

# Hamlet

## 4.6

*Enter Horatio with a Servant*

**HORATIO**

What are they that would speak with me?

**SERVANT**

Sailors, sir. They say they have letters for you.

**HORATIO** Let them come in.

*Exit Servant*

I do not know from what part of the world

I should be greeted if not from Lord Hamlet.

5

*Enter [Sailors]*

**A SAILOR** God bless you, sir.

**HORATIO** Let him bless thee too.

**A SAILOR** A shall, sir, an't please him. There's a letter for you, sir. It comes from th'ambassador that was bound for England±±if your name be Horatio, as I am let to know it is. 10

**HORATIO** *(reads)* `Horatio, when thou shalt have overlooked this, give these fellows some means to the King. They have letters for him. Ere we were two days old at sea, a pirate of very warlike appointment gave us chase. 15 Finding ourselves too slow of sail, we put on a compelled valour, and in the grapple I boarded them. On the instant they got clear of our ship, so I alone became their prisoner. They have dealt with me like thieves of mercy; but they knew what they did: I am to do a 20 good turn for them. Let the King have the letters I have sent, and repair thou to me with as much haste as thou wouldst fly death. I have words to speak in thine ear will make thee dumb, yet are they much too light for the bore of the matter. These good fellows will bring thee where I am. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their course for England. Of them I have much to tell thee. Farewell.

He that thou knowest thine,  
Hamlet.'

30

Come, I will give you way for these your letters,

And do't the speedier that you may direct me  
To him from whom you brought them.

*Exeunt*