

Hamlet

4.1

Enter King Claudius to Queen Gertrude

KING CLAUDIUS

There's matter in these sighs, these profound heaves;
You must translate. 'Tis fit we understand them.
Where is your son?

QUEEN GERTRUDE

Ah, my good lord, what have I seen tonight!

KING CLAUDIUS What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet? 5

QUEEN GERTRUDE

Mad as the sea and wind when both contend
Which is the mightier. In his lawless fit,
Behind the arras hearing something stir,
He whips his rapier out and cries 'A rat, a rat!',
And in his brainish apprehension kills 10
The unseen good old man.

KING CLAUDIUS O heavy deed!

It had been so with us had we been there.
His liberty is full of threats to all±±
To you yourself, to us, to everyone.
Alas, how shall this bloody deed be answered? 15
It will be laid to us, whose providence
Should have kept short, restrained, and out of haunt
This mad young man. But so much was our love,
We would not understand what was most fit,
But, like the owner of a foul disease, 20
To keep it from divulging, let it feed
Even on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

QUEEN GERTRUDE

To draw apart the body he hath killed,
O'er whom±±his very madness, like some ore
Among a mineral of metals base, 25
Shows itself pure±±a weeps for what is done.

KING CLAUDIUS O Gertrude, come away!

The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch
But we will ship him hence; and this vile deed
We must with all our majesty and skill 30

Both countenance and excuse.±±Ho, Guildenstern!

Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Friends both, go join you with some further aid.

Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain,

And from his mother's closet hath he dragged him.

Go seek him out, speak fair, and bring the body

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Into the chapel. I pray you haste in this.

Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern

Come, Gertrude, we'll call up our wisest friends

To let them know both what we mean to do

And what's untimely done. O, come away!

My soul is full of discord and dismay.

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Exeunt