkst thee, stand me now vpon
 He that hath kil'd my King, and whor'd my Mother,
 Pop t in betweene th'election and my hopes,*

*Throwne out his Angle for my proper life,
And with such coozenage; is't not perfect conscience,
To quit him with this arme? And is't not to be damn'd
To let this Canker of our nature come
In further euill.*

rem

remHor.

It must be shortly knowne to him from England

What is the issue of the businesse there.

rem

remHam.

It will be short,

The interim's mine, and a mans life's no more

Then to say one: but I am very sorry good Horatio,

That to Laertes I forgot my selfe;

For by the image of my Cause, I see

The Portraiture of his; Ile count his fauours:

But sure the brauery of his grieffe did put me

Into a Towing passion.

rem

remHor.

Peace, who comes heere?

Enter young Osricke.

rem

remOsr.

Your Lordship is right welcome back to Den (marke.

rem

remHam.

I humbly thank you Sir, dost know this waterflie?

rem

remHor.

No my good Lord.

rem

remHam.

*Thy state is the more gracious; for'tis a vice to know him: he hath much Land, and
fertile; let a Beast be Lord of Beasts, and his Crib shall stand at the Kings Messe;
'tis a Chough; but as I saw spacious in the pos session of dirt.*

rem

remOsr.

*Sweet Lord, if your friendship were at leysure, I should impart a thing to you from
his Maiesty.*

rem

remHam.

I will receiue it with all diligence of spirit; put your Bonet to his right use, 'tis for the head.

rem

remOsr.

I thanke your Lordship, 'tis very hot.

rem

remHam.

No, beleue mee 'tis very cold, the winde is Northerly.

rem

remOsr.

It is indifferent cold my Lord indeed.

rem

remHam.

Mee thinkes it is very soultry, and hot for my Complexion.

rem

remOsr.

Exceedingly, my Lord, it is very soutry, as 'twere I cannot tell how: but my Lord, his Maiesty bad me sig- nifie to you, that he ha's laid a great wager on your head: Sir, this is the matter.

rem

remHam.

I beseech you remember.

rem

remOsr.

Nay, in good faith, for mine ease in good faith: Sir, you are not ignorant of what excellence Laerles is at his weapon.

rem

remHam.

What's his weapon?

rem

remOsr.

Rapier and dagger.

rem

remHam.

That's two of his weapons; but well.

rem

remOsr.

The sir King ha's wag'd with him six Barbary Hor ses, against the which he impon'd as I take it, sixe French Rapiers and Poniards, with their assignes, as Girdle, Hang- ers or so; three of the Carriages infaith are very deare to fancy, very responsiue to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberall conceit.

rem

remHam.

What call you the Carriages?

rem

remOsr.

The Carriages Sir, are the hangers.

rem

remHam.

The phrase would bee more Germaine to the matter: If we could carry Cannon by our sides; I would it might be Hangers till then; but on sixe Barbary Hor ses against sixe French Swords: their Assignes, and three liberall conceited Carriages, that's the French but a gainst the Danish; why is this impon'd as you call it?

rem

remOsr.

The King Sir, bath laid that in a dozen passes be tweene you and him, hee shall not exceed you three hits; He hath one twelue for mine, and that would come to imediate tryall, if your Lordship would vouchsafe the Answer.

rem

remHam.

How if I answer no?

rem

remOsr.

I meane my Lord, the opposition of your person in tryall.

rem

remHam.

Sir, I will walke heere in the Hall; if it please his Maiestie, 'tis the breathing time of day with me; let the Foyles bee brought, the Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose; I will win for him if I can: if not, Ile gaine nothing but my shame, and the odde hits.

rem

remOsr.

Shall I redeliuer you ee'n so?

rem

remHam.

To this effect Sir, after what flourish your nature will.

rem

remOsr.

I commend my duty to your Lordship.

rem

remHam.

Yours, yours; hee does well to commend it himselfe, there are no tongues else for's tongue.

rem

remHor.

This Lapwing runs away with the shell on his head.

rem

remHam.

He did Complie with his Dugge before hee suck't it: thus had he and mine more of the same Beauty that I know the drossie age dotes on; only got the tune of the time, and outward habite of encounter, a kinde of yesty collection, which carries them through & through the most fond and winnowed opinions; and doe but blow them to their tryalls: the Bubbles are out.

rem

remHor.

You will lose this wager, my Lord.

rem

remHam.

I doe not thinke so, since he went into France, I haue beene in continuall practice; I shall winne at the oddes: but thou wouldest not thinke how all heere a bout my heart: but it is no matter.

rem

remHor.

Nay, good my Lord.

rem

remHam.

It is but foolery; but it is such a kinde of gaingiuing as would perhaps trouble a woman.

rem

remHor.

If your minde dislike any thing, obey. I will fore stall their repaire hither, and say you are not fit.

rem

remHam.

Not a whit, we defie Augury; there's a speciall Prouidence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come: if it bee not come, it will bee now: if it be not now; yet it will come; the readinesse is all, since no man ha's ought of what he leaues. What is't to leaue be times?

Enter King, Queene, Laertes and Lords, with other Atten dants with Foyles, and Gauntlets, a Table and Flagons of Wine on it.

rem

remKin.

Come Hamlet, come, and take this hand from me.

rem

remHam.

*Giue me your pardon Sir, I'ue done you wrong,
But pardon't as you are a Gentleman.*

This presence knowes,

And you must needs haue heard how I am punisht

With sore distraction? What I haue done

That might your nature honour, and exception

Roughly awake, I heere proclaime was madnesse:

Was't Hamlet wrong'd Laertes? Neuer Hamlet.

If Hamlet from himselfe be tane away:

And when he's not himselfe, do's wrong Laertes,

Then Hamlet does it not, Hamlet denies it:

Who does it then? His Madnesse? If't be so,

*Hamlet is of the Faction that is wrong'd,
His madnesse is poore Hamlets Enemy.
Sir, in this Audience,
Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd euill,
Free me so farre in your most generous thoughts,
That I haue shot mine Arrow o're the house,
And hurt my Mother.*

rem

remLaer.

*Iam satisfied in Nature,
Whose motiue in this case should stirre me most
To my Reuenge. But in my termes of Honor
I stand aloofe, and will no reconcilement,
Till by some elder Masters of knowne Honor,
I haue a voyce, and president of peace
To keepe my name vngorg'd. But till that time,
I do receiue your offer'd loue like loue,
And wil not wrong it.*

rem

remHam.

*I do embrace it freely,
And will this Brothers wager frankely play.
Giue vs the Foyles: Come on.*

rem

remLaer.

Come one for me.

rem

remHam.

*Ile be your foile Laertes, in mine ignorance,
Your Skill shall like a starre i'th'darkest night,
Sticke fiery off indeede.*

rem

remLaer.

You mocke me Sir.

rem

remHam.

No by this hand.

rem

remKing.

*Giue them the Foyles yong Osricke,
Cousen Hamlet, you know the wager.*

rem

remHam.

Verie well my Lord,
Your Grace hath laide the oddes a'th'weaker side.
 rem
 remKing.

I do not feare it,
I haue seene you both:
But since he is better'd, we haue therefore oddes.
 rem
 remLaer.

This is too heauy,
Let me see another.
 rem
 remHam.

This likes me well,
These Foyles haue all a length.

Prepare to play.

rem
 remOsricke.
I my good Lord.
 rem
 remKing.
Set me the Stopes of wine vpon that Table:
If Hamlet giue the first, or second hit,
Or quit in answer of the third exchange,
Let all the Battlements their Ordinance fire,
The King shal drinke to Hamlets better breath,
And in the Cup an vnion shal he throw
Richer then that, which foure successiue Kings
In Denmarkes Crowne haue worne.
Giue me the Cups,
And let the Kettle to the Trumpets speake,
The Trumpet to the Cannoneer without,
The Cannons to the Heauens, the Heauen to Earth,
Now the King drinkes to Hamlet. Come, begin,
And you the Iudges beare a wary eye.

rem
 remHam.
Come on sir.
 rem
 remLaer.
Come on sir.

They play.

rem

remHam.

One.

rem

remLaer.

No.

rem

remHam.

Iudgement.

rem

remOsr.

A hit, a very palpable hit.

rem

remLaer.

Well: againe.

rem

remKing.

Stay, giue me drinke.

Hamlet, this Pearle is thine,

Here's to thy health. Giue him the cup.

Trumpets sound, and shot goes off.

rem

remHam.

Ile play this bout first, set by awhile.

Come: Another hit; what say you?

rem

remLaer.

A touch, a touch, I do confesse.

rem

remKing.

Our Sonne shall win.

rem

remQu.

He's fat, and scant of breath.

Heere's a Napkin, rub thy browes,

The Queene Carowes to thy fortune, Hamlet.

rem

remHam.

Good Madam.

rem

remKing.

Gertrude, do not drinke.

rem

remQu.

I will my Lord;

I pray you pardon me.

rem
remKing.

It is the poyson'd Cup, it is too late.

rem
remHam.

I dare not drinke yet Madam,

By and by.

rem
remQu.

Come, let me wipe thy face.

rem
remLaer.

My Lord, Ile hit him now.

rem
remKing.

I do not thinke't.

rem
remLaer.

And yet 'tis almost 'gainst my conscience.

rem
remHam.

Come, for the third.

Laertes, you but dally,

I pray you passe with your best violence,

I am affear'd you make a wanton of me.

rem
remLaer.

Say you so? Come on.

Play.

rem
remOsr.

Nothing neither way.

rem
remLaer.

Haue at you now.

In scuffling they change Rapiers.

rem
remKing.

Part them, they are incens'd.

rem
remHam.

Nay come, againe.

rem
remOsr.

Looke to the Queene there hoa.

rem

remHor.

They bleed on both sides. How is't my Lord?

rem

remOsr.

How is't Laertes?

rem

remLaer.

Why as a Woodcocke

To mine Sprindge, Osricke,

I am iustly kill'd with mine owne Treacherie.

rem

remHam.

How does the Queene?

rem

remKing.

She sounds to see them bleede.

rem

remQu.

No, no, the drinke, the drinke.

Oh my deere Hamlet, the drinke, the drinke,

I am poyson'd.

rem

remHam.

Oh Villany! How? Let the doore be lock'd.

Treacherie, seeke it out.

rem

remLaer.

it is heere Hamlet.

Hamlet, thou art slaine,

No Medicine in the world can do thee good.

In thee, there is not halfe an houre of life;

The Treacherous Instrument is in thy hand,

Vnbated and envenom'd: the foule practise

Hath turn'd it selfe on me. Loe, heere I lye,

Neuer to rise againe: Thy Mothers poyson'd:

I can no more, the King, the King's too blame.

rem

remHam.

The point envenom'd too,

Then venome to thy worke.

Hurts the King.

rem

remAll.

Treason, Treason.

rem

remKing.

O yet defend me Friends, I am but hurt.

rem

remHam.

*Heere thou incestuous, murtherous, Damned Dane,
Drinke off this Potion: Is thy Vnion heere?
Follow my Mother.*

King Dyes.

rem

remLaer.

He is iustly seru'd.

*It is a poyson temp'ed by himselfe:
Exchange forgiuenesse with me, Noble Hamlet;
Mine and ray Fathers death come not vpon thee,
Nor thine on me.*

Dyes.

rem

remHam.

Heauen make thee free of it, I follow thee.

*I am dead Horatio, wretched Queene adiew,
You that looke pale, and tremble at this chance,
That are but Mutes or audience to this acte:
Had I but time (as this fell Sergeant death
Is strick'd in his Arrest) oh I could tell you.
But let it be: Horatio, I am dead,
Thou liu'st, report me and my causes right
To the vnsatisfied.*

rem

remHor.

Neuer beleeeue it.

*I am more an Antike Roman then a Dane:
Heere's yet some Liquor left.*

rem

remHam.

As th'art a man, giue me the Cup.

*Let go, by Heauen Ile haue't.
Oh good Horatio, what a wounded name,
(Things standing thus vnknowne) shall liue behind me.*

*If thou did'st euer hold me in thy heart,
Absent thee from felicitie a while,
And in this harsh world draw thy breath in paine,
To tell my Storie.*

March afarre off, and shout within.

What warlike noyse is this?

Enter Osricke.

rem

remOsr.

*Yong Fortinbras, with conquest come from⁵ Poland
To th'Ambassadors of England giues this warlike volly.*

rem

remHam.

O I dye Horatio:

*The potent poyson quite orecrowes my spirit,
I cannot liue to heare the Newes from England,'
But I do prophesie th'election lights
On Fortinbras, he ha's my dying voyce,
So tell him with the occurrents more and lesse,
Which haue solicited. The rest is silence, O, o, o, o.*

Dyes

rem

remHora.

Now cracke a Noble heart:

*Goodnight sweet Prince,
And flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest,
Why do's the Drumme come hither?*

Enter Fortinbras and English Ambassador, with Drumme, Colours, and Attendants.

rem

remFortin.

Where is this sight?

rem

remHor.

What is it ye would see;

If ought of woe, or wonder, cease your search.

rem

remFor.

His quarry cries on hauocke. Oh proud death,

⁵fr

*What feast is toward in thine eternall Cell.
That thou so many Princes, at a shoote,
So bloodily hast strooke.*

rem

remAmb.

*The sight is dismall,
And our affaires from England come too late,
The eares are senselesse that should giue vs hearing,
To tell him his command'ment is fulfill'd,
That Rosincrance and Guildensterne are dead:
Where should we haue our thanks?*

rem

remHor.

*Not from his mouth,
Had it th'abilitie of life to thanke you:
He neuer gaue command'ment for their death.
But since so iumpe vpon this bloodie question,
You from the Polake warres, and you from England
Are heere arriued. Giue order that these bodies
High on a stage be placed to the view,
And let me spcake to th'yet vnknowing world,
How these things came about. So shall you heare
Of carnall, bloudie, and vnnaturall acts,
Of accidentall iudgements, casuall slaughters
Of death's put on by cunning, and forc'd cause,
And in this vp shot, purposes mistooke,
Falne on the Inuentors heads. All this can I
Truly deliuer.*

rem

remFor.

*Let vs hast to heare it,
And call the Noblest to the Audience.
For me, with sorrow, I embrace my Fortune,
I haue some Rites of memory in this Kingdome,
Which are ro to claime, my vantage doth
Inuite me,*

rem

remHor.

*Of that I shall haue alwayes cause to speake,
And from his mouth
Whose voyce will draw on more:*

*But let this same be presently perform'd,
Euen whiles mens mindes are wilde,
Lest more mischance
On plots, and errors happen.*

rem

remFor.

Let foure Captaines

*Beare Hamlet like a Soldier to the stage,
For he was likely, had he beene put on
To haue prou'd most royally:
And for his passage,
The Souldiours Musicke, and the rites of Warre
Speake lowdly for him.
Take vp the body; Such a fight as this
Becomes the field, but heere shewes much amis.
Go, bid the Souldiers shoote.*

Exeunt Marching: after the which, a Peale of Ordenance are shot off.

FINIS.