

THE
Tragicall Historie of
HAMLET

Prince of Denmarke

By William Shake-speare.

As it hath beene diuerse times acted by his Highnesse ser-
uants in the Cittie of London: as also in the two V-
niuersities of Cambridge and Oxford, and else-where

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1 SCENE 1

2
3
4 *Enter two Sentinels [First Sentinel and Barnardo].*

5
6 FIRST SENTINEL
7 Stand: who is that?

8
9 BARNARDO
10 'Tis I.

11
12 FIRST SENTINEL
13 O you come most carefully upon your watch.

14
15 BARNARDO
16 And if you meet Marcellus and Horatio,
17 The partners of my watch, bid them make haste.

18
19 FIRST SENTINEL
20 I will: See who goes there.

21
22
23 *Enter Horatio and Marcellus.*

24
25 HORATIO
26 Friends to this ground.

27
28 MARCELLUS
29 And liegemen to the Dane,
30 O farewell honest soldier, who hath relieved you?

31
32 FIRST SENTINEL
33 Barnardo hath my place, give you good night.

34
35 *[Exit.]*

36
37 MARCELLUS
38 Holla, Barnardo!

39
40 BARNARDO
41 Say, is Horatio there?

42
43
44

45 HORATIO
46 A piece of him.
47
48 BARNARDO
49 Welcome Horatio, welcome good Marcellus.
50
51 MARCELLUS
52 What hath this thing appeared again tonight?
53
54 BARNARDO
55 I have seen nothing.
56
57 MARCELLUS
58 Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy,
59 And will not let belief take hold of him,
60 Touching this dreaded sight twice seen by us,
61 Therefore I have entreated him along with us
62 To watch the minutes of this night,
63 That if again this apparition come,
64 He may approve our eyes, and speak to it.
65
66
67 HORATIO
68 Tut, 'twill not appear.
69
70 BARNARDO
71 Sit down I pray, and let us once again
72 Assail your ears that are so fortified,
73 What we have two nights seen.
74
75 HORATIO
76 Well, sit we down, and let us hear Barnardo speak of this.
77
78 BARNARDO
79 Last night of all, when yonder star that's westward from the pole, had made his course to
80 illumine that part of heaven. Where now it burns,
81 The bell then tolling one--
82
83
84 *Enter Ghost.*
85
86 MARCELLUS
87 Break off your talk, see where it comes again.
88

89 BARNARDO
90 In the same figure like the King that's dead.
91
92 MARCELLUS
93 Thou art a scholar, speak to it Horatio.
94
95 BARNARDO
96 Looks it not like the King?
97
98 HORATIO
99 Most like. it horrors me with fear and wonder.
100
101 BARNARDO
102 It would be spoke to.
103
104 MARCELLUS
105 Question it Horatio.
106
107
108 HORATIO
109 What art thou that thus usurps the state, in
110 Which the majesty of buried Denmark did sometimes
111 Walk? By heaven I charge thee speak.
112
113 MARCELLUS
114 It is offended.
115
116 *Exit Ghost.*
117
118 BARNARDO
119 See, it stalks away.
120
121 HORATIO
122 Stay, speak, speak, by heaven I charge thee speak.
123
124 MARCELLUS
125 'Tis gone and makes no answer.
126
127 BARNARDO
128 How now Horatio, you tremble and look pale,
129 Is not this something more than fantasy?
130 What think you on't?
131
132

133
134 HORATIO
135 Afore my God, I might not this believe, without the sensible and true avouch of my own
136 eyes.
137
138 MARCELLUS
139 Is it not like the King?
140
141 HORATIO
142 As thou art to thyself,
143 Such was the very armor he had on,
144 When he the ambitious Norway combated.
145 So frowned he once, when in an angry parle
146 He smote the sledded Polacks on the ice,
147 'Tis strange.
148
149 MARCELLUS
150 Thus twice before, and jump at this dead hour,
151 With martial stalk he passèd through our watch.
152
153
154 HORATIO
155 In what particular to work, I know not,
156 But in the thought and scope of my opinion
157 This bodes some strange eruption to the state.
158
159 MARCELLUS
160 Good, now sit down, and tell me, he that knows
161 Why this same strict and most observant watch,
162 So nightly toils the subject of the land,
163 And why such daily cost of brazen cannon
164 And foreign mart for implements of war,
165 Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore task
166 Does not divide the Sunday from the week:
167 What might be toward that this sweaty march
168 Doth make the night joint laborer with the day,
169 Who is't that can inform me?
170
171 HORATIO
172 Marry, that can I, at least the whisper goes so,
173 Our late King, who as you know was by
174 Fortenbrasse of Norway,
175 Thereto pricked on by a most emulous cause, dared to
176

177 The combat, in which our valiant Hamlet,
178 For so this side of our known world esteemed him,
179 Did slay this Fortenbrasse,
180 Who by a seale[d] compact well ratified, by law
181 And heraldry, did forfeit with his life all those
182 His lands which he stood seized of by the conqueror,
183 Against the which a moiety competent
184 Was gagèd by our King:
185 Now sir, young Fortenbrasse,
186 Of inapprovèd mettle hot and full,
187 Hath in the skirts of Norway here and there
188 Sharked up a sight of lawless resolute
189 For food and diet to some enterprise,
190 That hath a stomach in't: and this (I take it) is the
191 Chief head and ground of this our watch.
192

193 *Enter the Ghost.*
194

195
196 But lo, behold, see where it comes again,
197 I'll cross it, though it blast me: stay illusion,
198 If there be any good thing to be done,
199 That may do ease to thee, and grace to me,
200 Speak to me.
201 If thou are privy to thy country's fate,
202 Which happ'ly foreknowing may prevent, o speak to me,
203 Or if thou hast extorted in thy life,
204 Or hoarded treasure in the womb of earth,
205 For which they say you spirits oft walk in death, speak
206 to me, stay and speak, speak, stop it, Marcellus.
207

208 BARNARDO
209 'Tis here.
210

211 *Exit Ghost.*
212

213 HORATIO
214 'Tis here.
215

216 MARCELLUS
217 'Tis gone, O we do it wrong, being so majestical,
218 To offer it the show of violence,
219 For it is as the air invulnerable,
220

221 And our vain blows malicious mockery.
222 BARNARDO
223 It was about to speak when the cock crew.
224
225 HORATIO
226 And then it faded like a guilty thing,
227 Upon a fearful summons: I have heard
228 The cock, that is the trumpet to the morning,
229 Doth with his early and shrill crowing throat,
230 Awake the god of day, and at his sound,
231 Whether in earth or air, in sea or fire,
232 The stravagant and erring spirit hies
233 To his confines, and of the truth hereof
234 This present object made probation.
235
236 MARCELLUS
237 It faded on the crowing of the cock,
238 Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes,
239 Wherein our Savior's birth is celebrated,
240 The bird of dawning singeth all night long,
241 And then they say, no spirit dare walk abroad,
242 The nights are wholesome, then no planet strikes,
243 No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
244 So gracious, and so hallowed is that time.
245
246
247 HORATIO
248 So have I heard, and do in part believe it:
249 But see the sun in russet mantle clad,
250 Walks o'er the dew of yon high mountain top,
251 Break we our watch up, and, by my advice,
252 Let us impart what we have seen tonight
253 Unto young Hamlet: for upon my life
254 This spirit dumb to us will speak to him:
255 Do you consent, we shall acquaint him with it,
256 As needful in our love, fitting our duty?
257
258 MARCELLUS
259 Let's do't I pray, and I this morning know,
260 Where we shall find him most conveniently.
261
262
263 *[Exeunt.]*
264

265
266 SCENE 2

267
268 *Enter King, Queen, Hamlet, Leartes, Corambis, and the two Ambassadors, with*
269 *Attendants.*
270

271 KING
272 Lords, we here have writ to Fortenbrasse,
273 Nephew to old Norway, who impotent
274 And bed-rid, scarcely hears of this his
275 Nephew's purpose: and we here dispatch
276 Young good Cornelia, and you, Voltemar
277 For bearers of these greetings to old
278 Norway, giving to you no further personal power
279 To business with the King,
280 Than those related articles do show:
281 Farewell, and let your haste commend your duty.
282
283

284 GENTLEMEN [Cornelia and Voltemar]
285 In this and all things will we show our duty.
286

287 KING
288 We doubt nothing, Heartily farewell:
289 *[Exeunt Cornelia and Voltemar.]*
290 And now Leartes what's the news with you?
291 You said you had a suit what is't, Leartes?
292

293 LEARTES
294 My gracious lord, your favorable license,
295 Now that the funeral rites are all performed,
296 I may have leave to go again to France;
297 For though the favor of your grace might stay me,
298 Yet something is there whispers in my heart,
299 Which makes my mind and spirits bend all for France.
300

301 KING
302 Have you your father's leave, Leartes?
303

304 CORAMBIS
305 He hath, my lord, wrung from me a forced grant,
306 And I beseech you grant your highness' leave.
307
308

309 KING
310 With all our heart, Leartes fare thee well.
311
312 LEARTES
313 I in all love and duty take my leave.
314 *Exit.*
315
316 KING
317 And now princely son Hamlet,
318 What means these sad and melancholy moods?
319 For your intent going to Wittenberg,
320 We hold it most unmeet and inconvenient,
321 Being the joy and half heart of your mother.
322 Therefore let me entreat you stay in court,
323 All Denmark's hope our cousin and dearest son.
324
325 HAMLET
326 My lord, 'tis not the sable suit I wear:
327 No nor the tears that still stand in my eyes,
328 Nor the distracted havior in the visage,
329 Nor all together mixed with outward semblance,
330 Is equal to the sorrow of my heart.
331 Him have I lost I must of force forgo;
332 These but the ornaments and suits of woe.
333
334
335 KING
336 This shows a loving care in you, son Hamlet,
337 But you must think your father lost a father,
338 That father dead, lost his, and so shall be until the
339 General ending. Therefore cease laments.
340 It is a fault 'gainst heaven, fault 'gainst the dead,
341 A fault 'gainst nature, and in reason's
342 Common course most certain,
343 None lives on earth, but he is born to die.
344
345
346 QUEEN
347 Let not thy mother lose her prayers Hamlet.
348 Stay here with us, go not to Wittenberg.
349
350 HAMLET
351 I shall in all my best obey you madam.
352

353 KING
354 Spoke like a kind and a most loving son,
355 And there's no health the King shall drink today,
356 But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell
357 The rouse the King shall drink unto Prince Hamlet.

358
359 *Exeunt all but Hamlet.*

360
361 HAMLET
362 O that this too much grieved and sallied flesh
363 Would melt to nothing, or that the universal
364 Globe of heaven would turn all to a chaos!
365 O God within two months; no not two: married,
366 Mine uncle: O let me not think of it,
367 My father's brother: but no more like
368 My father, than I to Hercules.
369 Within two months, ere yet the salt of most
370 Unrighteous tears had left their flushing
371 In her gallèd eyes: she married, O God, a beast
372 Devoid of reason would not have made
373 Such speed: Frailty, thy name is Woman,
374 Why, she would hang on him, as if increase
375 Of appetite had grown by what it looked on.
376 O wicked wicked speed, to make such
377 Dexterity to incestuous sheets,
378 Ere yet the shoes were old,
379 The which she followed my dead father's corse
380 Like Niobe, all tears: married, well it is not,
381 Nor it cannot come to good:
382 But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

383
384
385 *Enter Horatio and Marcellus [and Barnardo].*

386
387
388 HORATIO
389 Health to your lordship!

390
391 HAMLET
392 I am very glad to see you, (Horatio) or I much
393 forget myself.

394
395 HORATIO
396 The same my lord and your poor servant ever.

397
398 HAMLET
399 O my good friend, I change that name with you:
400 But what make you from Wittenberg Horatio?
401 Marcellus.
402
403 MARCELLUS
404 My good lord.
405
406 HAMLET
407 I am very glad to see you, good even sirs:
408 But what is your affair in Elsinor?
409 We'll teach you to drink deep ere you depart.
410
411 HORATIO
412 A truant disposition, my good lord.
413
414 HAMLET
415 Nor shall you make me truster
416 Of your own report against yourself:
417 Sir, I know you are no truant:
418 But what is your affair in Elsinor?
419
420
421 HORATIO
422 My good lord, I came to see your father's funeral.
423
424 HAMLET
425 O I prithee do not mock me fellow student,
426 I think it was to see my mother's wedding.
427
428 HORATIO
429 Indeed my lord, it followed hard upon.
430
431 HAMLET
432 Thrift, thrift, Horatio, the funeral baked meats
433 Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables,
434 Would I had met my dearest foe in heaven
435 Ere ever I had seen that day Horatio;
436 O my father, my father, methinks I see my father.
437
438
439 HORATIO
440 Where, my lord?

441
442 HAMLET
443 Why, in my mind's eye Horatio.
444
445 HORATIO
446 I saw him once, he was a gallant king.
447
448 HAMLET
449 He was a man, take him for all in all,
450 I shall not look upon his like again.
451
452 HORATIO
453 My lord, I think I saw him yesternight,
454
455 HAMLET
456 Saw, who?
457
458 HORATIO
459 My lord, the King your father.
460
461 HAMLET
462 Ha, ha, the King my father kee you?
463
464
465 HORATIO
466 Ceasen your admiration for a while
467 With an attentive ear, till I may deliver,
468 Upon the witness of these gentlemen,
469 This wonder to you.
470
471 HAMLET
472 For God's love let me hear it.
473
474 HORATIO
475 Two nights together had these gentlemen,
476 Marcellus and Barnardo, on their watch,
477 In the dead vast and middle of the night.
478 Been thus encountered by a figure like your father,
479 Armed to point, exactly cap-à-pie,
480 Appears before them thrice, he walks
481 Before their weak and fear-oppressèd eyes
482 Within his truncheon's length,
483 While they distilled almost to jelly.
484

485 With the act of fear stands dumb,
486 And speak not to him: this to me
487 In dreadful secrecy impart they did.
488 And I with them the third night kept the watch,
489 Where as they had delivered form of the thing.
490 Each part made true and good,
491 The apparition comes: I knew your father,
492 These hands are not more like.

494 HAMLET
495 'Tis very strange.

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

502 HAMLET
503 Where was this?

506 MARCELLUS
507 My lord, upon the platform where we watched.

509 HAMLET
510 Did you not speak to it?

512 HORATIO
513 My lord we did, but answer made it none,
514 Yet once methought it was about to speak,
515 And lifted up his head to motion,
516 Like as he would speak, but even then
517 The morning cock crew loud, and in all haste
518 It shrunk in haste away, and vanished
519 Our sight.

521 HAMLET
522 Indeed, indeed sirs, but this troubles me:
523 Hold you the watch tonight?

526 ALL
527 We do, my lord.

528

529 HAMLET
530 Armed say ye?
531
532 ALL
533 Armed my good lord.
534
535 HAMLET
536 From top to toe?
537
538 ALL
539 My good lord, from head to foot.
540
541 HAMLET
542 Why then saw you not his face?
543
544 HORATIO
545 Oh yes my lord, he wore his beaver up.
546
547
548 HAMLET
549 How looked he, frowningly?
550
551 HORATIO
552 A countenance more in sorrow than in anger.
553
554 HAMLET
555 Pale, or red?
556
557 HORATIO
558 Nay, very pale.
559
560 HAMLET
561 And fixed his eyes upon you?
562
563 HORATIO
564 Most constantly.
565
566 HAMLET
567 I would I had been there.
568
569
570 HORATIO
571 It would 'a' much amazed you.
572

573
574 HAMLET
575 Yea very like, very like, stayed it long?
576
577 HORATIO
578 While one with moderate pace
579 Might tell a hundred.
580
581 MARCELLUS
582 O longer, longer.
583
584 HAMLET
585 His beard was grizzled, no.
586
587 HORATIO
588 It was as I have seen it in his life,
589 A sable silver.
590
591
592 HAMLET
593 I will watch tonight, perchance 'twill walk again.
594
595 HORATIO
596 I warrant it will.
597
598 HAMLET
599 If it assume my noble father's person,
600 I'll speak to it, if hell itself should gape,
601 And bid me hold my peace, Gentlemen,
602 If you have hither concealed this sight,
603 Let it be tenable in your silence still,
604 And whatsoever else shall chance tonight,
605 Give it an understanding but no tongue.
606 I will requite your loves, so fare you well,
607 Upon the platform, 'twixt eleven and twelve,
608 I'll visit you.
609
610
611 ALL
612 Our duties to your honor.
613
614 *Exeunt [all but Hamlet].*
615
616

617 HAMLET
618 O your loves, your loves, as mine to you,
619 Farewell, my father's spirit in arms,
620 Well, all's not well. I doubt some foul play,
621 Would the night were come,
622 Till then, sit still my soul, foul deeds will rise
623 Though all the world o'erwhelm them to men's eyes.
624 *Exit.*

625
626 SCENE 3

627
628 *Enter Learthes and Ofelia.*
629

630 LEARTES
631 My necessaries are inbarked, I must aboard,
632 But ere I part, mark what I say to thee:
633 I see Prince Hamlet makes a show of love
634 Beware Ofelia, do not trust his vows,
635 Perhaps he loves you now, and now his tongue,
636 Speaks from his heart, but yet take heed my sister,
637 The chariest maid is prodigal enough
638 If she unmask her beauty to the moon.
639 Virtue itself scapes not calumnious thoughts,
640 Believe't Ofelia, Therefore keep aloof
641 Lest that he trip thy honor and thy fame.

642
643 OFELIA
644 Brother, to this I have lent attentive ear,
645 And doubt not but to keep my honor firm,
646 But my dear brother, do not you
647 Like to a cunning sophister,
648 Teach me the path and ready way to heaven,
649 While you forgetting what is said to me,
650 Yourself, like to a careless libertine
651 Doth give his heart, his appetite at full,
652 And little recks how that his honor dies.

653
654 LEARTES
655 No, fear it not my dear Ofelia,
656 Here comes my father, occasion smiles upon a second leave.

657
658
659
660 *Enter Corambis.*

661
662
663 CORAMBIS
664 Yet here Leartes? Aboard, aboard, for shame,
665 The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,
666 And you are stayed for, there my blessing with thee
667 And these few precepts in thy memory.
668 "Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar;
669 "Those friends thou hast, and their adoptions tried,
670 "Grapple them to thee with a hoop of steel,
671 "But do not dull the palm with entertain,
672 "Of every new unfledged courage,
673 "Beware of entrance into a quarrel, but being in,
674 "Bear it that the opposèd may beware of thee,
675 "Costly thy apparel, as thy purse can buy.
676 "But not expressed in fashion,
677 "For the apparel oft proclaims the man.
678 And they of France of the chief rank and station
679 Are of a most select and general chief in that:
680 "This above all, to thy own self be true,
681 And it must follow as the night the day,
682 Thou canst not then be false to any one.
683 Farewell, my blessing with thee!
684
685
686 LEARTES
687 I humbly take my leave, farewell Ofelia,
688 And remember well what I have said to you.
689 *Exit.*
690
691 OFELIA
692 It is already locked within my heart,
693 And you yourself shall keep the key of it.
694
695 CORAMBIS
696 What is't Ofelia he hath said to you?
697
698 OFELIA
699 Something touching the prince Hamlet.
700
701
702 CORAMBIS
703 Mary well thought on, 'Tis given me to understand,
704 That you have been too prodigal of your maiden presence

705 Unto Prince Hamlet. If it be so,
706 As so 'tis given to me, and that in way of caution
707 I must tell you; you do not understand yourself
708 So well as befits my honor, and your credit.
709
710 OFELIA
711 My lord, he hath made many tenders of his love to me.
712
713 CORAMBIS
714 Tenders, ay, ay, tenders you may call them.
715
716 OFELIA
717 And withal such earnest vows.
718
719 CORAMBIS
720 Springes to catch woodcocks.
721 What, do not I know when the blood doth burn,
722 How prodigal the tongue lends the heart vows,
723 In brief, be more scanter of your maiden presence,
724 Or tend'ring thus you'll tender me a fool.
725
726
727 OFELIA
728 I shall obey my lord in all I may.
729
730 CORAMBIS
731 Ofelia, receive none of his letters,
732 "For lovers' lines are snares to entrap the heart;
733 "Refuse his tokens, both of them are keys
734 To unlock chastity unto desire;
735 Come in Ofelia, such men often prove
736 "Great in their words, but little in their love.
737
738 OFELIA
739 I will my lord.
740
741
742 *Exeunt.*
743
744 SCENE 4
745
746 *Enter Hamlet, Horatio, and Marcellus.*
747
748 HAMLET

749 The air bites shrewd; it is an eager and
750 A nipping wind. What hour is't?
751
752 HORATIO
753 I think it lacks of twelve.
754 *Sound Trumpets.*
755
756 MARCELLUS
757 No, 'tis struck.
758
759 HORATIO
760 Indeed I heard it not, what doth this mean my lord?
761
762 HAMLET
763 O the King doth wake tonight, and takes his rouse,
764 Keeps wassail, and the swaggering up-spring reels,
765 And as he drains, his draughts of Rhenish down,
766 The kettle, drum, and trumpet, thus bray out,
767 The triumphs of his pledge.
768
769
770 HORATIO
771 Is it a custom here?
772
773 HAMLET
774 Ay marry is't and though I am
775 Native here, and to the manner borne,
776 It is a custom, more honored in the breach,
777 Than in the observance.
778
779 *Enter the Ghost.*
780
781 HORATIO
782 Look my lord, it comes.
783
784
785 HAMLET
786 Angels and ministers of grace defend us,
787 Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damned,
788 Bring with thee airs from heaven, or blasts from hell:
789 Be thy intents wicked or charitable,
790 Thou comest in such questionable shape,
791 That I will speak to thee,
792 I'll call thee Hamlet, king, father, royal Dane,

793 O answer me, let me not burst in ignorance,
794 But say why thy canonized bones hearsèd in death
795 Have burst their ceremonies: why thy sepulcher,
796 In which we saw thee quietly interred,
797 Hath burst his ponderous and marble jaws,
798 To cast thee up again: what may this mean,
799 That thou, dead corse, again in complete steel,
800 Revisits thus the glimpses of the moon,
801 Making night hideous, and we fools of nature,
802 So horridly to shake our disposition
803 With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?
804 Say, speak, wherefore, what may this mean?
805

806 HORATIO

807 It beckons you, as though it had something
808 To impart to you alone.
809

810 MARCELLUS

811 Look with what courteous action
812 It waves you to a more removèd ground,
813 But do not go with it.
814

815 HORATIO

816 No, by no means my lord.
817

818 HAMLET

819 It will not speak, then will I follow it.
820

821 HORATIO

822 What if it tempt you toward the flood my lord.
823 That beckles o'er his base, into the sea,
824 And there assume some other horrible shape,
825 Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason,
826 And drive you into madness: think of it.
827

828 HAMLET

829 Still am I called, go on, I'll follow thee.
830

831 HORATIO

832 My lord, you shall not go.
833

834
835
836

837 HAMLET
838 Why what should be the fear?
839 I do not set my life at a pin's fee,
840 And for my soul, what can it do to that?
841 Being a thing immortal, like itself,
842 Go on, I'll follow thee.
843
844 MARCELLUS
845 My lord be ruled, you shall not go.
846
847 HAMLET
848 My fate cries out, and makes each petty artery
849 As hardy as the Nemean lion's nerve,
850 Still am I called; unhand me gentlemen;
851 By heaven I'll make a ghost of him that lets me,
852 Away I say, go on, I'll follow thee.
853
854
855 *[Exeunt Ghost and Hamlet.]*
856
857 HORATIO
858 He waxeth desperate with imagination.
859
860 MARCELLUS
861 Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.
862
863 HORATIO
864 Have after; to what issue will this sort?
865
866 MARCELLUS
867 Let's follow, 'tis not fit thus to obey him.
868
869 *Exit [with Horatio].*
870
871 SCENE 5
872
873
874 *Enter Ghost and Hamlet.*
875
876 HAMLET
877 I'll go no farther, whither wilt thou lead me?
878
879 GHOST
880 Mark me.

881
882 HAMLET
883 I will.
884
885 GHOST
886 I am thy father's spirit, doomed for a time
887 To walk the night, and all the day
888 Confined in flaming fire,
889 Till the foul crimes done in my days of Nature
890 Are purged and burnt away.
891
892 HAMLET
893 Alas poor ghost.
894
895 GHOST
896 Nay pity me not, but to my unfolding
897 Lend thy lis'tning ear, but that I am forbid
898 To tell the secrets of my prison house
899 I would a tale unfold, whose lightest word
900 Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,
901 Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,
902 Thy knotted and combinèd locks to part,
903 And each particular hair to stand on end
904 Like quills upon the fretful porpentine,
905 But this same blazon must not be, to ears of flesh and blood
906 Hamlet, if ever thou didst thy dear father love.
907
908
909 HAMLET
910 O God.
911
912 GHOST
913 Revenge his foul, and most unnatural murder.
914
915
916 HAMLET
917 Murder.
918
919 GHOST
920 Yea, murder in the highest degree,
921 As in the least 'tis bad,
922 But mine most foul, beastly, and unnatural.
923
924

925 HAMLET
926 Haste me to know it, that with wings as swift as
927 meditation, or the thought of it, may sweep to my revenge.
928

929
930 GHOST
931 O I find thee apt, and duller shouldst thou be
932 Than the fat weed which roots itself in ease
933 On Lethe wharf: brief let me be.
934 'Tis given out, that sleeping in my orchard,
935 A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of Denmark
936 Is with a forgèd process of my death rankly abused:
937 But know thou noble youth: he that did sting
938 Thy father's heart, now wears his crown.
939

940
941 HAMLET
942 O my prophetic soul, my uncle! My uncle!
943

944 GHOST
945 Yea he, that incestuous wretch, won to his will with gifts,
946 O wicked will, and gifts! that have the power
947 So to seduce my most seeming virtuous Queen,
948 But virtue, as it never will be moved,
949 Though lewdness court it in a shape of heaven,
950 So lust, though to a radiant angel linked,
951 Would sate itself from a celestial bed,
952 And prey on garbage: but soft, methinks
953 I scent the mornings air, brief let me be,
954 Sleeping within my orchard, my custom always
955 In the afternoon, upon my secure hour
956 Thy uncle came, with juice of hebona
957 In a vial, and through the porches of my ears
958 Did pour the lep'rous distillment, whose effect
959 Hold such an enmity with blood of man,
960 That swift as quicksilver, it posteth through
961 The natural gates and alleys of the body,
962 And turns the thin and wholesome blood
963 Like eager droppings into milk,
964 And all my smooth body, barked and tettered over.
965 Thus was I sleeping by a brother's hand
966 Of crown, of queen, of life, of dignity
967 At once deprived, no reckoning made of,
968

969 But sent unto my grave,
970 With all my accumps and sins upon my head,
971 O horrible, most horrible!
972
973 HAMLET
974 O God!
975
976 GHOST
977 If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not.
978 But howsoever, let not thy heart
979 Conspire against thy mother aught,
980 Leave her to heaven,
981 And to the burden that her conscience bears.
982 I must be gone, the glow-worm shows the martin
983 To be near, and 'gins to pale his uneffectual fire:
984 Hamlet adieu, adieu, adieu: remember me.
985
986 *Exit*
987
988 HAMLET
989 O all you host of heaven! O earth, what else?
990 And shall I couple hell; remember thee?
991 Yes thou poor ghost; from the tables
992 Of my memory, I'll wipe away all saws of books,
993 All trivial fond conceits
994 That ever youth, or else observance noted,
995 And thy remembrance, all alone shall sit.
996 Yes, yes, by heaven, a damned pernicious villain,
997 Murderous, bawdy, smiling, damnèd villain,
998 (My tables) meet it is I set it down,
999 That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;
1000 At least I am sure, it may be so in Denmark.
1001 So uncle, there you are, there you are.
1002 Now to the words: it is adieu adieu: remember me,
1003 So 'tis enough I have sworn.
1004
1005
1006 *Enter Horatio and Marcellus.*
1007
1008 HORATIO
1009 My lord, my lord.
1010
1011 MARCELLUS
1012 Lord Hamlet!

1013
1014 HORATIO
1015 Ill, lo, lo, ho, ho!
1016
1017 HAMLET
1018 Ill, lo, lo, so, ho, so, come boy, come.
1019
1020 HORATIO
1021 Heavens secure him.
1022
1023 MARCELLUS
1024 How is't my noble lord?
1025
1026 HORATIO
1027 What news my lord?
1028
1029 HAMLET
1030 Oh wonderful, wonderful.
1031
1032 HORATIO
1033 Good my lord tell it.
1034
1035 HAMLET
1036 No not I, you'll reveal it.
1037
1038 HORATIO
1039 Not I my lord by heaven.
1040
1041 MARCELLUS
1042 Nor I my lord.
1043
1044 HAMLET
1045 How say you then? Would heart of man
1046 Once think it? But you'll be secret.
1047
1048 BOTH
1049 Ay by heaven, my lord.
1050
1051 HAMLET
1052 There's never a villain dwelling in all Denmark
1053 But he's an arrant knave.
1054
1055
1056

1057 HORATIO
1058 There need no ghost come from the grave to tell you this.
1059
1060 HAMLET
1061 Right, you are in the right, and therefore
1062 I hold it meet without more circumstance at all,
1063 We shake hands and part; you as your business
1064 And desires shall lead you: for look you,
1065 Every man hath business, and desires, such
1066 As it is, and for my own poor part, I'll go pray.
1067
1068 HORATIO
1069 These are but wild and whirling words, my lord.
1070
1071 HAMLET
1072 I am sorry they offend you; heartily, yes faith heartily.
1073
1074 HORATIO
1075 There's no offense my lord.
1076
1077
1078 HAMLET
1079 Yes by Saint Patrick but there is Horatio,
1080 And much offense too, touching this vision,
1081 It is an honest ghost, that let me tell you.
1082 For your desires to know what is between us,
1083 O'ermaster it as you may:
1084 And now kind friends, as you are friends,
1085 Scholars and gentlemen,
1086 Grant me one poor request.
1087
1088 BOTH
1089 What is't my lord?
1090
1091 HAMLET
1092 Never make known what you have seen tonight
1093
1094 BOTH
1095 My lord, we will not.
1096
1097
1098 HAMLET
1099 Nay but swear.
1100

1101 HORATIO
1102 In faith my lord not I.
1103
1104 MARCELLUS
1105 Nor I my lord in faith.
1106
1107 HAMLET
1108 Nay upon my sword, indeed upon my sword.
1109
1110 GHOST
1111 Swear.
1112 *The Ghost under the stage.*
1113
1114 HAMLET
1115 Ha, ha, come you here, this fellow in the cellerage,
1116 Here consent to swear.
1117
1118 HORATIO
1119 Propose the oath my lord.
1120
1121 HAMLET
1122 Never to speak what you have seen tonight,
1123 Swear by my sword.
1124
1125 GHOST
1126 Swear.
1127
1128 HAMLET
1129 Hic et ubique; nay then we'll shift our ground:
1130 Come hither gentlemen, and lay your hands
1131 Again upon this sword, never to speak
1132 Of that which you have seen, swear by my sword.
1133
1134
1135 GHOST
1136 Swear.
1137
1138 HAMLET
1139 Well said old mole, Canst work in the earth?
1140 So fast, a worthy pioner, once more remove.
1141
1142 HORATIO
1143 Day and night, but this is wondrous strange.
1144

1145
1146
1147 HAMLET
1148 And therefore as a stranger give it welcome,
1149 There are more things in the heaven and earth Horatio,
1150 Then are dreamt of, in your philosophy,
1151 But come here, as before you never shall
1152 How strange or odd soe'er I bear myself,
1153 As I perchance hereafter shall think meet,
1154 To put an antic disposition on,
1155 That you at such times seeing me, never shall
1156 With arms, encumb'red thus, or this headshake,
1157 Or by pronouncing some undoubtful phrase,
1158 As Well well, we know, or we could and if we would,
1159 Or there be, an if they might, or such ambiguous:
1160 Giving out to note that you know aught of me,
1161 This not to do, so grace, and mercy
1162 At your most need help you, swear.

1164
1165 GHOST
1166 Swear.

1167
1168 HAMLET
1169 Rest, rest, perturbed spirit. So, gentlemen,
1170 In all my love I do commend me to you,
1171 And what so poor a man as Hamlet may,
1172 To pleasure you, God willing shall not want,
1173 Nay come let's go together,
1174 But still your fingers on your lips I pray,
1175 The time is out of joint, O cursed spite,
1176 That ever I was born to set it right,
1177 Nay come let's go together.

1178 *Exeunt.*
1179

1180
1181 SCENE 6
1182

1183
1184 *Enter Corambis and Montano.*
1185

1186 CORAMBIS
1187 Montano, here, these letters to my son,
1188 And this same money with my blessing to him,

1189 And bid him ply his learning good Montano.
1190
1191 MONTANO
1192 I will my lord.
1193
1194 CORAMBIS
1195 You shall do very well Montano, to say thus,
1196 "I knew the gentleman," or "know his father,"
1197 To inquire the manner of his life,
1198 As thus; being amongst his acquaintance,
1199 You may say, you saw him at such a time, mark you me,
1200 At game, or drinking, swearing, or drabbing,
1201 You may go so far.
1202
1203 MONTANO
1204 My lord, that will impeach his reputation.
1205
1206 CORAMBIS
1207 I'faith not a whit; no not a whit,
1208 Now happily he closeth with you in the consequence,
1209 As you may bridle it not disparage him a jot.
1210 What was I about to say?
1211
1212 MONTANO
1213 He closeth with him in the consequence.
1214
1215 CORAMBIS
1216 Ay, you say right, he closeth with him thus,
1217 This will he say, let me see what he will say,
1218 Mary this, "I saw him yesterday," or "t'other day,"
1219 Or "then," or "at such time," "a-dicing,"
1220 Or "at tennis," ay or "drinking drunk," or "ent'ring
1221 Of a house of lightness," viz. "brothel,"
1222 Thus sir, do we that know the world, being men of reach,
1223 By indirections, find directions forth,
1224 And so shall you my son; you ha' me, ha' you not?
1225
1226 MONTANO
1227 I have my lord.
1228
1229 CORAMBIS
1230 Well, fare you well, commend me to him.

1233
1234 MONTANO
1235 I will my lord.
1236
1237 CORAMBIS
1238 And bid him ply his music.
1239
1240 MONTANO
1241 My lord I will.
1242 *Exit.*
1243
1244 *Enter Ofelia.*
1245
1246 CORAMBIS
1247 Farewell, now now Ofelia, what's the news with you?
1248
1249 OFELIA
1250 O my dear father, such a change in nature,
1251 So great an alteration in a prince,
1252 So pitiful to him, fearful to me,
1253 A maiden's eye ne'er lookèd on!
1254
1255 CORAMBIS
1256 Why what's the matter my Ofelia?
1257
1258 OFELIA
1259 Oh, young Prince Hamlet, the only flower of Denmark,
1260 He is bereft of all the wealth he had,
1261 The jewel that adorned his feature most
1262 Is filched and stol'n away, his wit's bereft him,
1263 He found me walking in the gallery all alone.
1264 There comes he to me, with a distracted look,
1265 His garters lagging down, his shoes untied,
1266 And fixed his eyes so steadfast on my face
1267 As if they had vowed, this is their latest object.
1268 Small while he stood, but grips me by the wrist,
1269 And there he holds my pulse till with a sigh
1270 He doth unclasp his hold, and parts away
1271 Silent, as is the mid time of the night:
1272 And as he went, his eye was still on me,
1273 For thus his head over his shoulder looked,
1274 He seemed to find the way without his eyes:

1277 For out of doors he went without their help,
1278 And so did leave me.
1279
1280 CORAMBIS
1281 Mad for thy love.
1282 What have you given him any cross words of late?
1283

1284 OFELIA
1285 I did repel his letters, deny his gifts,
1286 As you did charge me.
1287

1288 CORAMBIS
1289 Why that hath made him mad:
1290 By heav'n 'tis as proper for our age to cast
1291 Beyond ourselves, as 'tis for the younger sort
1292 To leave their wantonness. Well, I am sorry
1293 That I was so rash: but what remedy?
1294 Let's to the King, this madness may prove,
1295 Though wild awhile, yet more true to thy love.
1296

1297 *Exeunt*

1298
1299

1300 SCENE 7

1301

1302 *Enter King and Queen, Rosencraft and Gilderstone.*
1303

1304 KING
1305 Right noble friends, that our dear cousin Hamlet
1306 Hath lost the very heart of all his sense,
1307 It is most right, and we most sorry for him:
1308 Therefore we do desire, even as you tender
1309 Our care to him, and our great love to you,
1310 That you will labor but to wring from him
1311 The cause and ground of his distemperancy.
1312 Do this, the King of Denmark shall be thankful.
1313

1314
1315 ROSSENCRAFT
1316 My lord, whatsoever lies within our power
1317 Your majesty may more command in words
1318 Than use persuasions to your liege men, bound
1319 By love, by duty, and obedience.
1320

1321 GILDERSTONE
1322 What we may do for both your majesties
1323 To know the grief troubles the prince your son,
1324 We will endeavor all the best we may;
1325 So in all duty do we take our leave.
1326

1327 KING
1328 Thanks Gilderstone, and gentle Rossencraft.
1329

1330 QUEEN
1331 Thanks Rossencraft, and gentle Gilderstone.
1332

1333 *Enter Corambis and Ofelia.*
1334

1335 CORAMBIS
1336 My lord, the ambassadors are joyfully
1337 Returned from Norway.
1338

1339 KING
1340 Thou still hast been the father of good news.
1341
1342

1343 CORAMBIS
1344 Have I my lord? I assure your grace,
1345 I hold my duty as I hold my life,
1346 Both to my God, and to my sovereign King:
1347 And I believe, or else this brain of mine
1348 Hunts not the train of policy so well
1349 As it had wont to do, but I have found
1350 The very depth of Hamlet's lunacy.
1351

1352 QUEEN
1353 God grant he hath.
1354

1355 *Enter the Ambassadors [Voltemar and Cornelia, with a diplomatic dispatch].*
1356

1357 KING
1358 Now Voltemar, what from our brother Norway?
1359

1360 VOLTEMAR
1361 Most fair returns of greetings and desires.
1362 Upon our first he sent forth to suppress
1363 His nephew's levies, which to him appeared
1364

1365 To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack:
1366 But better looked into, he truly found
1367 It was against your highness, whereat grieved,
1368 That so his sickness, age, and impotence,
1369 Was falsely borne in hand, sends out arrests
1370 On Fortenbrasse, which he in brief obeys,
1371 Receives rebuke from Norway: and in fine,
1372 Makes vow before his uncle, never more
1373 To give the assay of arms against your majesty,
1374 Whereon old Norway overcome with joy,
1375 Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee,
1376 And his commission to employ those soldiers,
1377 So levied as before, against the Polack,
1378 With an entreaty herein further shown,
1379 That it would please you to give quiet pass
1380 Through your dominions, for that enterprise
1381 On such regards of safety and allowances
1382 As therein are set down.
1383

1384

1385 KING

1386 It likes us well, and at fit time and leisure
1387 We'll read and answer these his articles,
1388 Meantime we thank you for your well
1389 Took labor: go to your rest, at night we'll feast together:
1390 Right welcome home.
1391

1392

Exeunt Ambassadors.

1393

1394

CORAMBIS

1395

This business is very well dispatched.

1396

Now my lord, touching the young Prince Hamlet,

1397

Certain it is that he is mad: mad let us grant him then:

1398

Now to know the cause of this effect,

1399

Or else to say the cause of this defect,

1400

For this effect defective comes by cause.

1401

1402

QUEEN

1403

Good my lord be brief.

1404

1405

CORAMBIS

1406

Madam I will: my lord, I have a daughter,

1407

Have while she's mine: for that we think

1408

1409 Is surest, we often lose: now to the prince.
1410 My lord, but note this letter,
1411 The which my daughter in obedience
1412 Delivered to my hands.
1413
1414 KING
1415 Read it my lord.
1416
1417 CORAMBIS
1418 Mark my lord.
1419 "Doubt that in earth is fire,
1420 Doubt that the stars do move,
1421 Doubt truth to be a liar,
1422 But do not doubt I love.
1423 To the beautiful Ofelia:
1424 Thine ever the most unhappy Prince Hamlet."
1425 My lord, what do you think of me?
1426 Ay, or what might you think when I saw this?
1427
1428
1429 KING
1430 As of a true friend and a most loving subject.
1431
1432 CORAMBIS
1433 I would be glad to prove so.
1434 Now when I saw this letter, thus I bespake my maiden:
1435 "Lord Hamlet is a prince out of your star,
1436 And one that is unequal for your love:"
1437 Therefore I did command her refuse his letters,
1438 Deny his tokens, and to absent herself.
1439 She as my child obediently obeyed me.
1440 Now since which time, seeing his love thus crossed,
1441 Which I took to be idle, and but sport,
1442 He straightway grew into a melancholy,
1443 From that unto a fast, then unto distraction,
1444 Then into a sadness, from that unto a madness,
1445 And so by continuance, and weakness of the brain
1446 Into this frenzy, which now possesseth him:
1447 And if this be not true, take this from this.
1448
1449
1450 KING
1451 Think you 'tis so?
1452

1453 CORAMBIS
1454 How? So my lord, I would very fain know
1455 That thing that I have said 'tis so, positively,
1456 And it hath fallen out otherwise.
1457 Nay, if circumstances lead me on,
1458 I'll find it out, if it were hid
1459 As deep as the center of the earth.
1460
1461 KING
1462 How should we try this same?
1463
1464 CORAMBIS
1465 Marry my good lord thus,
1466 The Prince's walk is here in the gallery;
1467 There let Ofelia, walk until he comes:
1468 Yourself and I will stand close in the study,
1469 There shall you hear the effect of all his heart,
1470 And if it prove any otherwise than love,
1471 Then let my censure fail another time.
1472
1473
1474 KING
1475 See where he comes poring upon a book.
1476
1477 *Enter Hamlet.*
1478
1479 CORAMBIS
1480 Madam, will it please your grace
1481 To leave us here?
1482
1483 QUEEN
1484 With all my heart.
1485 *Exit.*
1486
1487 CORAMBIS
1488 And here Ofelia, read you on this book,
1489 And walk aloof, the King shall be unseen.
1490
1491 HAMLET
1492 To be, or not to be, ay there's the point,
1493 To die, to sleep, is that all? Ay all:
1494 No, to sleep, to dream, ay many there it goes,
1495 For in that dream of death, when we awake,1496

1497 And borne before an everlasting judge,
1498 From whence no passenger ever returned,
1499 The undiscovered country, at whose sight
1500 The happy smile, and the accursèd damned.
1501 But for this, the joyful hope of this,
1502 Who'd bear the scorns and flattery of the world,
1503 Scorned by the right rich, the rich cursed of the poor?
1504 The widow being oppressed, the orphan wronged,
1505 The taste of hunger, or a tyrant's reign,
1506 And thousand more calamities besides,
1507 To grunt and sweat under this weary life,
1508 When that he may his full quietus make,
1509 With a bare bodkin, who would this endure,
1510 But for a hope of something after death?
1511 Which puzzles the brain, and doth confound the sense,
1512 Which makes us rather bear those evils we have,
1513 Than fly to others that we know not of.
1514 Ay that, O this conscience makes cowards of us al,
1515 Lady in thy orisons, be all my sins remembered.
1516
1517
1518 OFELIA
1519 My lord, I have sought opportunity, which now
1520 I have, to redeliver to your worthy hands a small remembrance,
1521 such tokens which I have received of you.
1522
1523 HAMLET
1524 Are you fair?
1525
1526 OFELIA
1527 My lord?
1528
1529 HAMLET
1530 Are you honest?
1531
1532 OFELIA
1533 What means my lord?
1534
1535 HAMLET
1536 That if you be fair and honest,
1537 Your beauty should admit no discourse to your honesty.
1538
1539
1540

1541 OFELIA
1542 My lord, can beauty have better privilege than with honesty?
1543
1544 HAMLET
1545 Yea marry may it; for beauty may [sooner] transform
1546 Honesty, from what she was into a bawd [sooner]:
1547 Than honesty can transform beauty:
1548 This was sometimes a paradox,
1549 But now the time gives it scope.
1550 I never gave you nothing.
1551
1552 OFELIA
1553 My lord, you know right will you did,
1554 And with them such earnest vows of love,
1555 As would have moved the stoniest breast alive,
1556 But now too true I find,
1557 Rich gifts wax poor, when givers grow unkind.
1558
1559
1560 HAMLET
1561 I never loved you.
1562
1563 OFELIA
1564 You made me believe you did.
1565
1566 HAMLET
1567 O thou shouldst not 'a believed me!
1568 Go to a nunnery go, why shouldst thou
1569 Be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indifferent honest,
1570 But I could accuse myself of such crimes
1571 [As] It had been better my mother had ne'er borne me,
1572 O I am very proud, ambitious, disdainful,
1573 With more sins at my beck than I have thoughts
1574 To put them in, what should such fellows as I
1575 Do, crawling between heaven and earth?
1576 To a nunnery go, we are arrant knaves all,
1577 Believe none of us, to a nunnery go.
1578
1579
1580 OFELIA
1581 Oh, heavens secure him!
1582
1583 HAMLET
1584 Where's thy father?

1585
1586 OFELIA
1587 At home my lord.
1588
1589 HAMLET
1590 For God's sake let the doors be shut on him,
1591 He may play the fool nowhere but in his
1592 Own house: to a nunnery go.
1593
1594 OFELIA
1595 Help him good God.
1596
1597 HAMLET
1598 If thou dost marry, I'll give thee
1599 This plague to thy dowry:
1600 Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow,
1601 Thou shalt not scape calumny, to a nunnery go.
1602
1603
1604 OFELIA
1605 Alas, what change is this?
1606
1607 HAMLET
1608 But if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool,
1609 For wise men know well enough,
1610 What monsters you make of them, to a nunnery go.
1611
1612 OFELIA
1613 Pray God restore him.
1614
1615 HAMLET
1616 Nay, I have heard of your paintings too,
1617 God hath given you one face,
1618 And you make yourselves another.
1619 You fig, and you amble, and you nickname God's creatures,
1620 Making your wantonness, your ignorance;
1621 A pox, 'tis scurvy. I'll no more of it.
1622 It hath made me mad: I'll no more marriages,
1623 All that are married but one, shall live,
1624 The rest shall keep as they are, to a nunnery go,
1625 To a nunnery go.
1626
1627 *Exit.*
1628

1629
1630 OFELIA
1631 Great God of heaven, what a quick change is this?
1632 The courtier, scholar, soldier, all in him,
1633 All dashed and splintered thence, O woe is me,
1634 To 'a seen what I have seen, see what I see.
1635 *Exit.*
1636
1637 *Enter King and Corambis.*
1638
1639 KING
1640 Love? No, no, that's not the cause.
1641 Some deeper thing it is that troubles him.
1642
1643 CORAMBIS
1644 Well, something it is: my lord, content you awhile,
1645 I will myself go feel him: let me work,
1646 I'll try him every way: see where he comes,
1647 Send you those gentlemen, let me alone
1648 To find the depth of this, away, be gone.
1649 *Exit King.*
1650 *Enter Hamlet.*
1651 Now my good lord, do you know me?
1652
1653
1654 HAMLET
1655 Yea very well, y'are a fishmonger.
1656
1657 CORAMBIS
1658 Not I my lord.
1659
1660 HAMLET
1661 Then sir, I would you were so honest a man.
1662 For to be honest, as this age goes,
1663 Is one man to be picked out of ten thousand.
1664
1665 CORAMBIS
1666 What do you read, my lord?
1667
1668 HAMLET
1669 Words, words.
1670
1671
1672

1673 CORAMBIS
1674 What's the matter my lord?
1675
1676 HAMLET
1677 Between who?
1678
1679 CORAMBIS
1680 I mean the matter you read my lord.
1681
1682 HAMLET
1683 Mary most vile heresy:
1684 For here the satirical satyr writes,
1685 That old men have hollow eyes, weak backs,
1686 Grey beards, pitiful weak hams, gouty legs,
1687 All which sir, I most potently believe not.
1688 For sir, yourself shall be old as I am,
1689 If like a crab, you could go backward.
1690
1691
1692 CORAMBIS
1693 How pregnant his replies are, and full of wit
1694 Yet at first he took me for a fishmonger:
1695 All this comes by love, the vehemency of love,
1696 And when I was young, I was very idle,
1697 And suffered much ecstasy in love, very near this:
1698 Will you walk out of the air my lord?
1699
1700 HAMLET
1701 Into my grave.
1702
1703 CORAMBIS
1704 By the mass that's out of the air indeed,
1705 Very shrewd answers,
1706 My lord I will take my leave of you.
1707
1708
1709 *Enter Gilderstone and Rossencraft.*
1710
1711 HAMLET
1712 You can take nothing from me sir,
1713 I will more willingly part withal, --
1714 Old doting fool!
1715
1716

1717 CORAMBIS
1718 You seek Prince Hamlet, see, there he is.
1719 *Exit.*
1720
1721 GILDERSTONE
1722 Health to your lordship!
1723
1724 HAMLET
1725 What, Gilderstone, and Rossencraft,
1726 Welcome kind schoolfellows, to Elsinore.
1727
1728 GILDERSTONE
1729 We thank your grace, and would be very glad
1730 You were as when we were at Wittenberg.
1731
1732 HAMLET
1733 I thank you, but is this visitation free of
1734 Yourselves, or were you not sent for?
1735 Tell me true, come; I know the good King and Queen
1736 Sent for you. there is a kind of confession in your eye:
1737 Come, I know you were sent for.
1738
1739
1740 GILDERSTONE
1741 What say you?
1742
1743 HAMLET
1744 Nay then I see how the wind sits.
1745 Come, you were sent for.
1746
1747 ROSSENCRAFT
1748 My lord, we were, and willingly if we might,
1749 Know the cause and ground of your discontent.
1750
1751 HAMLET
1752 Why I want preferment.
1753
1754 ROSSENCRAFT
1755 I think not so my lord.
1756
1757 HAMLET
1758 Yes faith, this great world you see contents me not,
1759 No nor the spangled heavens, nor earth nor sea,
1760

1761 No nor man that is so glorious a creature,
1762 Contents not me, no nor woman too, though you laugh.
1763
1764 GILDERSTONE
1765 My lord, we laugh not at that.
1766
1767 HAMLET
1768 Why did you laugh then,
1769 When I said, man did not content me?
1770
1771 GILDERSTONE
1772 My lord, we laughed, when you said; man did not content you.
1773 What entertainment the players shall have,
1774 We boarded them a the way: they are coming to you.
1775
1776 HAMLET
1777 Players, what players be they?
1778
1779 ROSSENCRAFT
1780 My lord, the tragedians of the city,
1781 Those that you took delight to see so often.
1782
1783 HAMLET
1784 How comes it that they travel? Do they grow resty?
1785
1786
1787 GILDERSTONE
1788 No my lord, their reputation holds as it was wont.
1789
1790 HAMLET
1791 How then?
1792
1793 GILDERSTONE
1794 I'faith my lord, novelty carries it away,
1795 For the principal public audience that
1796 Came to them, are turned to private plays,
1797 And to the humor of children.
1798
1799 HAMLET
1800 I do not greatly wonder of it,
1801 For those that would make mops and mows
1802 At my uncle, when my father lived,
1803 Now give a hundred, two hundred pounds
1804

1805 For his picture: but they shall be welcome,
1806 He that plays the King shall have tribute of me,
1807 The vent'rous Knight shall use his foil and target,
1808 The Lover shall sigh gratis,
1809 The Clown shall make them laugh
1810 That are tickled in the lungs, or the blank verse shall halt for't,
1811 And the Lady shall have leave to speak her mind freely.
1812 *The Trumpets sound.*
1813 *Enter Corambis.*
1814 Do you see yonder great baby?
1815 He is not yet out of his swaddling-clouts.
1816
1817 GILDERSTONE
1818 That may be, for they say an old man
1819 Is twice a child.
1820
1821 HAMLET
1822 I'll prophesy to you, he comes to tell me a the players,
1823 You say true, a Monday last, 'twas so indeed.
1824
1825 CORAMBIS
1826 My lord, I have news to tell you.
1827
1828 HAMLET
1829 My lord, I have news to tell you:
1830 When Roscius was an actor in Rome.
1831
1832 CORAMBIS
1833 The actors are come hither, my lord.
1834
1835 HAMLET
1836 Buzz, buzz.
1837
1838 CORAMBIS
1839 The best actors in Christendom,
1840 Either for comedy, tragedy, history, pastoral,
1841 Pastoral-historical, historical-comical,
1842 Comical-historical-pastoral, tragedy-historical:
1843 Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too light:
1844 For the law hath writ those are the only men.
1845
1846
1847
1848

1849 HAMLET
1850 O Jephthah judge of Israel! What a treasure hadst thou?
1851
1852 CORAMBIS
1853 Why what a treasure had he my lord?
1854
1855 HAMLET
1856 Why one fair daughter, and no more,
1857 The which he lovèd passing well.
1858
1859 CORAMBIS
1860 Ah, still harping o'my daughter! Well my lord,
1861 If you call me Jephthah, I have a daughter that
1862 I love passing well.
1863
1864 HAMLET
1865 Nay that follows not.
1866
1867 CORAMBIS
1868 What follows then my lord?
1869
1870
1871 HAMLET
1872 Why by lot, or God wot, or as it came to pass,
1873 And so it was, the first verse of the godly ballad
1874 Will tell you all: for look you where my abridgement comes:
1875 *Enter Players.*
1876 Welcome masters, welcome all,
1877 What my old friend, thy face is valanced
1878 Since I saw thee last, com'st thou to beard me in Denmark?
1879 My young lady and mistress, By'r Lady but your
1880 Ladyship is grown by the altitude of a chopine higher than you were:
1881 Pray God sir your voice, like a piece of uncurrent
1882 Gold, be not cracked in the ring: Come on masters,
1883 We'll even to't, like French falconers,
1884 Fly at any thing we see, come, a taste of your
1885 Quality, a speech, a passionate speech.
1886
1887 PLAYERS
1888 What speech my good lord?
1889
1890
1891 HAMLET
1892 I heard thee speak a speech once,

1893 but it was never acted: or if it were,
1894 Never above twice, for as I remember,
1895 It pleased not the vulgar, it was caviary
1896 To the million: but to me
1897 And others, that received it in the like kind,
1898 Cried in the top of their judgments, an excellent play,
1899 Set down with as great modesty as cunning:
1900 One said there was no sallets in the lines to make them savory,
1901 But called it an honest method, as wholesome as sweet.
1902 Come, a speech in it I chiefly remember
1903 Was Aeneas' tale to Dido,
1904 And then especially where he talks of princes' slaughter,
1905 If it live in thy memory, begin at this line,
1906 Let me see.
1907 The rugged Pyrrhus, like th'Hycarnian beast:
1908 No 'tis not so, it begins with Pyrrhus:
1909 Oh I have it.
1910 The rugged Pyrrhus, he whose sable arms,
1911 Black as his purpose did the night resemble,
1912 When he lay couchèd in the ominous horse,
1913 Hath now his black and grim complexion smeared
1914 With heraldry more dismal, head to foot,
1915 Now is he total guise, horridly tricked
1916 With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sons,
1917 Baked and imparchèd in calagulate gore,
1918 Rifted in earth and fire, old grandsire Priam seeks:
1919 So, go on.
1920
1921
1922 CORAMBIS
1923 Afore God, my lord, well spoke, and with good accent.
1924
1925 PLAYER [*DUKE*]
1926 Anon he finds him striking too short at Greeks.
1927 His antike sword rebellious to his arm,
1928 Lies where it falls, unable to resist.
1929 Pyrrus at Priam drives, but all in rage,
1930 Strikes wide, but with the whiff and wind
1931 Of his fell sword, th'unnervèd father falls.
1932
1933
1934 CORAMBIS
1935 Enough my friend, 'tis too long.
1936

1937 HAMLET
1938 It shall to the barber's with your beard:
1939 A pox, he's for a jig, or a tale of bawdry,
1940 Or else he sleeps, come on to Hecuba, come.
1941
1942 PLAYER [DUKE]
1943 But who, O who had seen the moblèd queen?
1944
1945 CORAMBIS
1946 Moblèd queen is good, 'faith very good.
1947
1948
1949 PLAYER [DUKE]
1950 All in the alarum and fear of death rose up,
1951 And o'er her weak and all o'er-teeming loins, a blanket
1952 And a kercher on that head, where late the diadem stood,
1953 Who this had seen with tongue-envenomed speech
1954 Would treason have pronounced,
1955 For if the gods themselves had seen her then,
1956 When she saw Pyrrhus with malicious strokes,
1957 Mincing her husband's limbs,
1958 It would have made milch the burning eyes of heaven,
1959 And passion in the gods.
1960
1961
1962 CORAMBIS
1963 Look my Lord if he hath not changed his color,
1964 and hath tears in his eyes: no more good heart, no more.
1965
1966 HAMLET
1967 'Tis well, 'tis very well, I pray, my lord,
1968 Will you see the players well bestowed,
1969 I tell you they are the chronicles
1970 And brief abstracts of the time,
1971 After your death I can tell you,
1972 You were better have a bad epitaph,
1973 Than their ill report while you live.
1974
1975 CORAMBIS
1976 My lord, I will use them according to their deserts.
1977
1978
1979 HAMLET
1980 O far better man, use every man after his deserts,

1981 Then who should scape whipping?
1982 Use them after your own honor and dignity.
1983 The less they deserve, the greater credit's yours.
1984
1985 CORAMBIS
1986 Welcome my good fellows.
1987 *Exit.*
1988
1989 HAMLET
1990 Come hither masters, can you not play "The Murder of Gonzago"?
1991
1992 PLAYERS
1993 Yes my lord.
1994
1995
1996 HAMLET
1997 And couldst not thou for a need study me
1998 Some dozen or sixteen lines,
1999 Which I would set down and insert?
2000
2001 PLAYERS
2002 Yes very easily my good lord.
2003
2004 HAMLET
2005 'Tis well, I thank you: follow that lord:
2006 And do you hear sirs? Take heed you mock him not.
2007 Gentlemen, for your kindness I thank you,
2008 And for a time I would desire you leave me.
2009
2010 GILDERSTONE
2011 Our love and duty is at your command.
2012
2013 *Exeunt all but Hamlet.*
2014
2015
2016 HAMLET
2017 Why what a dunghill idiot slave am I?
2018 Why these players here draw water from eyes:
2019 For Hecuba. Why what is Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba?
2020 What would he do an if he had my loss?
2021 His father murdered, and a crown bereft him,
2022 He would turn all his tears to drops of blood,
2023 Amaze the standers-by with his laments,
2024 Strike more than wonder in the judicial ears,

2025 Confound the ignorant, and make mute the wise,
2026 Indeed his passion would be general.
2027 Yet I like to an ass and John-a-Dreams,
2028 Having my father murdered by a villain,
2029 Stand still, and let it pass, why sure I am a coward:
2030 Who plucks me by the beard, or twits my nose,
2031 Gives me the lie i'th' throat down to the lungs,
2032 Sure I should take it, or else I have no gall,
2033 Or by this I should a fatted all the region kites
2034 With this slave's offal, this damned villain,
2035 Treacherous, bawdy, murderous villain:
2036 Why this is brave, that I the son of my dear father,
2037 Should like a scallion, like a very drab
2038 Thus rail in words. About my brain,
2039 I have heard that guilty creatures sitting at a play,
2040 Hath, by the very cunning of the scene, confessed a murder
2041 Committed long before.
2042 This spirit that I have seen may be the devil,
2043 And out of my weakness and my melancholy,
2044 As he is very potent with such men,
2045 Doth seek to damn me, I will have sounder proofs,
2046 The play's the thing,
2047 Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.

2049 *Exit.*

2051
2052 SCENE 8

2053
2054 *Enter the King, Queen, and Lords [Corambis, Rossencraft, and Gilderstone].*

2056 KING

2057 Lords, can you by no means find
2058 The cause of our son Hamlet's lunacy?
2059 You being so near in love, even from his youth,
2060 Methinks should gain more than a stranger should.

2062 GILDERSTONE

2063 My lord, we have done all the best we could,
2064 To wring from him the cause of all his grief,
2065 But still he puts us off, and by no means
2066 Would make an answer to that we exposed.

2068

2069 ROSSENCRAFT
2070 Yet was he something more inclined to mirth
2071 Before we left him, and I take it,
2072 He hath given order for a play tonight,
2073 At which he craves your highness' company.
2074
2075 KING
2076 With all our heart; it likes us very well:
2077 Gentlemen, seek still to increase his mirth,
2078 Spare for no cost, our coffers shall be open,
2079 And we unto yourselves will still be thankful.
2080
2081 BOTH
2082 In all we can, be sure you shall command.
2083
2084 QUEEN
2085 Thanks gentlemen, and what the Queen of Denmark
2086 May pleasure you, be sure you shall not want.
2087
2088
2089 GILDERSTONE
2090 We'll once again unto the noble prince.
2091
2092 KING
2093 Thanks to you both:
2094 *[Exeunt Rossencraft and Gilderstone.]*
2095 Gertred you'll see this play.
2096
2097 QUEEN
2098 My lord I will, and it joys me at the soul
2099 He is inclined to any kind of mirth.
2100
2101 CORAMBIS
2102 Madam, I pray be ruled by me:
2103 And my good sovereign, give me leave to speak,
2104 We cannot yet find out the very ground
2105 Of his distemperance, therefore
2106 I hold it meet, if so it please you,
2107 Else they shall not meet, and thus it is.
2108
2109
2110 KING
2111 What is't Corambis?
2112

2113 CORAMBIS
2114 Mary my good lord this, soon when the sports are done,
2115 Madam, send you in haste to speak with him,
2116 And I myself will stand behind the arras,
2117 There question you the cause of all his grief,
2118 And then in love and nature unto you, he'll tell you all:
2119 My lord, how think you on't?
2120
2121 KING
2122 It likes us well, Gertred, what say you?
2123
2124 QUEEN
2125 With all my heart, soon will I send for him.
2126
2127 CORAMBIS
2128 Myself will be that happy messenger,
2129 Who hopes his grief will be revealed to her.
2130
2131 *Exeunt omnes.*
2132
2133 SCENE 9
2134
2135 *Enter Hamlet and the Players.*
2136
2137 HAMLET
2138 Pronounce me this speech trippingly a the tongue as I taught thee.
2139 Mary and you mouth it, as a many of your players do
2140 I'd rather hear a town bull bellow,
2141 Than such a fellow speak my lines.
2142 Nor do not saw the air thus with your hands,
2143 But give everything his action with temperance.
2144 O it offends me to the soul, to hear a robustious periwig fellow,
2145 To tear a passion in totters, into very rags,
2146 To split the ears of the ignorant, who for the
2147 Most part are capable of nothing but dumb shows and noises,
2148 I would have such a fellow whipped, for o'erdoing, Termagant.
2149 It out-Herods Herod.
2150
2151 PLAYERS
2152 My lord, we have indifferently reformed that among us.
2153
2154 HAMLET
2155 The better, the better, mend it all together:

2157 There be fellows that I have seen play,
2158 And heard others commend them, and that highly too,
2159 That having neither the gait of Christian, pagan,
2160 Nor Turk, have so strutted and bellowed,
2161 That you would a thought, some of Nature's journeymen
2162 Had made men, and not made them well,
2163 They imitated humanity, so abhominable:
2164 Take heed, avoid it.

2165
2166 PLAYERS
2167 I warrant you my lord.

2168
2169 HAMLET
2170 And do you hear? Let not your Clown speak
2171 More than is set down, there be of them I can tell you
2172 That will laugh themselves, to set on some
2173 Quantity of barren spectators to laugh with them,
2174 Albeit there is some necessary point in the play
2175 Then to be observed: O 'tis vile, and shows
2176 A pitiful ambition in the fool that useth it.
2177 And then you have some again, that keeps one suit
2178 Of jests, as a man is known by one suit of
2179 Apparel, and gentlemen quotes his jests down
2180 In their tables, before they come to the play, as thus:
2181 "Cannot you stay till I eat my porridge?" and, "You owe me
2182 A quarter's wages:" and, "My coat wants a cullison:"
2183 And "Your beer is sour:" and, blabbering with his lips,
2184 And thus keeping in his cinquepace of jests,
2185 When, God knows, the warm Clown cannot make a jest
2186 Unless by chance, as the blind man catcheth a hare:
2187 Masters tell him of it.

2188
2189
2190 PLAYERS
2191 We will my lord.

2192
2193 HAMLET
2194 Well, go make you ready.
2195 *Exeunt Players.*
2196 *[Enter Horatio.]*

2197
2198
2199 HORATIO
2200 Here my lord.

2201
2202 HAMLET
2203 Horatio, thou art even as just a man,
2204 As e'er my conversation coped withal.
2205
2206 HORATIO
2207 Oh my lord!
2208
2209 HAMLET
2210 Nay why should I flatter thee?
2211 Why should the poor be flattered?
2212 What gain should I receive by flattering thee,
2213 That nothing hath but thy good mind?
2214 Let flattery sit on those time-pleasing tongues,
2215 To gloze with them that loves to hear their praise,
2216 And not with such as thou Horatio.
2217 There is a play tonight, wherein one scene they have
2218 Comes very near the murder of my father,
2219 When thou shalt see that act afoot,
2220 Mark thou the King, do but observe his looks,
2221 For I mine eyes will rivet to his face:
2222 And if he do not bleach, and change at that,
2223 It is a damnèd ghost that we have seen.
2224 Horatio, have a care; observe him well.
2225
2226
2227 HORATIO
2228 My lord, mine eyes shall still be on his face,
2229 And not the smallest alteration
2230 That shall appear in him, but I shall note it.
2231
2232 HAMLET
2233 Hark, they come.
2234
2235
2236 *Enter King, Queen, Corambis, [Ofelia,] and other Lords [Rossencraft and*
2237 *Gilderstone].*
2238
2239 KING
2240 How now son Hamlet, how fare you, shall we have a play?
2241
2242 HAMLET
2243 I'faith the chameleon's dish, not capon-crammed,
2244 feed a 'the air.

2245 Ay father: My lord, you played in the university.
2246
2247 CORAMBIS
2248 That I did my Lord: and I was counted a good actor.
2249
2250 HAMLET
2251 What did you enact there?
2252
2253 CORAMBIS
2254 My lord, I did act *Julius Caesar*, I was killed
2255 in the Capitol, Brutus killed me.
2256
2257 HAMLET
2258 It was a brute part of him,
2259 To kill so capital a calf.
2260 Come, be these players ready?
2261
2262 QUEEN
2263 Hamlet come sit down by me.
2264
2265 HAMLET
2266 No by my faith, mother, here's a mettle more attractive:
2267 Lady will you give me leave, and so forth:
2268 To lay my head in your lap?
2269
2270
2271 OFELIA
2272 No my lord.
2273
2274 HAMLET
2275 Upon your lap. What, do you think I meant contrary matters?
2276
2277
2278 *Enter, in a dumb-show, the King and the Queen. He sits down in an arbor. She*
2279 *leaves him: Then enters Lucianus with poison in a vial, and pours it in his ears,*
2280 *and goes away: Then the Queen cometh and finds him dead: and goes away*
2281 *with the other.*
2282 *[Exeunt Players.]*
2283
2284 OFELIA
2285 What means this my lord?
2286
2287 *Enter the Prologue.*
2288

2289 HAMLET
2290 This is miching Mallico, that means my chief.
2291
2292 OFELIA
2293 What doth this mean my lord?
2294
2295 HAMLET
2296 You shall hear anon, this fellow will tell you all.
2297
2298 OFELIA
2299 Will he tell us what this show means?
2300
2301 HAMLET
2302 Ay, or any show you'll show him,
2303 Be not afeard to show, he'll not be afeard to tell:
2304 O these players cannot keep counsel, they'll tell all.
2305
2306 PROLOGUE
2307 For us, and for our tragedy,
2308 Here stooping to your clemency,
2309 We beg your hearing patiently.
2310
2311 *[Exit.]*
2312
2313 HAMLET
2314 Is't a prologue, or a poesie for a ring?
2315
2316 OFELIA
2317 'Tis short my lord.
2318
2319 HAMLET
2320 As women's love.
2321
2322 *Enter the Duke and Duchess.*
2323
2324
2325 DUKE
2326 Full forty years are past, their date is gone,
2327 Since happy time joined both our hearts as one:
2328 And now the blood that filled my youthful veins,
2329 Runs weakly in their pipes, and all the strains
2330 Of music, which whilom pleased mine ear,
2331 Is now a burden that age cannot bear:
2332 And therefore sweet Nature must pay his due,

2333 To heaven must I, and leave the earth with you.
2334
2335 DUCHESS
2336 O say not so, lest that you kill my heart,
2337 When death takes you, let life from me depart.
2338
2339 DUKE
2340 Content thyself, when ended is my date,
2341 Thou mayst (perchance) have a more noble mate,
2342 More wise, more youthful, and one.
2343
2344 DUCHESS
2345 O speak no more, for then I am accurst,
2346 None weds the second, but she kills the first:
2347 A second time I kill my lord that's dead,
2348 When second husband kisses me in bed.
2349
2350
2351 HAMLET
2352 O wormwood, wormwood!
2353
2354 DUKE
2355 I do believe you sweet, what now you speak,
2356 But what we do determine oft we break,
2357 For our demises still are overthrown,
2358 Our thought are ours, their end's none of our own:
2359 So think you will no second husband wed,
2360 But die thy thoughts, when thy first lord is dead.
2361
2362 DUCHESS
2363 Both here and there pursue me lasting strife,
2364 If, once a widow, ever I be wife.
2365
2366 HAMLET
2367 If she should break now!
2368
2369
2370 DUKE
2371 'Tis deeply sworn, sweet, leave me here awhile,
2372 My spirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile
2373 The tedious time with sleep.
2374
2375 DUCHESS
2376 Sleep rock thy brain,

2377 And never come mischance between us twain.
2378 *Exit Lady.*
2379
2380 HAMLET
2381 Madam, how do you like this play?
2382
2383 QUEEN
2384 The lady protests too much.
2385
2386 HAMLET
2387 O but she'll keep her word.
2388
2389 KING
2390 Have you heard the argument, is there no offense in it?
2391
2392 HAMLET
2393 No offense in the world, poison in jest, poison in jest.
2394
2395 KING
2396 What do you call the name of the play?
2397
2398
2399 HAMLET
2400 Mousetrap: marry how trapically: this play is
2401 The image of a murder done in Vienna. Albertus
2402 Was the duke's name, his wife Baptista,
2403 Father, it is a knavish piece a work: but what
2404 A that, it toucheth not us, you and I that have free
2405 Souls, let the galld jade wince, this is one
2406 Lucianus, nephew to the King.
2407
2408 OFELIA
2409 Y'are as good as a chorus my lord.
2410
2411 HAMLET
2412 I could interpret the love you bear, if I saw the poopies dallying.
2413
2414 OFELIA
2415 Y'are very pleasant my lord.
2416
2417 HAMLET
2418 Who I, Your only jig-maker, Why what should
2419 a man do but be merry? For look how cheerfully my mother
2420

2421 looks, my father died within these two hours.
2422
2423 OFELIA
2424 Nay, 'tis twice two months, my lord.
2425
2426 HAMLET
2427 Two months, nay then let the devil wear black,
2428 For I'll have a suit of sables: Jesus, two months dead,
2429 And not forgotten yet? Nay then there's some
2430 Likelihood, a gentleman's death may outlive memory,
2431 But by my faith he must build churches then,
2432 Or else he must follow the old epitithe,
2433 "With ho, with ho, the hobby-horse is forgot."
2434
2435 OFELIA
2436 Your jests are keen my lord.
2437
2438 HAMLET
2439 It would cost you a groaning to take them off.
2440
2441 OFELIA
2442 Still better and worse.
2443
2444
2445 *[enter MURDERER]*
2446
2447 HAMLET
2448 So you must take your husband, begin. Murderer
2449 Begin, a pox, leave thy damnable faces and begin,
2450 Come, the croaking raven doth bellow for revenge.
2451
2452 MURDERER
2453 Thoughts black, hands apt, drugs fit, and time agreeing.
2454 Confederate season, else no creature seeing:
2455 Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected,
2456 With Hecate's bane thrice blasted, thrice infected,
2457 Thy natural magic, and dire property,
2458 One wholesome life usurps immediately.
2459 *[He pours the poison in the sleeper's ears.]*
2460 *Exit.*
2461
2462
2463 HAMLET
2464 He poisons him for his estate.

2465
2466 KING
2467 Lights, I will to bed.
2468
2469 CORAMBIS
2470 The King rises, lights ho.
2471
2472 *Exeunt King and Lords.*
2473
2474 HAMLET
2475 What, frighted with false fires?
2476 Then let the stricken deer go weep,
2477 The hart ungallèd play,
2478 For some must laugh, while some must weep,
2479 Thus runs the world away.
2480
2481 HORATIO
2482 The King is moved my lord.
2483
2484
2485 HAMLET
2486 Ay Horatio, I'll take the Ghost's word
2487 for more than all the coin in Denmark.
2488
2489 *Enter Rossencraft and Gilderstone.*
2490
2491 ROSSENCRAFT
2492 Now my lord, how is't with you?
2493
2494 HAMLET
2495 And if the King like not the tragedy,
2496 Why then belike he likes it not perdy.
2497
2498 ROSSENCRAFT
2499 We are very glad to see your grace so pleasant,
2500 My good lord, let us again entreat
2501 To know of you the ground and cause of your distemperature.
2502
2503 GILDERSTONE
2504 My lord, your mother craves to speak with you.
2505
2506 HAMLET
2507 We shall obey, were she ten times our mother.
2508

2509
2510 ROSSENCRAFT
2511 But my good lord, shall I entreat thus much?
2512
2513 HAMLET
2514 I pray will you play upon this pipe?
2515
2516 ROSSENCRAFT
2517 Alas my lord I cannot.
2518
2519 HAMLET
2520 Pray will you?
2521
2522 GILDERSTONE
2523 I have no skill my lord.
2524
2525 HAMLET
2526 Why look, it is a thing of nothing,
2527 'Tis but stopping of these holes,
2528 And with a little breath from your lips,
2529 it will give most delicate music.
2530
2531 GILDERSTONE
2532 But this cannot we do my lord.
2533
2534 HAMLET
2535 Pray now, pray heartily, I beseech you.
2536
2537 ROSSENCRAFT
2538 My lord we cannot.
2539
2540 HAMLET
2541 Why how unworthy a thing would you make of me?
2542 You would seem to know my stops, you would play upon me,
2543 You would search the very inward part of my heart,
2544 And dive into the secret of my soul.
2545 Zounds do you think I am easier to be played
2546 On, than a pipe? Call me what instrument
2547 You will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot
2548 Play upon me, besides, to be demanded by a sponge.
2549
2550
2551
2552

2553 ROSSENCRAFT
2554 How a sponge my lord?
2555
2556 HAMLET
2557 Ay sir, a sponge, that soaks up the King's
2558 Countenance, favors, and rewards, that makes
2559 His liberality your storehouse: but such as you,
2560 Do the King, in the end, best service;
2561 For he doth keep you as an ape doth nuts,
2562 In the corner of his jaw, first mouths you,
2563 Then swallows you: so when he hath need
2564 Of you, 'tis but squeezing of you,
2565 And sponge, you shall be dry again, you shall.
2566
2567 ROSSENCRAFT
2568 Well my lord we'll take our leave.
2569
2570 HAMLET
2571 Farewell, farewell, God bless you.
2572
2573
2574 *Exit Rossencraft and Gilderstone.*
2575 *Enter Corambis*
2576
2577 CORAMBIS
2578 My lord, the Queen would speak with you.
2579
2580 HAMLET
2581 Do you see yonder cloud in the shape of a camel?
2582
2583 CORAMBIS
2584 'Tis like a camel indeed.
2585
2586 HAMLET
2587 Now me thinks it's like a weasel.
2588
2589 CORAMBIS
2590 'Tis backed like a weasel.
2591
2592 HAMLET
2593 Or like a whale.
2594
2595
2596

2597 CORAMBIS
2598 Very like a whale.
2599
2600 *Exit Corambis.*
2601
2602 HAMLET
2603 Why then tell my mother I'll come by and by.
2604 Good night Horatio.
2605
2606 HORATIO
2607 Good night unto your lordship.
2608 *Exit Horatio.*
2609
2610 HAMLET
2611 My mother she hath sent to speak with me:
2612 O God, let ne'er the heart of Nero enter
2613 This soft bosom.
2614 Let me be cruel, not unnatural.
2615 I will speak daggers, those sharp words being spent,
2616 To do her wrong my soul shall ne'er consent.
2617 *Exit.*
2618
2619
2620
2621 SCENE 10
2622
2623 *Enter the King.*
2624
2625 KING
2626 O that this wet that falls upon my face
2627 Would wash the crime clear from my conscience!
2628 When I look up to heaven, I see my trespass,
2629 The earth doth still cry out upon my fact,
2630 Pay me the murder of a brother and a king,
2631 And the adulterous fault I have committed:
2632 Oh these are sins that are unpardonable:
2633 Why say thy sins were blacker than is jet,
2634 Yet may contrition make them as white as snow:
2635 Ay but still to persever in a sin,
2636 It is an act 'gainst the universal power,
2637 Most wretched man, stoop, bend thee to thy prayer,
2638 Ask grace of heaven to keep thee from despair.
2639 *He kneels.*
2640

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Enters Hamlet.

HAMLET

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

Exit Hamlet.

KING

My words fly up, my sins remain below.
No King on earth is safe, if God's his foe.

Exit King.

SCENE 11

Enter Queen and Corambis.

CORAMBIS

Madam, I hear young Hamlet coming,
I'll shroud myself behind the arras.

Exit Cor[ambis].

QUEEN

Do so my lord.

2685 HAMLET
2686 *[off]* Mother, mother,
2687 *[Enter Hamlet]*
2688 O are you here?
2689 How is't with you mother?
2690
2691 QUEEN
2692 How is't with you?
2693
2694 HAMLET
2695 I'll tell you, but first we'll make all safe.
2696
2697 QUEEN
2698 Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.
2699
2700 HAMLET
2701 Mother, you have my father much offended.
2702
2703
2704 QUEEN
2705 How now boy?
2706
2707 HAMLET
2708 How now mother! Come here, sit down, for you shall hear me speak.
2709
2710 QUEEN
2711 What wilt thou do? Thou wilt not murder me:
2712 Help ho.
2713
2714 CORAMBIS
2715 *[Behind the arras]* Help for the Queen!
2716
2717 HAMLET
2718 Ay a rat, Dead for a ducat!
2719 *[He stabs through the arras. Corambis falls, and is discovered, slain.]*
2720 Rash intruding fool, farewell,
2721 I took thee for thy better.
2722
2723
2724 QUEEN
2725 Hamlet, what hast thou done?
2726
2727 HAMLET
2728 Not so much harm, good mother,

2729 As to kill a king, and marry with his brother.
2730
2731 QUEEN
2732 How! Kill a king!
2733
2734 HAMLET
2735 Ay a king: nay sit you down, and ere you part,
2736 If you be made of penetrable stuff,
2737 I'll make your eyes look down into your heart,
2738 And see how horrid there and black it shows.
2739
2740 QUEEN
2741 Hamlet, what mean'st thou by these killing words?
2742
2743 HAMLET
2744 Why this I mean, see here, behold this picture,
2745 It is the portraiture, of your deceased husband.
2746 See here a face, to outface Mars himself,
2747 An eye, at which his foes did tremble at,
2748 A front wherein all virtues are set down
2749 For to adorn a king, and guild his crown,
2750 Whose heart went hand in hand even with that vow,
2751 He made to you in marriage, and he is dead.
2752 Murdred, damnably murdred, this was your husband.
2753 Look you now, here is your husband,
2754 With a face like Vulcan.
2755 A look fit for a murder and a rape,
2756 A dull dead hanging look, and a hell-bred eye,
2757 To affright children and amaze the world:
2758 And this same have you left to change with this.
2759 What devil thus hath cozened you at hob-man blind?
2760 Ah! Have you eyes and can you look on him
2761 That slew my father, and your dear husband,
2762 To live in the incestuous pleasure of his bed?
2763
2764
2765 QUEEN
2766 O Hamlet, speak no more.
2767
2768 HAMLET
2769 To leave him that bare a monarch's mind,
2770 For a king of clouts, of very shreds.
2771
2772

2773 QUEEN
2774 Sweet Hamlet cease.
2775
2776 HAMLET
2777 Nay but still to persist and dwell in sin,
2778 To sweat under the yoke of infamy,
2779 To make increase of shame, to seal damnation.
2780
2781 QUEEN
2782 Hamlet, no more.
2783
2784 HAMLET
2785 Why appetite with you is in the wane,
2786 Your blood runs backward now from whence it came,
2787 Who'll chide hot blood within a virgin's heart,
2788 When lust shall dwell within a matron's breast?
2789
2790 QUEEN
2791 Hamlet, thou cleaves my heart in twain.
2792
2793
2794 HAMLET
2795 O throw away the worser part of it, and keep the better.
2796 *Enter the Ghost in his nightgown.*
2797 Save me, save me, you gracious
2798 Powers above, and hover over me,
2799 With your celestial wings.
2800 Do you not come your tardy son to chide,
2801 That I thus long have let revenge slip by?
2802 Oh do not glare with looks so pitiful!
2803 Lest that my heart of stone yield to compassion,
2804 And every part that should assist revenge
2805 Forgo their proper powers, and fall to pity.
2806
2807 GHOST
2808 Hamlet, I once again appear to thee,
2809 To put thee in remembrance of my death:
2810 Do not neglect, nor long time put it off.
2811 But I perceive by thy distracted looks,
2812 Thy mother's fearful, and she stands amazed:
2813 Speak to her Hamlet, for her sex is weak,
2814 Comfort thy mother, Hamlet, think on me.
2815
2816

2817 HAMLET
2818 How is't with you lady?
2819
2820 QUEEN
2821 Nay how is't with you
2822 That thus you bend your eyes on vacancy,
2823 And hold discourse with nothing but with air?
2824
2825 HAMLET
2826 Why do you nothing hear?
2827
2828 QUEEN
2829 Not I.
2830
2831 HAMLET
2832 Nor do you nothing see?
2833
2834 QUEEN
2835 No neither.
2836
2837
2838 HAMLET
2839 No, why see the King my father, my father, in the habit
2840 As he lived, look you how pale he looks,
2841 See how he steals away out of the portal,
2842 Look, there he goes.
2843
2844 *Exit Ghost.*
2845
2846 QUEEN
2847 Alas, it is the weakness of thy brain,
2848 Which makes thy tongue to blazon thy heart's grief:
2849 But as I have a soul, I swear by heaven,
2850 I never knew of this most horrid murder:
2851 But Hamlet, this is only fantasy,
2852 And for my love forget these idle fits.
2853
2854 HAMLET
2855 Idle, no mother, my pulse doth beat like yours,
2856 It is not madness that possesseth Hamlet.
2857 O mother, if ever you did my dear father love,
2858 Forbear the adulterous bed tonight,
2859 And win yourself by little as you may,
2860

2861 In time it may be you will loathe him quite:
2862 And mother, but assist me in revenge,
2863 And in his death your infamy shall die.
2864
2865 QUEEN
2866 Hamlet, I vow by that Majesty
2867 That knows our thoughts, and looks into our hearts,
2868 I will conceal, consent, and do my best,
2869 What stratagem soe'er thou shalt devise.
2870
2871 HAMLET
2872 It is enough, mother good night:
2873 Come sir, I'll provide for you a grave,
2874 Who was in life a foolish prating knave.
2875
2876 *Exit Hamlet with the dead body.*
2877 *Enter the King and Lords [Rossen Craft and Gilderstone].*
2878
2879
2880 KING
2881 Now Gertred, what says our son, how do you find him?
2882
2883 QUEEN
2884 Alas my lord, as raging as the sea:
2885 Whenas he came, I first bespake him fair,
2886 But then he throws and tosses me about,
2887 As one forgetting that I was his mother:
2888 At last I called for help: and as I cried, Corambis
2889 Called, which Hamlet no sooner heard, but whips me
2890 Out his rapier, and cries, "A rat, a rat," and in his rage
2891 The good old man he kills.
2892
2893 KING
2894 Why this his madness will undo our state.
2895 Lords go to him, inquire the body out.
2896
2897 GILDERSTONE
2898 We will my lord.
2899
2900 *Exeunt Lords.*
2901
2902
2903 KING
2904 Gertred, your son shall presently to England,

2905 His shipping is already furnished,
2906 And we have sent by Rossencraft and Gilderstone
2907 Our letters to our dear brother of England
2908 For Hamlet's welfare and his happiness:
2909 Haply the air and climate of the country
2910 May please him better than his native home:
2911 See where he comes.

2912
2913 *Enter Hamlet and the Lords [Rossencraft, Gilderstone, and perhaps another].*
2914

2915 GILDERSTONE
2916 My lord, we can by no means
2917 Know of him where the body is.

2918
2919 KING
2920 Now son Hamlet, where is this dead body?
2921

2922 HAMLET
2923 At supper, not where he is eating, but
2924 Where he is eaten, a certain company of politic worms
2925 are even now at him.
2926 Father, your fat king and your lean beggar
2927 Are but variable services, two dishes to one mess:
2928 Look you, a man may fish with that worm
2929 That hath eaten of a king,
2930 And a beggar eat that fish,
2931 Which that worm hath caught.

2932
2933
2934 KING
2935 What of this?
2936

2937 HAMLET
2938 Nothing father, but to tell you, how a king
2939 May go a progress through the guts of a beggar.
2940

2941 KING
2942 But son Hamlet, where is this body?
2943

2944 HAMLET
2945 In heav'n. If you chance to miss him there,
2946 Father, you had best look in the other parts below
2947 For him, and if you cannot find him there,
2948

2949 You may chance to nose him as you go up the lobby.
2950
2951 KING
2952 Make haste and find him out.
2953
2954 HAMLET
2955 Nay do you hear? Do not make too much haste,
2956 I'll warrant you he'll stay till you come.
2957
2958 KING
2959 Well son Hamlet, we, in care of you: but specially
2960 In tender preservation of your health,
2961 The which we price even as our proper self,
2962 It is our mind you forthwith go for England,
2963 The wind sits fair, you shall aboard tonight,
2964 Lord Rossencraft and Gilderstone shall go along with you.
2965
2966 HAMLET
2967 O with all my heart: farewell mother.
2968
2969 KING
2970 Your loving father, Hamlet.
2971
2972 HAMLET
2973 My mother I say: you married my mother,
2974 My mother is your wife; man and wife is one flesh;
2975 And so (my mother) farewell: for England ho.
2976
2977
2978 *Exeunt all but the King [and Queen].*
2979
2980 KING
2981 Gertred, leave me,
2982 And take your leave of Hamlet.
2983 *[Exit Queen.]*
2984 To England is he gone, ne'er to return:
2985 Our letters are unto the King of England,
2986 That on the sight of them, on his allegiance,
2987 He presently without demanding why,
2988 That Hamlet lose his head, for he must die.
2989 There's more in him than shallow eyes can see:
2990 He once being dead, why then our state is free.
2991
2992 *Exit.*

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SCENE 12

Enter Fortenbrasse, Drum, and Soldiers.

FORTENBRASSE

Captain, from us go greet

The King of Denmark:

Tell him that Fortenbrasse nephew to old Norway,

Craves a free pass and conduct over his land,

According to the articles agreed on:

You know our rendezvous, go march away.

Exeunt all.

SCENE 13

Enter King and Queen.

KING

Hamlet is shipped for England, fare him well,

I hope to hear good news from thence ere long,

If everything fall out to our content,

As I do make no doubt but so it shall.

QUEEN

God grant it may. Heav'ns keep my Hamlet safe:

But this mischance of old Corambis' death,

Hath piercèd so the young Ofelia's heart,

That she, poor maid, is quite bereft her wits.

KING

Alas dear heart! And on the other side,

We understand her brother's come from France,

And he hath half the heart of all our land,

And hardly he'll forget his father's death,

Unless by some means he be pacified.

QUEEN

O see where the young Ofelia is!

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

3037 OFELIA
3038 How should I your true love know
3039 From another man?
3040 By his cockle hat, and his staff,
3041 And his sandal shoon.
3042 White his shroud as mountain snow,
3043 Larded with sweet flowers,
3044 That bewept to the grave did not go
3045 With true lovers' showers:
3046 He is dead and gone lady, he is dead and gone,
3047 At his head a grass green turf,
3048 At his heels a stone.
3049
3050 KING
3051 How is't with you sweet Ofelia?
3052
3053 OFELIA
3054 Well God yield you,
3055 It grieves me to see how they laid him in the cold ground,
3056 I could not choose but weep:
3057 *[She sings.]*
3058 And will he not come again?
3059 And will he not come again?
3060 No, no, he's gone, and we cast away moan,
3061 And he never will come again.
3062 His beard as white as snow:
3063 All flaxen was his pole,
3064 He is dead, he is gone,
3065 And we cast away moan:
3066 God a mercy on his soul.
3067 *[she speaks]*
3068 And of all Christiann souls I pray God.
3069 God be with you ladies, God be with you.
3070 *Exit Ofelia.*
3071
3072
3073 KING
3074 A pretty wretch! This is a change indeed:
3075 O Time, how swiftly runs our joys away?
3076 Content on earth was never certain bred,
3077 Today we laugh and live, tomorrow dead.
3078 How now, what noise is that?
3079
3080

3081 *A noise within.*
3082 *Enter Leartes.*
3083
3084 LEARTES
3085 Stay there until I come,
3086 O thou vile king, give me my father:
3087 Speak, say, where's my father?
3088
3089 KING
3090 Dead.
3091
3092 LEARTES
3093 Who hath murdered him? Speak. I'll not
3094 Be juggled with, for he is murdered.
3095
3096 QUEEN
3097 True, but not by him.
3098
3099
3100 LEARTES
3101 By whom? By heav'n I'll be resolved.
3102
3103 KING
3104 Let him go Gertred, away, I fear him not,
3105 There's such divinity doth wall a king,
3106 That treason dares not look on.
3107 Let him go Gertred, that your father is murdred,
3108 'Tis true, and we most sorry for it,
3109 Being the chiefest pillar of our state:
3110 Therefore will you like a most desperate gamester,
3111 Swoopstake-like, draw at friend, and foe, and all?
3112
3113 LEARTES
3114 To his good friends thus wide I'll ope mine arms,
3115 And lock them in my heart, but to his foes,
3116 I will no reconcilment but by blood.
3117
3118 KING
3119 Why now you speak like a most loving son:
3120 And that in soul we sorrow for his death,
3121 Yourself ere long shall be a witness,
3122 Meanwhile be patient, and content yourself.
3123
3124

3125 *Enter Ofelia as before.*
3126
3127 LEARTES
3128 Who's this, Ofelia? O my dear sister!
3129 Is't possible a young maid's life
3130 Should be as mortal as an old man's saw?
3131 O heav'ns themselves! How now Ofelia?
3132
3133 OFELIA
3134 Well God-a-mercy. I a been gathering of flowers:
3135 Here, here is rue for you,
3136 You may call it herb-a-grace a Sundays,
3137 Here's some for me too: you must wear your rue
3138 With a difference, there's a daisy.
3139 Here love, there's rosemary for you
3140 for remembrance: I pray love remember,
3141 And there's pansy for thoughts.
3142
3143
3144 LEARTES
3145 A document in madness, thoughts, remembrance:
3146 O God, O God!
3147
3148 OFELIA
3149 There is fennel for you, I would a giv'n you
3150 Some violets, but they all withered, when
3151 My father died: alas, they say the owl was
3152 A baker's daughter, we see what we are,
3153 But cannot tell what we shall be.
3154 *[She sings]*
3155 For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy.
3156
3157 LEARTES
3158 Thoughts and afflictions, torments worse than hell.
3159
3160
3161 OFELIA
3162 Nay love, I pray you make no words of this now:
3163 I pray now, you shall sing "a-down,"
3164 And you "a- down-a." 'Tis a the King's daughter
3165 And the false steward, and if anybody
3166 Ask you of anything, say you this.
3167 *[She sings]*
3168 Tomorrow is Saint Valentine's day,

3169 All in the morning betime,
3170 And a maid at your window,
3171 To be your Valentine:
3172 The young man rose, And donned his clothes,
3173 And dugged the chamber door,
3174 Let in the maid, that out a maid
3175 Never departed more.
3176 *[spoken]*
3177 Nay I pray, mark now,
3178 *[She sings]*
3179 By Gis and by Saint Charity
3180 Away, and fie for shame:
3181 Young men will do't when they come to't;
3182 By Cock, they are to blame.
3183 Quoth she, "Before you tumbled me,
3184 You promised me to wed."
3185 "So would I a done, by yonder sun,
3186 If thou hadst not come to my bed."
3187 *[spoken]*
3188 So God be with you all, God b'w'y' ladies.
3189 God b'w'y' you love.
3190 *Exit Ofelia. [and QUEEN after her]*
3191
3192
3193 LEARTES
3194 Grief upon grief, My father murdered,
3195 My sister thus distracted:
3196 Cursed be his soul that wrought this wicked act.
3197
3198 KING
3199 Content you good Leartes for a time,
3200 Although I know your grief is as a flood,
3201 Brimful of sorrow, but forbear awhile,
3202 And think already the revenge is done
3203 On him that makes you such a hapless son.
3204
3205 LEARTES
3206 You have prevailed my lord, awhile I'll strive,
3207 To bury grief within a tomb of wrath,
3208 Which once unheard, then the world shall hear
3209 Leartes had a father he held dear.
3210
3211
3212

3213 KING
3214 No more of that, ere many days be done,
3215 You shall hear that you do not dream upon.

3216 *Exeunt omnes.*

3217

3218

3219 SCENE 14

3220

3221

3222 *Enter Horatio [with a letter] and the Queen.*

3223

3224 HORATIO

3225 Madam, your son is safe arrived in Denmark,
3226 This letter I even now received of him,
3227 Whereas he writes how he escaped the danger,
3228 And subtle treason that the King had plotted,
3229 Being crossed by the contention of the winds,
3230 He found the packet sent to the King of England,
3231 Wherein he saw himself betrayed to death,
3232 As at his next convers'ion with your grace,
3233 He will relate the circumstance at full.

3234

3235 QUEEN

3236 Then I perceive there's treason in his looks
3237 That seemed to sugar o'er his villainy:
3238 But I will soothe and please him for a time,
3239 For murderous minds are always jealous,
3240 But know not you Horatio where he is?

3241

3242

3243 HORATIO

3244 Yes madam, and he hath appointed me
3245 To meet him on the east side of the city
3246 Tomorrow morning.

3247

3248 QUEEN

3249 Oh fail not, good Horatio, and withal commend me
3250 A mother's care to him, bid him awhile
3251 Be wary of his presence, lest that he
3252 Fail in that he goes about.

3253

3254 HORATIO

3255 Madam, never make doubt of that:
3256 I think by this the news be come to court:

3257 He is arrived, observe the King, and you shall
3258 Quickly find, Hamlet being here,
3259 Things fell not to his mind.
3260
3261 QUEEN
3262 But what become of Gilderstone and Rossencraft?
3263
3264 HORATIO
3265 He being set ashore, they went for England,
3266 And in the packet there writ down that doom
3267 To be performed on them 'pointed for him:
3268 And by great chance he had his father's seal,
3269 So all was done without discovery.
3270
3271 QUEEN
3272 Thanks be to heaven for blessing of the Prince,
3273 Horatio, once again I take my leave,
3274 With thousand mother's blessings to my son.
3275
3276 HORATIO
3277 Madam adieu.
3278
3279 *[Exeunt.]*
3280
3281
3282 SCENE 15
3283
3284 *Enter King and Leartes.*
3285
3286 KING
3287 Hamlet from England! Is it possible?
3288 What chance is this? They are gone, and he come home!
3289
3290 LEARTES
3291 O he is welcome, by my soul he is:
3292 At it my jocund heart doth leap for joy,
3293 That I shall live to tell him, thus he dies.
3294
3295 KING
3296 Leartes, content yourself, be ruled by me,
3297 And you shall have no let for your revenge.
3298
3299
3300

3301 LEARTES
3302 My will, not all the world.
3303
3304 KING
3305 Nay but Leartes, mark the plot I have laid,
3306 I have heard him often with a greedy wish,
3307 Upon some praise that he hath heard of you
3308 Touching your weapon, wish with all his heart
3309 He might be once tasked for to try your cunning.
3310

3311 LEARTES
3312 And how for this?
3313

3314 KING
3315 Mary Leartes thus: I'll lay a wager,
3316 Shall be on Hamlet's side, and you shall give the odds,
3317 The which will draw him with a more desire
3318 To try the mastery, that in twelve venies
3319 You gain not three of him: now this being granted,
3320 When you are hot in midst of all your play,
3321 Among the foils shall a keen rapier lie,
3322 Steeped in a mixture of deadly poison,
3323 That if it draws but the least dram of blood,
3324 In any part of him, he cannot live:
3325 This being done will free you from suspicion,
3326 And not the dearest friend that Hamlet loved
3327 Will ever have Leartes in suspect.
3328
3329

3330 LEARTES
3331 My lord, I like it well:
3332 But say Lord Hamlet should refuse this match.
3333

3334 KING
3335 I'll warrant you, we'll put on you
3336 Such a report of singularity,
3337 Will bring him on, although against his will.
3338 And lest that all should miss,
3339 I'll have a potion that shall ready stand,
3340 In all his heat when that he calls for drink,
3341 Shall be his period and our happiness.
3342
3343
3344

3345 LEARTES
3346 'Tis excellent, O would the time were come!
3347 Here comes the Queen.
3348
3349 *Enter the Queen.*
3350
3351 KING
3352 How now Gertred, why look you heavily?
3353
3354 QUEEN
3355 O my lord, the young Ofelia
3356 Having made a garland of sundry sorts of flowers,
3357 Sitting upon a willow by a brook,
3358 The envious sprig broke, into the brook she fell,
3359 And for a while her clothes spread wide abroad,
3360 Bore the young lady up: and there she sat smiling,
3361 Even mermaid-like, 'twixt heaven and earth,
3362 Chanting old sundry tunes uncapable
3363 As it were of her distress, but long it could not be,
3364 Till that her clothes, being heavy with their drink,
3365 Dragged the sweet wretch to death.
3366
3367
3368 LEARTES
3369 So, she is drowned:
3370 Too much of water hast thou Ofelia;
3371 Therefore I will not drown thee in my tears,
3372 Revenge it is must yield this heart relief,
3373 For woe begets woe, and grief hangs on grief.
3374
3375 *Exeunt.*
3376
3377 SCENE 16
3378
3379 *Enter Clown [Gravedigger] and another.*
3380
3381
3382 1 CLOWN
3383 I say no, she ought not to be buried
3384 In Christian burial.
3385
3386 2 CLOWN
3387 Why sir?
3388

3389 1 CLOWN
3390 Mary because she's drowned.
3391
3392 2 CLOWN
3393 But she did not drown herself.
3394
3395 1 CLOWN
3396 No, that's certain, the water drowned her.
3397
3398 2 CLOWN
3399 Yea but it was against her will.
3400
3401 1 CLOWN
3402 No, I deny that, for look you sir, I stand here,
3403 If the water come to me, I drown not myself:
3404 But if I go to the water, and am there drowned,
3405 Ergo I am guilty of my own death:
3406 Y'are gone, go y'are gone sir.
3407
3408
3409 2 CLOWN
3410 Ay but see, she hath Christian burial,
3411 Because she is a great woman.
3412
3413 1 CLOWN
3414 Mary more's the pity, that great folk
3415 Should have more authority to hang or drown
3416 Themselves, more than other people:
3417 Go fetch me a stoup of drink, but before thou
3418 Goest, tell me one thing, who builds strongest,
3419 Of a mason, a shipwright, or a carpenter?
3420
3421 2 CLOWN
3422 Why a mason, for he builds all of stone,
3423 And will endure long.
3424
3425 1 CLOWN
3426 That's pretty, to't again, to't again.
3427
3428 2 CLOWN
3429 Why then a carpenter, for he builds the gallows,
3430 And that brings many a one to his long home.
3431
3432

3433 1 CLOWN
3434 Pretty again, the gallows doth well, mary how
3435 does it well? The gallows does well to them that do ill,
3436 go get thee gone:
3437 And if anyone ask thee hereafter, say,
3438 A grave-maker, for the houses he builds
3439 Last till Doomsday. Fetch me a stoup of beer, go.
3440
3441 *[Exit Second Clown.]*
3442
3443 *Enter Hamlet and Horatio.*
3444
3445 1 CLOWN
3446 *[He sings.]*
3447 A pick-ax and a spade,
3448 A spade for and a winding sheet,
3449 Most fit it is, for 'twill be made, *he throws up a shovel.*
3450 He throws up a shovel.
3451 For such a guest most meet.
3452
3453
3454 HAMLET
3455 Hath this fellow any feeling of himself,
3456 That is thus merry in making of a grave?
3457 See how the slave jowls their heads against the earth!
3458
3459 HORATIO
3460 My lord, custom hath made it in him seem nothing.
3461
3462 1 CLOWN
3463 *[He sings.]*
3464 A pick-ax and a spade, a spade,
3465 For and a winding sheet,
3466 Most fit it is for to be made,
3467 For such a guest most meet.
3468 *[He throws up skull.]*
3469
3470
3471 HAMLET
3472 Look you, there's another Horatio.
3473 Why may't not be the skull of some lawyer?
3474 Methinks he should indict that fellow
3475 Of an action of battery, for knocking
3476 Him about the pate with's shovel: now where is your

3477 Quirks and quillets now, your vouchers and
3478 Double vouchers, your leases and freehold,
3479 And tenements? Why that same box there will scarce
3480 Hold the conveyance of his land, and must
3481 The honor lie there? Oh, pitiful transformance!
3482 I prithee tell me Horatio,
3483 Is parchment made of sheepskins?
3484
3485 HORATIO
3486 Ay my lord, and of calves' skins too.
3487
3488 HAMLET
3489 I'faith,= they prove themselves sheep and calves
3490 That deal with them, or put their trust in them.
3491 *[The Gravedigger throws up another skull.]*
3492 There's another, why may not that be Such-a-one's
3493 Skull, that praised my Lord Such-a-one's horse
3494 When he meant to beg him? Horatio, I prithee
3495 Let's question yonder fellow.
3496 Now my friend, whose grave is this?
3497
3498
3499 1 CLOWN
3500 Mine sir.
3501
3502 HAMLET
3503 But who must lie in it?
3504
3505 1 CLOWN
3506 If I should say, I should, I should lie in my throat sir.
3507
3508 HAMLET
3509 What man must be buried here?
3510
3511 1 CLOWN
3512 No man sir.
3513
3514 HAMLET
3515 What woman?
3516
3517 1 CLOWN
3518 No woman neither sir, but indeed
3519 One that was a woman.
3520

3521
3522 HAMLET
3523 An excellent fellow by the Lord Horatio,
3524 This seven years have I noted it: the toe of the peasant,
3525 Comes so near the heel of the courtier,
3526 That he galls his kibe, I prithee tell me one thing,
3527 How long will a man lie in the ground before he rots?
3528
3529 1 CLOWN
3530 I'faith sir, if he be not rotten before
3531 He be laid in, as we have many pocky corses,
3532 He will last you, eight years, a tanner
3533 Will last you eight years full out, or nine.
3534
3535 HAMLET
3536 And why a tanner?
3537
3538 1 CLOWN
3539 Why his hide is so tanned with his trade,
3540 That it will hold out water, that's a parlous
3541 Devourer of your dead body, a great soaker.
3542 Look you, here's a skull hath been here this dozen year,
3543 Let me see, ay ever since our last king Hamlet
3544 Slew Fortenbrasse in combat, young Hamlet's father,
3545 He that's mad.
3546
3547 HAMLET
3548 Ay marry, how came he mad?
3549
3550 1 CLOWN
3551 I'faith very strangely, by losing of his wits.
3552
3553 HAMLET
3554 Upon what ground?
3555
3556 1 CLOWN
3557 A this ground, in Denmark.
3558
3559 HAMLET
3560 Where is he now?
3561
3562
3563
3564

3565 1 CLOWN
3566 Why now they sent him to England.
3567
3568 HAMLET
3569 To England! Wherefore?
3570
3571 1 CLOWN
3572 Why they say he shall have his wits there,
3573 Or if he have not, 'tis no great matter there,
3574 It will not be seen there.
3575
3576 HAMLET
3577 Why not there?
3578
3579 1 CLOWN
3580 Why there they say the men are as mad as he.
3581
3582 HAMLET
3583 Whose skull was this?
3584
3585 1 CLOWN
3586 This, a plague on him, a mad rogue's it was,
3587 He poured once a whole flagon of Rhenish of my head,
3588 Why do not you know him? This was one Yorick's skull.
3589
3590
3591 HAMLET
3592 Was this? I prithee let me see it, alas poor Yorick
3593 I knew him Horatio,
3594 A fellow of infinite mirth, he hath carried me twenty times upon his back, here hung those
3595 lips that I have kissed a hundred times, and to see, now they abhor me: Where's your
3596 jests now Yorick? Your flashes of merriment: Now go to my lady's chamber, and bid her
3597 paint herself an inch thick, to this she must come Yorick. Horatio, I prithee tell me one
3598 thing, dost thou think that Alexander looked thus?
3599
3600
3601 HORATIO
3602 Even so my lord.
3603
3604 HAMLET
3605 And smelt thus?
3606
3607 HORATIO
3608 Ay my lord, no otherwise.

3609
3610 HAMLET
3611 No, why might not imagination work as thus of Alexander, Alexander died, Alexander
3612 was buried, Alexander became earth, of earth we make clay, and Alexander being but
3613 clay, why might not time bring to pass, that he might stop the bung-hole of a beer-barrel?
3614 Imperious Caesar, dead and turned to clay,
3615 Might stop a hole, to keep the wind away.
3616
3617 *Enter King and Queen, Leartes, and other Lords, with a Priest after the coffin.*
3618
3619 HAMLET
3620 What funeral's this that all the court laments?
3621 It shows to be some noble parentage:
3622 Stand by awhile.
3623
3624 LEARTES
3625 What ceremony else? Say, what ceremony else?
3626
3627 PRIEST
3628 My lord, we have done all that lies in us,
3629 And more than well the church can tolerate,
3630 She hath had a dirge sung for her maiden soul:
3631 And, but for favor of the King, and you,
3632 She had been buried in the open fields,
3633 Where now she is allowed Christian burial.
3634
3635
3636 LEARTES
3637 So, I tell thee churlish priest, a ministr'ing angel
3638 shall my sister be, when thou liest howling.
3639
3640 HAMLET
3641 The fair Ofelia dead!
3642
3643 QUEEN
3644 Sweets to the sweet, farewell:
3645 I had thought to adorn thy bridal bed, fair maid,
3646 And not to follow thee unto thy grave.
3647
3648
3649 LEARTES
3650 Forbear the earth awhile: sister farewell:
3651 *Leartes leaps into the grave.*
3652 Now pour your earth on, Olympus-high,

3653 And make a hill to o'ertop old Pelion:
3654 *Hamlet leaps in after Leartes.*
3655
3656 HAMLET
3657 What's he that conjures so?
3658 Behold 'tis I, Hamlet the Dane.
3659
3660 LEARTES
3661 The devil take thy soul.
3662
3663 HAMLET
3664 Oh thou prayest not well,
3665 I prithee take thy hand from off my throat,
3666 For there is something in me dangerous,
3667 Which let thy wisdom fear, Hold off thy hand:
3668 I loved Ofelia as dear as twenty brothers could:
3669 Show me what thou wilt do for her:
3670 Wilt fight, wilt fast, wilt pray,
3671 Wilt drink up vessels, eat a crocodile? I'll do't:
3672 Com'st thou here to whine?
3673 And where thou talk'st of burying thee alive,
3674 Here let us stand: and let them throw on us,
3675 Whole hills of earth, till with the height thereof,
3676 Make Ossa as a wart!
3677
3678
3679 KING
3680 Forbear Leartes, now is he mad, as is the sea,
3681 Anon as mild and gentle as a dove:
3682 Therefore awhile give his wild humor scope.
3683
3684 HAMLET
3685 What is the reason sir that you wrong me thus?
3686 I never gave you cause: but stand away,
3687 A cat will mew, a dog will have a day.
3688
3689 *Exit Hamlet and Horatio.*
3690
3691 QUEEN
3692 Alas, it is his madness makes him thus,
3693 And not his heart, Leartes.
3694
3695
3696

3697 KING
3698 My lord, 'tis so: but we'll no longer trifle,
3699 This very day shall Hamlet drink his last,
3700 For presently we mean to send to him,
3701 Therefore Leartes be in readiness.
3702
3703 LEARTES
3704 My lord, till then my soul will not be quiet.
3705
3706 KING
3707 Come Gertred, we'll have Leartes, and our son,
3708 Made friends and lovers, as befits them both,
3709 Even as they tender us, and love their country.
3710
3711 QUEEN
3712 God grant they may.
3713
3714
3715 *Exeunt omnes.*
3716
3717
3718 SCENE 17
3719
3720 *Enter Hamlet and Horatio.*
3721
3722 HAMLET
3723 Believe me, it grieves me much Horatio,
3724 That to Leartes I forgot myself:
3725 For by myself methinks I feel his grief,
3726 Though there's a difference in each other's wrong.
3727 *Enter a Braggart Gentleman.*
3728 Horatio, but mark yon water-fly,
3729 The Court knows him, but he knows not the Court.
3730
3731 GENTLEMAN
3732 Now God save thee, sweet prince Hamlet.
3733
3734 HAMLET
3735 And you sir: foh, how the musk-cod smells!
3736
3737 GENTLEMAN
3738 I come with an embassy from his majesty to you.
3739
3740

3741 HAMLET
3742 I shall sir give you attention:
3743 By my troth methinks 'tis very cold.
3744
3745 GENTLEMAN
3746 It is indeed very rawish cold.
3747
3748 HAMLET
3749 'Tis hot methinks.
3750
3751 GENTLEMAN
3752 Very swoltery hot:
3753 The King, sweet Prince, hath laid a wager on your side,
3754 Six Barbary horse, against six French rapiers,
3755 With all their accoutrements too, a the carriages:
3756 In good faith they are very curiously wrought.
3757
3758 HAMLET
3759 The carriages sir, I do not know what you mean.
3760
3761 GENTLEMAN
3762 The girdles, and hangers sir, and such like.
3763
3764 HAMLET
3765 The word had been more cousin-german to the
3766 phrase, if he could have carried the cannon by his side,
3767 And how's the wager? I understand you now.
3768
3769 GENTLEMAN
3770 Marry sir, that young Leartes in twelve venies
3771 At rapier and dagger do not get three odds of you,
3772 And on your side the King hath laid,
3773 and desires you to be in readiness.
3774
3775 HAMLET
3776 Very well, If the King dare venture his wager,
3777 I dare venture my skull: when must this be?
3778
3779 GENTLEMAN
3780 My lord, presently, the King, and her majesty,
3781 With the rest of the best judgment in the Court,
3782 Are coming down into the outward palace.
3783
3784

3785
3786 HAMLET
3787 Go tell his majesty, I will attend him.
3788
3789 GENTLEMAN
3790 I shall deliver your most sweet answer.
3791 *Exit.*
3792
3793 HAMLET
3794 You may sir, none better, for y'are spiced!
3795 Else he had a bad nose could not smell a fool.
3796
3797 HORATIO
3798 He will disclose himself without inquiry.
3799
3800
3801 HAMLET
3802 Believe me, Horatio, my heart is on the sudden
3803 Very sore, all hereabout.
3804
3805 HORATIO
3806 My lord, forbear the challenge then.
3807
3808 HAMLET
3809 No Horatio, not I, if danger be now,
3810 Why then it is not to come, there's a predestinate providence
3811 in the fall of a sparrow: here comes the King.
3812
3813 *Enter King, Queen, Leartes, Lords.*
3814
3815 KING
3816 Now son Hamlet, we have laid upon your head,
3817 And make no question but to have the best.
3818
3819 HAMLET
3820 Your majesty hath laid a the weaker side.
3821
3822 KING
3823 We doubt it not, Deliver them the foils.
3824
3825
3826 HAMLET
3827 First Leartes, here's my hand and love,
3828 Protesting that I never wronged Leartes.

3829 If Hamlet in his madness did amiss,
3830 That was not Hamlet, but his madness did it,
3831 And all the wrong I e'er did to Leartes,
3832 I here proclaim was madness, therefore let's be at peace,
3833 And think I have shot mine arrow o'er the house,
3834 And hurt my brother.

3835
3836 LEARTES
3837 Sir I am satisfied in nature,
3838 But in terms of honor I'll stand aloof,
3839 And will no reconciliation,
3840 Till by some elder masters of our time
3841 I may be satisfied.

3842
3843 KING
3844 Give them the foils.

3845
3846 HAMLET
3847 I'll be your foil, Leartes, these foils,
3848 Have all a length, Come on sir.

3849
3850 *Here they play.*

3851 A hit!

3852
3853 LEARTES
3854 No none.

3855
3856 HAMLET
3857 Judgment.

3858
3859 GENTLEMAN
3860 A hit, a most palpable hit.

3861
3862 LEARTES
3863 Well, come again.

3864
3865
3866 *They play again.*

3867
3868 HAMLET
3869 Another. Judgment?

3870
3871 LEARTES
3872 Ay, I grant, a touch, a touch.

3873
3874 KING
3875 Here Hamlet, the King doth drink a health to thee.
3876
3877 QUEEN
3878 Here Hamlet, take my napkin, wipe thy face.
3879
3880 KING
3881 Give him the wine.
3882
3883 HAMLET
3884 Set it by. I'll have another bout first,
3885 I'll drink anon.
3886
3887 QUEEN
3888 Here Hamlet, thy mother drinks to thee.
3889 *She drinks.*
3890
3891 KING
3892 Do not drink Gertred: O 'tis the poisoned cup!
3893
3894 HAMLET
3895 Leartes come, you dally with me,
3896 I pray you pass with your most cunning'st play.
3897
3898 LEARTES
3899 Ay! Say you so? Have at you,
3900 I'll hit you now my lord:
3901 And yet it goes almost against my conscience.
3902
3903 HAMLET
3904 Come on sir.
3905
3906 *They catch one another's rapiers, and both are wounded. Leartes falls down. The*
3907 *Queen falls down and dies.*
3908
3909 KING
3910 Look to the Queen.
3911
3912 QUEEN
3913 O the drink, the drink, Hamlet, the drink.
3914
3915
3916

3917 HAMLET
3918 Treason, ho, keep the gates.
3919
3920 LORDS
3921 How is't my lord Leartes?
3922
3923 LEARTES
3924 Even as a coxcomb should,
3925 Foolishly slain with my own weapon:
3926 Hamlet, thou hast not in thee half an hour of life,
3927 The fatal instrument is in thy hand.
3928 Unbated and envenomed: thy mother's poisoned
3929 That drink was made for thee.
3930
3931 HAMLET
3932 The poisoned instrument within my hand?
3933 Then venom to thy venom, die damnèd villain:
3934 Come drink, here lies thy union here.
3935
3936
3937 *The King dies.*
3938
3939 LEARTES
3940 O he is justly served:
3941 Hamlet, before I die, here take my hand,
3942 And withal, my love: I do forgive thee.
3943 *Learthes dies.*
3944
3945 HAMLET
3946 And I thee. Oh I am dead Horatio, fare thee well.
3947
3948 HORATIO
3949 No, I am more an antique Roman,
3950 Than a Dane, here is some poison left.
3951
3952 HAMLET
3953 Upon my love I charge thee let it go,
3954 Oh fie Horatio, an if thou shouldest die,
3955 What a scandal wouldst thou leave behind?
3956 What tongue should tell the story of our deaths,
3957 If not from thee? Oh my heart sinks Horatio,
3958 Mine eyes have lost their sight, my tongue his use:
3959 Farewell Horatio, Heaven receive my soul.
3960

3961
3962 *Hamlet dies.*
3963 *Enter Voltemar and the Ambassadors from England.*
3964 *Enter Fortenbrasse with his train.*
3965
3966 FORTENBRASSE
3967 Where is this bloody sight?
3968
3969 HORATIO
3970 If aught of woe or wonder you'd behold,
3971 Then look upon this tragic spectacle.
3972
3973 FORTENBRASSE
3974 O imperious Death! How many princes
3975 Hast thou at one draught bloodily shot to death!
3976
3977 AMBASSADOR
3978 Our embassy that we have brought from England,
3979 Where be these princes that should hear us speak?
3980 O most most unlooked-for time! Unhappy country!
3981
3982 HORATIO
3983 Content yourselves, I'll show to all, the ground,
3984 The first beginning of this tragedy:
3985 Let there a scaffold be reared up in the marketplace,
3986 And let the state of the world be there:
3987 Where you shall hear such a sad story told,
3988 That never mortal man could more unfold.
3999
4000
4001 FORTENBRASSE
4002 I have some rights of memory to this kingdom,
4003 Which now to claim my leisure doth invite me:
4004 Let four of our chiefest captains
4005 Bear Hamlet like a soldier to his grave:
4006 For he was likely, had he lived,
4007 To a proved most royal.
4008 Take up the body, such a sight as this
4009 Becomes the fields, but here doth much amiss.
4010
4011

END OF PLAY