

2.Claudius Act 1, Scene 2 Line
90-120 “Tis sweet and
commendable...”

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Is your passage a monologue or a soliloquy? How do you know?

The passage is a monologue because Claudius speaks to Hamlet during Act 1, Scene 2. The character talks to another character.



Summarize the passage. What is the speaker saying?



The speaker, Claudius, understands the emotional behaviour of hamlet, but he attempts to try and influence him in a unique way. Claudius convinces Hamlet that a father's death is normal since every son faces their father's death. He tells Hamlet how feeling sorrow because of his father's death is "unmanly". Claudius emphasizes their father and son like relationship, attempting to make Hamlet stop feeling grief of losing his father and take over the throne.

Explain the context of the passage. What has just happened? Who is speaking to whom and why? What is the emotional state of the character? What does the character want?

Claudius is speaking to Hamlet and telling him that he shouldn't mourn so much and that everyone dies eventually and we shouldn't dwell on the past. He also says that he is now his son so that Claudius is basically his father now.

Claudius doesn't care about his brother's death and jumped straight on the throne when the opportunity was shown and just married his dead brother's wife.

Claudius wants the throne to himself and the kingdom. He knows Hamlet is next to the throne and wants to reign as long as he can. He also wants Hamlet to stop dwelling on his dead father and move on from this funeral thing to reign in peace.



Identify at least 3 examples of figurative language in the monologue or soliloquy. Include the quotation and the literary device in each of your examples.

Euphemism - “But you must know, your father lost a father; That father lost, lost his”

- Instead of “died”, Claudius says “lost”

Personification ‘ “To reason most absurd, whose common theme/Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried,/From the first corse till he that died today,/”This must be so.”’

- Death is given a voice
- Reason is personified as something that can be absurd

Simile - “But to persever/In obstinate condolement is a course/Of impious stubbornness; ‘tis unmanly grief:/It shows a will most incorrect to heaven,/A heart unfortified, a mind impatient,/An understanding simple and unschooled.”

- Claudius compares excessive grief with stubbornness, weakness, impatience, and unmanliness

Importance

Simile - “But to persevere/In obstinate condolment is a course/Of impious stubbornness; ‘tis unmanly grief:/It shows a will most incorrect to heaven,/A heart unfortified, a mind impatient,/An understanding simple and unschooled.”

This simile is important because it highlights the relationship between Claudius and Hamlet. Claudius has no good intentions towards his nephew and Hamlet feels hatred towards his uncle.

The presence of this figurative language allows the speaker, Claudius, associates feeling grief/pain to weakness

We believe Claudius uses simile to subtly assert dominance over Hamlet who seems to be in great distress from his father's death.