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INTERLUDE - MEDIATEN

SHAKESPEARE IN YOUTH LANGUAGE

2024-09-19

- Translate the content, not the words
- Translate the title:
 - as close a you get
 - stylistic devices as well

Dear my friend Hartmut,

how are you? I've heard about your project at making Shakespeare's plays more accessible to young people. I am a big fan of Shakespeare, my favourite play is „A Midsummer Night's Dream“, and I love the idea, translating it to a more modern an youth-friendly language. It probably has real potential to help to connect to a younger audience and bring Shakespeare back to the modern times.

I've just read a text on the british satirist Martin Baum, who „translated“ 15 plays, by Shakespeare, into „youth language“. The article is from the german newspaper „Welt“ and provides some examples.

Martin Baum really tries to implement the jargon from London. He changes a lot to make it work, he even changed the names. „Hamlet“ lost the „H“ and got transformed to „Amlet“, while „The funny woman from Windsor“ became „De Happy Bitches of Windsor“.

But it's not always gold, that blinks. There are enough projects that tried something similar, but failed miserable. For example a france jazz pianist, how created, with others, modern jazz variants of the known classical composer and musician Johann Sebastian Bach. It was horrible and did not work out. So you have to be careful. :)

I hope you got some examples and inspiration. I really wish you luck. It would be great, if you send me your finished work, I would love to read it.

Best regards

Your friend Niklas.