<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">

<html>

<head>

<title> Hamlet (complete text) :|: Open Source Shakespeare &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;</title>

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<script type='text/javascript' src='[/inc/features.js](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/inc/features.js)'></script></head>

<body style="background-color: #FEF3DE; background-image:url('/images/parchment4.jpg'); margin: 10px;"><div style='background-color: #FEF3DE; left:140px; position:absolute; top:50px; padding: 10px; width: 500px; border: solid; z-index:0'>

<h1>Please wait</h1><p align='center' class='normalsans'><strong>The text you requested is loading.<br>

This shouldn't take more than a minute, depending on <br>

the speed of your Internet connection.

</strong></p>

<p align='center'><img src='[/images/progress\_graphic.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/progress_graphic.gif)' width='137' height='13' border='0' alt='progress graphic'></p><p class='normalsans' style='font: 11px; margin-left: 80px; margin-right: 80px;'>Shall I bend low, and in a bondman's key,<br>With bated breath and whispering humbleness.<br><br>&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp; &mdash; <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>, Act I Scene 3</p></div>

</div>

<div id='pagebody'>

<!-- begin container -->

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<a href='[/concordance/](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/concordance/)'>Concordance</a> &nbsp;<img src='[/images/small\_dingbat.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/small_dingbat.gif)' border='0' width='7' height='9' align='bottom' alt='+'>&nbsp;

<a href='[/search/search-advanced.php](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/search/search-advanced.php)'>Advanced Search</a> &nbsp;<img src='[/images/small\_dingbat.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/small_dingbat.gif)' width='7' height='9' border='0' align='bottom' alt='+'>&nbsp;

<a href='[/about](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/about)'>About OSS</a></strong></p>

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</div><h2 class='playtitle'>The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark</h2><p class='scope'>(complete text)</p><p class='normalsans' align='center'>

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<tr> <td align='left' valign='top' width='110'> <p class='normalsans' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em'><strong>Act I</strong></p><p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a1,s1](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a1,s1)'><strong>1.</strong> Elsinore. A platform before the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a1,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a1,s2)'><strong>2.</strong> Elsinore. A room of state in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a1,s3](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a1,s3)'><strong>3.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the house of Polonius.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a1,s4](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a1,s4)'><strong>4.</strong> Elsinore. The platform before the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a1,s5](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a1,s5)'><strong>5.</strong> Elsinore. The Castle. Another part of the fortifications.</a></p>

</p>

</td> <td align='left' valign='top' width='110'> <p class='normalsans' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em'><strong>Act II</strong></p><p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a2,s1](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a2,s1)'><strong>1.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the house of Polonius.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a2,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a2,s2)'><strong>2.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</a></p>

</p>

</td> <td align='left' valign='top' width='110'> <p class='normalsans' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em'><strong>Act III</strong></p><p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a3,s1](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a3,s1)'><strong>1.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a3,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a3,s2)'><strong>2.</strong> Elsinore. hall in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a3,s3](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a3,s3)'><strong>3.</strong> A room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a3,s4](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a3,s4)'><strong>4.</strong> The Queen&#8217;s closet.</a></p>

</p>

</td> <td align='left' valign='top' width='110'> <p class='normalsans' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em'><strong>Act IV</strong></p><p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s1](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s1)'><strong>1.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s2)'><strong>2.</strong> Elsinore. A passage in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s3](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s3)'><strong>3.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s4](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s4)'><strong>4.</strong> Near Elsinore.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s5](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s5)'><strong>5.</strong> Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s6](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s6)'><strong>6.</strong> Elsinore. Another room in the Castle.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a4,s7](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a4,s7)'><strong>7.</strong> Elsinore. Another room in the Castle.</a></p>

</p>

</td> <td align='left' valign='top' width='110'> <p class='normalsans' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em'><strong>Act V</strong></p><p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a5,s1](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a5,s1)'><strong>1.</strong> Elsinore. A churchyard.</a></p>

<p class='playtextsmall' style='margin-bottom: -1.0em; line-height: 110%'><a href='[#a5,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a5,s2)'><strong>2.</strong> Elsinore. A hall in the Castle.</a></p>

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<a name='top'></a> <a name='a1,s1' id='a1,s1'></a> <img src='[/images/fancy\_long\_line.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/fancy_long_line.gif)' width='760' height='8' border='0' align='center' alt='---'>

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&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act I, Scene 1</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A platform before the Castle.</p>

</td>

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&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<tr>

<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1'></a>Enter two Sentinels-[first,] Francisco, [who paces up and down at his post; then] Bernardo, [who approaches him].

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='2'></a>Who's there?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='3'></a>Nay, answer me. Stand and unfold yourself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='4'></a>Long live the King!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='5'></a>Bernardo?

<span class='playlinenum'>5</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='6'></a>He.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='7'></a>You come most carefully upon your hour.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='8'></a>'Tis now struck twelve. Get thee to bed, Francisco.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='9'></a>For this relief much thanks. 'Tis bitter cold,

<br>And I am sick at heart.

<span class='playlinenum'>10</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='11'></a>Have you had quiet guard?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='12'></a>Not a mouse stirring.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='13'></a>Well, good night.

<br>If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus,

<br>The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste.

<span class='playlinenum'>15</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='16'></a> Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='17'></a>I think I hear them. Stand, ho! Who is there?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='18'></a>Friends to this ground.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='19'></a>And liegemen to the Dane.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='20'></a>Give you good night.

<span class='playlinenum'>20</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='21'></a>O, farewell, honest soldier.

<br>Who hath reliev'd you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=francisco&WorkID=hamlet)'>Francisco</a>. </strong><a name='23'></a>Bernardo hath my place.

<br>Give you good night. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='25'></a>Holla, Bernardo!

<span class='playlinenum'>25</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='26'></a>Say-

<br>What, is Horatio there ?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='28'></a>A piece of him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='29'></a>Welcome, Horatio. Welcome, good Marcellus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='30'></a>What, has this thing appear'd again to-night?

<span class='playlinenum'>30</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='31'></a>I have seen nothing.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='32'></a>Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy,

<br>And will not let belief take hold of him

<br>Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us.

<br>Therefore I have entreated him along,

<span class='playlinenum'>35</span><br>With us to watch the minutes of this night,

<br>That, if again this apparition come,

<br>He may approve our eyes and speak to it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='39'></a>Tush, tush, 'twill not appear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='40'></a>Sit down awhile,

<span class='playlinenum'>40</span><br>And let us once again assail your ears,

<br>That are so fortified against our story,

<br>What we two nights have seen.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='44'></a>Well, sit we down,

<br>And let us hear Bernardo speak of this.

<span class='playlinenum'>45</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='46'></a>Last night of all,

<br>When yond same star that's westward from the pole

<br>Had made his course t' illume that part of heaven

<br>Where now it burns, Marcellus and myself,

<br>The bell then beating one-

<span class='playlinenum'>50</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='51'></a> Enter Ghost.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='52'></a>Peace! break thee off! Look where it comes again!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='53'></a>In the same figure, like the King that's dead.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='54'></a>Thou art a scholar; speak to it, Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='55'></a>Looks it not like the King? Mark it, Horatio.

<span class='playlinenum'>55</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='56'></a>Most like. It harrows me with fear and wonder.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='57'></a>It would be spoke to.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='58'></a>Question it, Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='59'></a>What art thou that usurp'st this time of night

<br>Together with that fair and warlike form

<span class='playlinenum'>60</span><br>In which the majesty of buried Denmark

<br>Did sometimes march? By heaven I charge thee speak!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='63'></a>It is offended.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='64'></a>See, it stalks away!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='65'></a>Stay! Speak, speak! I charge thee speak!

<span class='playlinenum'>65</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='66'></a> Exit Ghost.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='67'></a>'Tis gone and will not answer.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='68'></a>How now, Horatio? You tremble and look pale.

<br>Is not this something more than fantasy?

<br>What think you on't?

<span class='playlinenum'>70</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='71'></a>Before my God, I might not this believe

<br>Without the sensible and true avouch

<br>Of mine own eyes.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='74'></a>Is it not like the King?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='75'></a>As thou art to thyself.

<span class='playlinenum'>75</span><br>Such was the very armour he had on

<br>When he th' ambitious Norway combated.

<br>So frown'd he once when, in an angry parle,

<br>He smote the sledded Polacks on the ice.

<br>'Tis strange.

<span class='playlinenum'>80</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='81'></a>Thus twice before, and jump at this dead hour,

<br>With martial stalk hath he gone by our watch.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='83'></a>In what particular thought to work I know not;

<br>But, in the gross and scope of my opinion,

<br>This bodes some strange eruption to our state.

<span class='playlinenum'>85</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='86'></a>Good now, sit down, and tell me he that knows,

<br>Why this same strict and most observant watch

<br>So nightly toils the subject of the land,

<br>And why such daily cast of brazen cannon

<br>And foreign mart for implements of war;

<span class='playlinenum'>90</span><br>Why such impress of shipwrights, whose sore task

<br>Does not divide the Sunday from the week.

<br>What might be toward, that this sweaty haste

<br>Doth make the night joint-labourer with the day?

<br>Who is't that can inform me?

<span class='playlinenum'>95</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='96'></a>That can I.

<br>At least, the whisper goes so. Our last king,

<br>Whose image even but now appear'd to us,

<br>Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway,

<br>Thereto prick'd on by a most emulate pride,

<span class='playlinenum'>100</span><br>Dar'd to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet

<br>(For so this side of our known world esteem'd him)

<br>Did slay this Fortinbras; who, by a seal'd compact,

<br>Well ratified by law and heraldry,

<br>Did forfeit, with his life, all those his lands

<span class='playlinenum'>105</span><br>Which he stood seiz'd of, to the conqueror;

<br>Against the which a moiety competent

<br>Was gaged by our king; which had return'd

<br>To the inheritance of Fortinbras,

<br>Had he been vanquisher, as, by the same cov'nant

<span class='playlinenum'>110</span><br>And carriage of the article design'd,

<br>His fell to Hamlet. Now, sir, young Fortinbras,

<br>Of unimproved mettle hot and full,

<br>Hath in the skirts of Norway, here and there,

<br>Shark'd up a list of lawless resolutes,

<span class='playlinenum'>115</span><br>For food and diet, to some enterprise

<br>That hath a stomach in't; which is no other,

<br>As it doth well appear unto our state,

<br>But to recover of us, by strong hand

<br>And terms compulsatory, those foresaid lands

<span class='playlinenum'>120</span><br>So by his father lost; and this, I take it,

<br>Is the main motive of our preparations,

<br>The source of this our watch, and the chief head

<br>Of this post-haste and romage in the land.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='125'></a>I think it be no other but e'en so.

<span class='playlinenum'>125</span><br>Well may it sort that this portentous figure

<br>Comes armed through our watch, so like the King

<br>That was and is the question of these wars.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='129'></a>A mote it is to trouble the mind's eye.

<br>In the most high and palmy state of Rome,

<span class='playlinenum'>130</span><br>A little ere the mightiest Julius fell,

<br>The graves stood tenantless, and the sheeted dead

<br>Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets;

<br>As stars with trains of fire, and dews of blood,

<br>Disasters in the sun; and the moist star

<span class='playlinenum'>135</span><br>Upon whose influence Neptune's empire stands

<br>Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse.

<br>And even the like precurse of fierce events,

<br>As harbingers preceding still the fates

<br>And prologue to the omen coming on,

<span class='playlinenum'>140</span><br>Have heaven and earth together demonstrated

<br>Unto our climature and countrymen.

<br><i>[Enter Ghost again.]</i>

<br>But soft! behold! Lo, where it comes again!

<br>I'll cross it, though it blast me.- Stay illusion!

<span class='playlinenum'>145</span><br><i>[Spreads his arms.]</i>

<br>If thou hast any sound, or use of voice,

<br>Speak to me.

<br>If there be any good thing to be done,

<br>That may to thee do ease, and, grace to me,

<span class='playlinenum'>150</span><br>Speak to me.

<br>If thou art privy to thy country's fate,

<br>Which happily foreknowing may avoid,

<br>O, speak!

<br>Or if thou hast uphoarded in thy life

<span class='playlinenum'>155</span><br>Extorted treasure in the womb of earth

<br>(For which, they say, you spirits oft walk in death),

<br><i>[The cock crows.]</i>

<br>Speak of it! Stay, and speak!- Stop it, Marcellus!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='160'></a>Shall I strike at it with my partisan?

<span class='playlinenum'>160</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='161'></a>Do, if it will not stand.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='162'></a>'Tis here!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='163'></a>'Tis here!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='164'></a>'Tis gone!

<br><i>[Exit Ghost.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>165</span><br>We do it wrong, being so majestical,

<br>To offer it the show of violence;

<br>For it is as the air, invulnerable,

<br>And our vain blows malicious mockery.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=bernardo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Bernardo</a>. </strong><a name='170'></a>It was about to speak, when the cock crew.

<span class='playlinenum'>170</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='171'></a>And then it started, like a guilty thing

<br>Upon a fearful summons. I have heard

<br>The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn,

<br>Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat

<br>Awake the god of day; and at his warning,

<span class='playlinenum'>175</span><br>Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,

<br>Th' extravagant and erring spirit hies

<br>To his confine; and of the truth herein

<br>This present object made probation.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='180'></a>It faded on the crowing of the cock.

<span class='playlinenum'>180</span><br>Some say that ever, 'gainst that season comes

<br>Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,

<br>The bird of dawning singeth all night long;

<br>And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,

<br>The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,

<span class='playlinenum'>185</span><br>No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,

<br>So hallow'd and so gracious is the time.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='188'></a>So have I heard and do in part believe it.

<br>But look, the morn, in russet mantle clad,

<br>Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastward hill.

<span class='playlinenum'>190</span><br>Break we our watch up; and by my advice

<br>Let us impart what we have seen to-night

<br>Unto young Hamlet; for, upon my life,

<br>This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him.

<br>Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,

<span class='playlinenum'>195</span><br>As needful in our loves, fitting our duty?

<br>Let's do't, I pray; and I this morning know

<br>Where we shall find him most conveniently.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='199'></a>Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act I, Scene 2</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room of state in the Castle.</p>

</td>

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&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

</td>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='200'></a>Flourish. [Enter Claudius, King of Denmark, Gertrude the Queen, Hamlet, Polonius, Laertes and his sister Ophelia, [Voltemand, Cornelius,] Lords Attendant.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='201'></a>Though yet of Hamlet our dear brother's death

<br>The memory be green, and that it us befitted

<br>To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole kingdom

<br>To be contracted in one brow of woe,

<br>Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature

<span class='playlinenum'>205</span><br>That we with wisest sorrow think on him

<br>Together with remembrance of ourselves.

<br>Therefore our sometime sister, now our queen,

<br>Th' imperial jointress to this warlike state,

<br>Have we, as 'twere with a defeated joy,

<span class='playlinenum'>210</span><br>With an auspicious, and a dropping eye,

<br>With mirth in funeral, and with dirge in marriage,

<br>In equal scale weighing delight and dole,

<br>Taken to wife; nor have we herein barr'd

<br>Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone

<span class='playlinenum'>215</span><br>With this affair along. For all, our thanks.

<br>Now follows, that you know, young Fortinbras,

<br>Holding a weak supposal of our worth,

<br>Or thinking by our late dear brother's death

<br>Our state to be disjoint and out of frame,

<span class='playlinenum'>220</span><br>Colleagued with this dream of his advantage,

<br>He hath not fail'd to pester us with message

<br>Importing the surrender of those lands

<br>Lost by his father, with all bands of law,

<br>To our most valiant brother. So much for him.

<span class='playlinenum'>225</span><br>Now for ourself and for this time of meeting.

<br>Thus much the business is: we have here writ

<br>To Norway, uncle of young Fortinbras,

<br>Who, impotent and bedrid, scarcely hears

<br>Of this his nephew's purpose, to suppress

<span class='playlinenum'>230</span><br>His further gait herein, in that the levies,

<br>The lists, and full proportions are all made

<br>Out of his subject; and we here dispatch

<br>You, good Cornelius, and you, Voltemand,

<br>For bearers of this greeting to old Norway,

<span class='playlinenum'>235</span><br>Giving to you no further personal power

<br>To business with the King, more than the scope

<br>Of these dilated articles allow. <i>[Gives a paper.]</i>

<br>Farewell, and let your haste commend your duty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=cornelius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=cornelius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Cornelius</a>. </strong><a name='240'></a><i>[with Voltemand]</i> In that, and all things, will we show our duty.

<span class='playlinenum'>240</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='241'></a>We doubt it nothing. Heartily farewell.

<br><i>[Exeunt Voltemand and Cornelius.]</i>

<br>And now, Laertes, what's the news with you?

<br>You told us of some suit. What is't, Laertes?

<br>You cannot speak of reason to the Dane

<span class='playlinenum'>245</span><br>And lose your voice. What wouldst thou beg, Laertes,

<br>That shall not be my offer, not thy asking?

<br>The head is not more native to the heart,

<br>The hand more instrumental to the mouth,

<br>Than is the throne of Denmark to thy father.

<span class='playlinenum'>250</span><br>What wouldst thou have, Laertes?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='252'></a>My dread lord,

<br>Your leave and favour to return to France;

<br>From whence though willingly I came to Denmark

<br>To show my duty in your coronation,

<span class='playlinenum'>255</span><br>Yet now I must confess, that duty done,

<br>My thoughts and wishes bend again toward France

<br>And bow them to your gracious leave and pardon.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='259'></a>Have you your father's leave? What says Polonius?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='260'></a>He hath, my lord, wrung from me my slow leave

<span class='playlinenum'>260</span><br>By laboursome petition, and at last

<br>Upon his will I seal'd my hard consent.

<br>I do beseech you give him leave to go.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='264'></a>Take thy fair hour, Laertes. Time be thine,

<br>And thy best graces spend it at thy will!

<span class='playlinenum'>265</span><br>But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='267'></a><i>[aside]</i> A little more than kin, and less than kind!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='268'></a>How is it that the clouds still hang on you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='269'></a>Not so, my lord. I am too much i' th' sun.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='270'></a>Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off,

<span class='playlinenum'>270</span><br>And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark.

<br>Do not for ever with thy vailed lids

<br>Seek for thy noble father in the dust.

<br>Thou know'st 'tis common. All that lives must die,

<br>Passing through nature to eternity.

<span class='playlinenum'>275</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='276'></a>Ay, madam, it is common.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='277'></a>If it be,

<br>Why seems it so particular with thee?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='279'></a>Seems, madam, Nay, it is. I know not 'seems.'

<br>'Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,

<span class='playlinenum'>280</span><br>Nor customary suits of solemn black,

<br>Nor windy suspiration of forc'd breath,

<br>No, nor the fruitful river in the eye,

<br>Nor the dejected havior of the visage,

<br>Together with all forms, moods, shapes of grief,

<span class='playlinenum'>285</span><br>'That can denote me truly. These indeed seem,

<br>For they are actions that a man might play;

<br>But I have that within which passeth show-

<br>These but the trappings and the suits of woe.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='290'></a>'Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet,

<span class='playlinenum'>290</span><br>To give these mourning duties to your father;

<br>But you must know, your father lost a father;

<br>That father lost, lost his, and the survivor bound

<br>In filial obligation for some term

<br>To do obsequious sorrow. But to persever

<span class='playlinenum'>295</span><br>In obstinate condolement is a course

<br>Of impious stubbornness. 'Tis unmanly grief;

<br>It shows a will most incorrect to heaven,

<br>A heart unfortified, a mind impatient,

<br>An understanding simple and unschool'd;

<span class='playlinenum'>300</span><br>For what we know must be, and is as common

<br>As any the most vulgar thing to sense,

<br>Why should we in our peevish opposition

<br>Take it to heart? Fie! 'tis a fault to heaven,

<br>A fault against the dead, a fault to nature,

<span class='playlinenum'>305</span><br>To reason most absurd, whose common theme

<br>Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried,

<br>From the first corse till he that died to-day,

<br>'This must be so.' We pray you throw to earth

<br>This unprevailing woe, and think of us

<span class='playlinenum'>310</span><br>As of a father; for let the world take note

<br>You are the most immediate to our throne,

<br>And with no less nobility of love

<br>Than that which dearest father bears his son

<br>Do I impart toward you. For your intent

<span class='playlinenum'>315</span><br>In going back to school in Wittenberg,

<br>It is most retrograde to our desire;

<br>And we beseech you, bend you to remain

<br>Here in the cheer and comfort of our eye,

<br>Our chiefest courtier, cousin, and our son.

<span class='playlinenum'>320</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='321'></a>Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet.

<br>I pray thee stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='323'></a>I shall in all my best obey you, madam.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='324'></a>Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply.

<br>Be as ourself in Denmark. Madam, come.

<span class='playlinenum'>325</span><br>This gentle and unforc'd accord of Hamlet

<br>Sits smiling to my heart; in grace whereof,

<br>No jocund health that Denmark drinks to-day

<br>But the great cannon to the clouds shall tell,

<br>And the King's rouse the heaven shall bruit again,

<span class='playlinenum'>330</span><br>Respeaking earthly thunder. Come away.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='332'></a> Flourish. Exeunt all but Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='333'></a>O that this too too solid flesh would melt,

<br>Thaw, and resolve itself into a dew!

<br>Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd

<span class='playlinenum'>335</span><br>His canon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God! God!

<br>How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable

<br>Seem to me all the uses of this world!

<br>Fie on't! ah, fie! 'Tis an unweeded garden

<br>That grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature

<span class='playlinenum'>340</span><br>Possess it merely. That it should come to this!

<br>But two months dead! Nay, not so much, not two.

<br>So excellent a king, that was to this

<br>Hyperion to a satyr; so loving to my mother

<br>That he might not beteem the winds of heaven

<span class='playlinenum'>345</span><br>Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth!

<br>Must I remember? Why, she would hang on him

<br>As if increase of appetite had grown

<br>By what it fed on; and yet, within a month-

<br>Let me not think on't! Frailty, thy name is woman!-

<span class='playlinenum'>350</span><br>A little month, or ere those shoes were old

<br>With which she followed my poor father's body

<br>Like Niobe, all tears- why she, even she

<br>(O God! a beast that wants discourse of reason

<br>Would have mourn'd longer) married with my uncle;

<span class='playlinenum'>355</span><br>My father's brother, but no more like my father

<br>Than I to Hercules. Within a month,

<br>Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears

<br>Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,

<br>She married. O, most wicked speed, to post

<span class='playlinenum'>360</span><br>With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!

<br>It is not, nor it cannot come to good.

<br>But break my heart, for I must hold my tongue!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='364'></a> Enter Horatio, Marcellus, and Bernardo.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='365'></a>Hail to your lordship!

<span class='playlinenum'>365</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='366'></a>I am glad to see you well.

<br>Horatio!- or I do forget myself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='368'></a>The same, my lord, and your poor servant ever.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='369'></a>Sir, my good friend- I'll change that name with you.

<br>And what make you from Wittenberg, Horatio?

<span class='playlinenum'>370</span><br>Marcellus?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='372'></a>My good lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='373'></a>I am very glad to see you.- <i>[To Bernardo]</i> Good even, sir.-

<br>But what, in faith, make you from Wittenberg?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='375'></a>A truant disposition, good my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>375</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='376'></a>I would not hear your enemy say so,

<br>Nor shall you do my ear that violence

<br>To make it truster of your own report

<br>Against yourself. I know you are no truant.

<br>But what is your affair in Elsinore?

<span class='playlinenum'>380</span><br>We'll teach you to drink deep ere you depart.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='382'></a>My lord, I came to see your father's funeral.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='383'></a>I prithee do not mock me, fellow student.

<br>I think it was to see my mother's wedding.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='385'></a>Indeed, my lord, it followed hard upon.

<span class='playlinenum'>385</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='386'></a>Thrift, thrift, Horatio! The funeral bak'd meats

<br>Did coldly furnish forth the marriage tables.

<br>Would I had met my dearest foe in heaven

<br>Or ever I had seen that day, Horatio!

<br>My father- methinks I see my father.

<span class='playlinenum'>390</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='391'></a>O, where, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='392'></a>In my mind's eye, Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='393'></a>I saw him once. He was a goodly king.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='394'></a>He was a man, take him for all in all.

<br>I shall not look upon his like again.

<span class='playlinenum'>395</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='396'></a>My lord, I think I saw him yesternight.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='397'></a>Saw? who?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='398'></a>My lord, the King your father.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='399'></a>The King my father?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='400'></a>Season your admiration for a while

<span class='playlinenum'>400</span><br>With an attent ear, till I may deliver

<br>Upon the witness of these gentlemen,

<br>This marvel to you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='404'></a>For God's love let me hear!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='405'></a>Two nights together had these gentlemen

<span class='playlinenum'>405</span><br>(Marcellus and Bernardo) on their watch

<br>In the dead vast and middle of the night

<br>Been thus encount'red. A figure like your father,

<br>Armed at point exactly, cap-a-pe,

<br>Appears before them and with solemn march

<span class='playlinenum'>410</span><br>Goes slow and stately by them. Thrice he walk'd

<br>By their oppress'd and fear-surprised eyes,

<br>Within his truncheon's length; whilst they distill'd

<br>Almost to jelly with the act of fear,

<br>Stand dumb and speak not to him. This to me

<span class='playlinenum'>415</span><br>In dreadful secrecy impart they did,

<br>And I with them the third night kept the watch;

<br>Where, as they had deliver'd, both in time,

<br>Form of the thing, each word made true and good,

<br>The apparition comes. I knew your father.

<span class='playlinenum'>420</span><br>These hands are not more like.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='422'></a>But where was this?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='423'></a>My lord, upon the platform where we watch'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='424'></a>Did you not speak to it?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='425'></a>My lord, I did;

<span class='playlinenum'>425</span><br>But answer made it none. Yet once methought

<br>It lifted up it head and did address

<br>Itself to motion, like as it would speak;

<br>But even then the morning cock crew loud,

<br>And at the sound it shrunk in haste away

<span class='playlinenum'>430</span><br>And vanish'd from our sight.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='432'></a>'Tis very strange.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='433'></a>As I do live, my honour'd lord, 'tis true;

<br>And we did think it writ down in our duty

<br>To let you know of it.

<span class='playlinenum'>435</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='436'></a>Indeed, indeed, sirs. But this troubles me.

<br>Hold you the watch to-night?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='438'></a><i>[with Bernardo]</i> We do, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='439'></a>Arm'd, say you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='440'></a><i>[with Bernardo]</i> Arm'd, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>440</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='441'></a>From top to toe?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='442'></a><i>[with Bernardo]</i> My lord, from head to foot.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='443'></a>Then saw you not his face?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='444'></a>O, yes, my lord! He wore his beaver up.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='445'></a>What, look'd he frowningly.

<span class='playlinenum'>445</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='446'></a>A countenance more in sorrow than in anger.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='447'></a>Pale or red?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='448'></a>Nay, very pale.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='449'></a>And fix'd his eyes upon you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='450'></a>Most constantly.

<span class='playlinenum'>450</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='451'></a>I would I had been there.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='452'></a>It would have much amaz'd you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='453'></a>Very like, very like. Stay'd it long?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='454'></a>While one with moderate haste might tell a hundred.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='455'></a><i>[with Bernardo]</i> Longer, longer.

<span class='playlinenum'>455</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='456'></a>Not when I saw't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='457'></a>His beard was grizzled- no?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='458'></a>It was, as I have seen it in his life,

<br>A sable silver'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='460'></a>I will watch to-night.

<span class='playlinenum'>460</span><br>Perchance 'twill walk again.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='462'></a>I warr'nt it will.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='463'></a>If it assume my noble father's person,

<br>I'll speak to it, though hell itself should gape

<br>And bid me hold my peace. I pray you all,

<span class='playlinenum'>465</span><br>If you have hitherto conceal'd this sight,

<br>Let it be tenable in your silence still;

<br>And whatsoever else shall hap to-night,

<br>Give it an understanding but no tongue.

<br>I will requite your loves. So, fare you well.

<span class='playlinenum'>470</span><br>Upon the platform, 'twixt eleven and twelve,

<br>I'll visit you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='473'></a>Our duty to your honour.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='474'></a>Your loves, as mine to you. Farewell.

<br><i>[Exeunt <i>[all but Hamlet]</i>.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>475</span><br>My father's spirit- in arms? All is not well.

<br>I doubt some foul play. Would the night were come!

<br>Till then sit still, my soul. Foul deeds will rise,

<br>Though all the earth o'erwhelm them, to men's eyes.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='480'></a>Exit.

</li></ul>

</td>

</tr>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

</a>

</td>

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&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act I, Scene 3</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the house of Polonius.</p>

</td>

<td>

&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

</td>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

<img src='[/images/arrow\_down\_small.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/arrow_down_small.gif)' width='9' height='10' border='0' alt='.' align='bottom'>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='481'></a>Enter Laertes and Ophelia.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='482'></a>My necessaries are embark'd. Farewell.

<br>And, sister, as the winds give benefit

<br>And convoy is assistant, do not sleep,

<br>But let me hear from you.

<span class='playlinenum'>485</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='486'></a>Do you doubt that?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='487'></a>For Hamlet, and the trifling of his favour,

<br>Hold it a fashion, and a toy in blood;

<br>A violet in the youth of primy nature,

<br>Forward, not permanent- sweet, not lasting;

<span class='playlinenum'>490</span><br>The perfume and suppliance of a minute;

<br>No more.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='493'></a>No more but so?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='494'></a>Think it no more.

<br>For nature crescent does not grow alone

<span class='playlinenum'>495</span><br>In thews and bulk; but as this temple waxes,

<br>The inward service of the mind and soul

<br>Grows wide withal. Perhaps he loves you now,

<br>And now no soil nor cautel doth besmirch

<br>The virtue of his will; but you must fear,

<span class='playlinenum'>500</span><br>His greatness weigh'd, his will is not his own;

<br>For he himself is subject to his birth.

<br>He may not, as unvalued persons do,

<br>Carve for himself, for on his choice depends

<br>The safety and health of this whole state,

<span class='playlinenum'>505</span><br>And therefore must his choice be circumscrib'd

<br>Unto the voice and yielding of that body

<br>Whereof he is the head. Then if he says he loves you,

<br>It fits your wisdom so far to believe it

<br>As he in his particular act and place

<span class='playlinenum'>510</span><br>May give his saying deed; which is no further

<br>Than the main voice of Denmark goes withal.

<br>Then weigh what loss your honour may sustain

<br>If with too credent ear you list his songs,

<br>Or lose your heart, or your chaste treasure open

<span class='playlinenum'>515</span><br>To his unmast'red importunity.

<br>Fear it, Ophelia, fear it, my dear sister,

<br>And keep you in the rear of your affection,

<br>Out of the shot and danger of desire.

<br>The chariest maid is prodigal enough

<span class='playlinenum'>520</span><br>If she unmask her beauty to the moon.

<br>Virtue itself scopes not calumnious strokes.

<br>The canker galls the infants of the spring

<br>Too oft before their buttons be disclos'd,

<br>And in the morn and liquid dew of youth

<span class='playlinenum'>525</span><br>Contagious blastments are most imminent.

<br>Be wary then; best safety lies in fear.

<br>Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='529'></a>I shall th' effect of this good lesson keep

<br>As watchman to my heart. But, good my brother,

<span class='playlinenum'>530</span><br>Do not as some ungracious pastors do,

<br>Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven,

<br>Whiles, like a puff'd and reckless libertine,

<br>Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads

<br>And recks not his own rede.

<span class='playlinenum'>535</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='536'></a>O, fear me not!

<br><i>[Enter Polonius. ]</i>

<br>I stay too long. But here my father comes.

<br>A double blessing is a double grace;

<br>Occasion smiles upon a second leave.

<span class='playlinenum'>540</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='541'></a>Yet here, Laertes? Aboard, aboard, for shame!

<br>The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail,

<br>And you are stay'd for. There- my blessing with thee!

<br>And these few precepts in thy memory

<br>Look thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue,

<span class='playlinenum'>545</span><br>Nor any unproportion'd thought his act.

<br>Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar:

<br>Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,

<br>Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel;

<br>But do not dull thy palm with entertainment

<span class='playlinenum'>550</span><br>Of each new-hatch'd, unfledg'd comrade. Beware

<br>Of entrance to a quarrel; but being in,

<br>Bear't that th' opposed may beware of thee.

<br>Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice;

<br>Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.

<span class='playlinenum'>555</span><br>Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy,

<br>But not express'd in fancy; rich, not gaudy;

<br>For the apparel oft proclaims the man,

<br>And they in France of the best rank and station

<br>Are most select and generous, chief in that.

<span class='playlinenum'>560</span><br>Neither a borrower nor a lender be;

<br>For loan oft loses both itself and friend,

<br>And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

<br>This above all- to thine own self be true,

<br>And it must follow, as the night the day,

<span class='playlinenum'>565</span><br>Thou canst not then be false to any man.

<br>Farewell. My blessing season this in thee!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='568'></a>Most humbly do I take my leave, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='569'></a>The time invites you. Go, your servants tend.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='570'></a>Farewell, Ophelia, and remember well

<span class='playlinenum'>570</span><br>What I have said to you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='572'></a>'Tis in my memory lock'd,

<br>And you yourself shall keep the key of it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='574'></a>Farewell. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='575'></a>What is't, Ophelia, he hath said to you?

<span class='playlinenum'>575</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='576'></a>So please you, something touching the Lord Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='577'></a>Marry, well bethought!

<br>'Tis told me he hath very oft of late

<br>Given private time to you, and you yourself

<br>Have of your audience been most free and bounteous.

<span class='playlinenum'>580</span><br>If it be so- as so 'tis put on me,

<br>And that in way of caution- I must tell you

<br>You do not understand yourself so clearly

<br>As it behooves my daughter and your honour.

<br>What is between you? Give me up the truth.

<span class='playlinenum'>585</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='586'></a>He hath, my lord, of late made many tenders

<br>Of his affection to me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='588'></a>Affection? Pooh! You speak like a green girl,

<br>Unsifted in such perilous circumstance.

<br>Do you believe his tenders, as you call them?

<span class='playlinenum'>590</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='591'></a>I do not know, my lord, what I should think,

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='592'></a>Marry, I will teach you! Think yourself a baby

<br>That you have ta'en these tenders for true pay,

<br>Which are not sterling. Tender yourself more dearly,

<br>Or (not to crack the wind of the poor phrase,

<span class='playlinenum'>595</span><br>Running it thus) you'll tender me a fool.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='597'></a>My lord, he hath importun'd me with love

<br>In honourable fashion.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='599'></a>Ay, fashion you may call it. Go to, go to!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='600'></a>And hath given countenance to his speech, my lord,

<span class='playlinenum'>600</span><br>With almost all the holy vows of heaven.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='602'></a>Ay, springes to catch woodcocks! I do know,

<br>When the blood burns, how prodigal the soul

<br>Lends the tongue vows. These blazes, daughter,

<br>Giving more light than heat, extinct in both

<span class='playlinenum'>605</span><br>Even in their promise, as it is a-making,

<br>You must not take for fire. From this time

<br>Be something scanter of your maiden presence.

<br>Set your entreatments at a higher rate

<br>Than a command to parley. For Lord Hamlet,

<span class='playlinenum'>610</span><br>Believe so much in him, that he is young,

<br>And with a larger tether may he walk

<br>Than may be given you. In few, Ophelia,

<br>Do not believe his vows; for they are brokers,

<br>Not of that dye which their investments show,

<span class='playlinenum'>615</span><br>But mere implorators of unholy suits,

<br>Breathing like sanctified and pious bawds,

<br>The better to beguile. This is for all:

<br>I would not, in plain terms, from this time forth

<br>Have you so slander any moment leisure

<span class='playlinenum'>620</span><br>As to give words or talk with the Lord Hamlet.

<br>Look to't, I charge you. Come your ways.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='623'></a>I shall obey, my lord.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='624'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act I, Scene 4</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. The platform before the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='625'></a>Enter Hamlet, Horatio, and Marcellus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='626'></a>The air bites shrewdly; it is very cold.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='627'></a>It is a nipping and an eager air.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='628'></a>What hour now?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='629'></a>I think it lacks of twelve.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='630'></a>No, it is struck.

<span class='playlinenum'>630</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='631'></a>Indeed? I heard it not. It then draws near the season

<br>Wherein the spirit held his wont to walk.

<br><i>[A flourish of trumpets, and two pieces go off.]</i>

<br>What does this mean, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='635'></a>The King doth wake to-night and takes his rouse,

<span class='playlinenum'>635</span><br>Keeps wassail, and the swagg'ring upspring reels,

<br>And, as he drains his draughts of Rhenish down,

<br>The kettledrum and trumpet thus bray out

<br>The triumph of his pledge.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='640'></a>Is it a custom?

<span class='playlinenum'>640</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='641'></a>Ay, marry, is't;

<br>But to my mind, though I am native here

<br>And to the manner born, it is a custom

<br>More honour'd in the breach than the observance.

<br>This heavy-headed revel east and west

<span class='playlinenum'>645</span><br>Makes us traduc'd and tax'd of other nations;

<br>They clip us drunkards and with swinish phrase

<br>Soil our addition; and indeed it takes

<br>From our achievements, though perform'd at height,

<br>The pith and marrow of our attribute.

<span class='playlinenum'>650</span><br>So oft it chances in particular men

<br>That, for some vicious mole of nature in them,

<br>As in their birth,- wherein they are not guilty,

<br>Since nature cannot choose his origin,-

<br>By the o'ergrowth of some complexion,

<span class='playlinenum'>655</span><br>Oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason,

<br>Or by some habit that too much o'erleavens

<br>The form of plausive manners, that these men

<br>Carrying, I say, the stamp of one defect,

<br>Being nature's livery, or fortune's star,

<span class='playlinenum'>660</span><br>Their virtues else- be they as pure as grace,

<br>As infinite as man may undergo-

<br>Shall in the general censure take corruption

<br>From that particular fault. The dram of e'il

<br>Doth all the noble substance often dout To his own scandal.

<span class='playlinenum'>665</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='666'></a> Enter Ghost.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='667'></a>Look, my lord, it comes!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='668'></a>Angels and ministers of grace defend us!

<br>Be thou a spirit of health or goblin damn'd,

<br>Bring with thee airs from heaven or blasts from hell,

<span class='playlinenum'>670</span><br>Be thy intents wicked or charitable,

<br>Thou com'st in such a questionable shape

<br>That I will speak to thee. I'll call thee Hamlet,

<br>King, father, royal Dane. O, answer me?

<br>Let me not burst in ignorance, but tell

<span class='playlinenum'>675</span><br>Why thy canoniz'd bones, hearsed in death,

<br>Have burst their cerements; why the sepulchre

<br>Wherein we saw thee quietly inurn'd,

<br>Hath op'd his ponderous and marble jaws

<br>To cast thee up again. What may this mean

<span class='playlinenum'>680</span><br>That thou, dead corse, again in complete steel,

<br>Revisits thus the glimpses of the moon,

<br>Making night hideous, and we fools of nature

<br>So horridly to shake our disposition

<br>With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls?

<span class='playlinenum'>685</span><br>Say, why is this? wherefore? What should we do?

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='687'></a> Ghost beckons Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='688'></a>It beckons you to go away with it,

<br>As if it some impartment did desire

<br>To you alone.

<span class='playlinenum'>690</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='691'></a>Look with what courteous action

<br>It waves you to a more removed ground.

<br>But do not go with it!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='694'></a>No, by no means!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='695'></a>It will not speak. Then will I follow it.

<span class='playlinenum'>695</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='696'></a>Do not, my lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='697'></a>Why, what should be the fear?

<br>I do not set my life at a pin's fee;

<br>And for my soul, what can it do to that,

<br>Being a thing immortal as itself?

<span class='playlinenum'>700</span><br>It waves me forth again. I'll follow it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='702'></a>What if it tempt you toward the flood, my lord,

<br>Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff

<br>That beetles o'er his base into the sea,

<br>And there assume some other, horrible form

<span class='playlinenum'>705</span><br>Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason

<br>And draw you into madness? Think of it.

<br>The very place puts toys of desperation,

<br>Without more motive, into every brain

<br>That looks so many fadoms to the sea

<span class='playlinenum'>710</span><br>And hears it roar beneath.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='712'></a>It waves me still.

<br>Go on. I'll follow thee.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='714'></a>You shall not go, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='715'></a>Hold off your hands!

<span class='playlinenum'>715</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='716'></a>Be rul'd. You shall not go.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='717'></a>My fate cries out

<br>And makes each petty artire in this body

<br>As hardy as the Nemean lion's nerve.

<br><i>[Ghost beckons.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>720</span><br>Still am I call'd. Unhand me, gentlemen.

<br>By heaven, I'll make a ghost of him that lets me!-

<br>I say, away!- Go on. I'll follow thee.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='724'></a> Exeunt Ghost and Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='725'></a>He waxes desperate with imagination.

<span class='playlinenum'>725</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='726'></a>Let's follow. 'Tis not fit thus to obey him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='727'></a>Have after. To what issue will this come?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='728'></a>Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='729'></a>Heaven will direct it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='730'></a>Nay, let's follow him.

<span class='playlinenum'>730</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='731'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act I, Scene 5</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. The Castle. Another part of the fortifications.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='732'></a>Enter Ghost and Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='733'></a>Whither wilt thou lead me? Speak! I'll go no further.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='734'></a>Mark me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='735'></a>I will.

<span class='playlinenum'>735</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='736'></a>My hour is almost come,

<br>When I to sulph'rous and tormenting flames

<br>Must render up myself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='739'></a>Alas, poor ghost!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='740'></a>Pity me not, but lend thy serious hearing

<span class='playlinenum'>740</span><br>To what I shall unfold.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='742'></a>Speak. I am bound to hear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='743'></a>So art thou to revenge, when thou shalt hear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='744'></a>What?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='745'></a>I am thy father's spirit,

<span class='playlinenum'>745</span><br>Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night,

<br>And for the day confin'd to fast in fires,

<br>Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature

<br>Are burnt and purg'd away. But that I am forbid

<br>To tell the secrets of my prison house,

<span class='playlinenum'>750</span><br>I could a tale unfold whose lightest word

<br>Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,

<br>Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres,

<br>Thy knotted and combined locks to part,

<br>And each particular hair to stand on end

<span class='playlinenum'>755</span><br>Like quills upon the fretful porcupine.

<br>But this eternal blazon must not be

<br>To ears of flesh and blood. List, list, O, list!

<br>If thou didst ever thy dear father love-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='760'></a>O God!

<span class='playlinenum'>760</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='761'></a>Revenge his foul and most unnatural murther.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='762'></a>Murther?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='763'></a>Murther most foul, as in the best it is;

<br>But this most foul, strange, and unnatural.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='765'></a>Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift

<span class='playlinenum'>765</span><br>As meditation or the thoughts of love,

<br>May sweep to my revenge.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='768'></a>I find thee apt;

<br>And duller shouldst thou be than the fat weed

<br>That rots itself in ease on Lethe wharf,

<span class='playlinenum'>770</span><br>Wouldst thou not stir in this. Now, Hamlet, hear.

<br>'Tis given out that, sleeping in my orchard,

<br>A serpent stung me. So the whole ear of Denmark

<br>Is by a forged process of my death

<br>Rankly abus'd. But know, thou noble youth,

<span class='playlinenum'>775</span><br>The serpent that did sting thy father's life

<br>Now wears his crown.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='778'></a>O my prophetic soul!

<br>My uncle?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='780'></a>Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate beast,

<span class='playlinenum'>780</span><br>With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts-

<br>O wicked wit and gifts, that have the power

<br>So to seduce!- won to his shameful lust

<br>The will of my most seeming-virtuous queen.

<br>O Hamlet, what a falling-off was there,

<span class='playlinenum'>785</span><br>From me, whose love was of that dignity

<br>That it went hand in hand even with the vow

<br>I made to her in marriage, and to decline

<br>Upon a wretch whose natural gifts were poor

<br>To those of mine!

<span class='playlinenum'>790</span><br>But virtue, as it never will be mov'd,

<br>Though lewdness court it in a shape of heaven,

<br>So lust, though to a radiant angel link'd,

<br>Will sate itself in a celestial bed

<br>And prey on garbage.

<span class='playlinenum'>795</span><br>But soft! methinks I scent the morning air.

<br>Brief let me be. Sleeping within my orchard,

<br>My custom always of the afternoon,

<br>Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,

<br>With juice of cursed hebona in a vial,

<span class='playlinenum'>800</span><br>And in the porches of my ears did pour

<br>The leperous distilment; whose effect

<br>Holds such an enmity with blood of man

<br>That swift as quicksilver it courses through

<br>The natural gates and alleys of the body,

<span class='playlinenum'>805</span><br>And with a sudden vigour it doth posset

<br>And curd, like eager droppings into milk,

<br>The thin and wholesome blood. So did it mine;

<br>And a most instant tetter bark'd about,

<br>Most lazar-like, with vile and loathsome crust

<span class='playlinenum'>810</span><br>All my smooth body.

<br>Thus was I, sleeping, by a brother's hand

<br>Of life, of crown, of queen, at once dispatch'd;

<br>Cut off even in the blossoms of my sin,

<br>Unhous'led, disappointed, unanel'd,

<span class='playlinenum'>815</span><br>No reckoning made, but sent to my account

<br>With all my imperfections on my head.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='818'></a>O, horrible! O, horrible! most horrible!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='819'></a>If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not.

<br>Let not the royal bed of Denmark be

<span class='playlinenum'>820</span><br>A couch for luxury and damned incest.

<br>But, howsoever thou pursuest this act,

<br>Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive

<br>Against thy mother aught. Leave her to heaven,

<br>And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge

<span class='playlinenum'>825</span><br>To prick and sting her. Fare thee well at once.

<br>The glowworm shows the matin to be near

<br>And gins to pale his uneffectual fire.

<br>Adieu, adieu, adieu! Remember me. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='830'></a>O all you host of heaven! O earth! What else?

<span class='playlinenum'>830</span><br>And shall I couple hell? Hold, hold, my heart!

<br>And you, my sinews, grow not instant old,

<br>But bear me stiffly up. Remember thee?

<br>Ay, thou poor ghost, while memory holds a seat

<br>In this distracted globe. Remember thee?

<span class='playlinenum'>835</span><br>Yea, from the table of my memory

<br>I'll wipe away all trivial fond records,

<br>All saws of books, all forms, all pressures past

<br>That youth and observation copied there,

<br>And thy commandment all alone shall live

<span class='playlinenum'>840</span><br>Within the book and volume of my brain,

<br>Unmix'd with baser matter. Yes, by heaven!

<br>O most pernicious woman!

<br>O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!

<br>My tables! Meet it is I set it down

<span class='playlinenum'>845</span><br>That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;

<br>At least I am sure it may be so in Denmark. <i>[Writes.]</i>

<br>So, uncle, there you are. Now to my word:

<br>It is 'Adieu, adieu! Remember me.'

<br>I have sworn't.

<span class='playlinenum'>850</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='851'></a><i>[within]</i> My lord, my lord!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='852'></a> Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='853'></a>Lord Hamlet!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='854'></a>Heaven secure him!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='855'></a>So be it!

<span class='playlinenum'>855</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='856'></a>Illo, ho, ho, my lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='857'></a>Hillo, ho, ho, boy! Come, bird, come.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='858'></a>How is't, my noble lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='859'></a>What news, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='860'></a>O, wonderful!

<span class='playlinenum'>860</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='861'></a>Good my lord, tell it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='862'></a>No, you will reveal it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='863'></a>Not I, my lord, by heaven!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='864'></a>Nor I, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='865'></a>How say you then? Would heart of man once think it?

<span class='playlinenum'>865</span><br>But you'll be secret?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='867'></a><i>[with Horatio]</i> Ay, by heaven, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='868'></a>There's neer a villain dwelling in all Denmark

<br>But he's an arrant knave.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='870'></a>There needs no ghost, my lord, come from the grave

<span class='playlinenum'>870</span><br>To tell us this.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='872'></a>Why, right! You are in the right!

<br>And so, without more circumstance at all,

<br>I hold it fit that we shake hands and part;

<br>You, as your business and desires shall point you,

<span class='playlinenum'>875</span><br>For every man hath business and desire,

<br>Such as it is; and for my own poor part,

<br>Look you, I'll go pray.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='879'></a>These are but wild and whirling words, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='880'></a>I am sorry they offend you, heartily;

<span class='playlinenum'>880</span><br>Yes, faith, heartily.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='882'></a>There's no offence, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='883'></a>Yes, by Saint Patrick, but there is, Horatio,

<br>And much offence too. Touching this vision here,

<br>It is an honest ghost, that let me tell you.

<span class='playlinenum'>885</span><br>For your desire to know what is between us,

<br>O'ermaster't as you may. And now, good friends,

<br>As you are friends, scholars, and soldiers,

<br>Give me one poor request.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='890'></a>What is't, my lord? We will.

<span class='playlinenum'>890</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='891'></a>Never make known what you have seen to-night.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='892'></a><i>[with Horatio]</i> My lord, we will not.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='893'></a>Nay, but swear't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='894'></a>In faith,

<br>My lord, not I.

<span class='playlinenum'>895</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='896'></a>Nor I, my lord- in faith.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='897'></a>Upon my sword.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=marcellus&WorkID=hamlet)'>Marcellus</a>. </strong><a name='898'></a>We have sworn, my lord, already.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='899'></a>Indeed, upon my sword, indeed.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='900'></a> Ghost cries under the stage.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='901'></a>Swear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='902'></a>Aha boy, say'st thou so? Art thou there, truepenny?

<br>Come on! You hear this fellow in the cellarage.

<br>Consent to swear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='905'></a>Propose the oath, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>905</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='906'></a>Never to speak of this that you have seen.

<br>Swear by my sword.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='908'></a><i>[beneath]</i> Swear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='909'></a>Hic et ubique? Then we'll shift our ground.

<br>Come hither, gentlemen,

<span class='playlinenum'>910</span><br>And lay your hands again upon my sword.

<br>Never to speak of this that you have heard:

<br>Swear by my sword.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='914'></a><i>[beneath]</i> Swear by his sword.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='915'></a>Well said, old mole! Canst work i' th' earth so fast?

<span class='playlinenum'>915</span><br>A worthy pioner! Once more remove, good friends."

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='917'></a>O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='918'></a>And therefore as a stranger give it welcome.

<br>There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,

<br>Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

<span class='playlinenum'>920</span><br>But come!

<br>Here, as before, never, so help you mercy,

<br>How strange or odd soe'er I bear myself

<br>(As I perchance hereafter shall think meet

<br>To put an antic disposition on),

<span class='playlinenum'>925</span><br>That you, at such times seeing me, never shall,

<br>With arms encumb'red thus, or this head-shake,

<br>Or by pronouncing of some doubtful phrase,

<br>As 'Well, well, we know,' or 'We could, an if we would,'

<br>Or 'If we list to speak,' or 'There be, an if they might,'

<span class='playlinenum'>930</span><br>Or such ambiguous giving out, to note

<br>That you know aught of me- this is not to do,

<br>So grace and mercy at your most need help you,

<br>Swear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='935'></a><i>[beneath]</i> Swear.

<span class='playlinenum'>935</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='936'></a> [They swear.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='937'></a>Rest, rest, perturbed spirit! So, gentlemen,

<br>With all my love I do commend me to you;

<br>And what so poor a man as Hamlet is

<br>May do t' express his love and friending to you,

<span class='playlinenum'>940</span><br>God willing, shall not lack. Let us go in together;

<br>And still your fingers on your lips, I pray.

<br>The time is out of joint. O cursed spite

<br>That ever I was born to set it right!

<br>Nay, come, let's go together.

<span class='playlinenum'>945</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='946'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act II, Scene 1</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the house of Polonius.</p>

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<td width='150' align='right' valign='middle'> <a href='[#a2,s2](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/play_view.php?WorkID=hamlet&Scope=entire&pleasewait=1&msg=pl#a2,s2)'>

<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='947'></a>Enter Polonius and Reynaldo.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='948'></a>Give him this money and these notes, Reynaldo.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='949'></a>I will, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='950'></a>You shall do marvell's wisely, good Reynaldo,

<span class='playlinenum'>950</span><br>Before You visit him, to make inquire

<br>Of his behaviour.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='953'></a>My lord, I did intend it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='954'></a>Marry, well said, very well said. Look you, sir,

<br>Enquire me first what Danskers are in Paris;

<span class='playlinenum'>955</span><br>And how, and who, what means, and where they keep,

<br>What company, at what expense; and finding

<br>By this encompassment and drift of question

<br>That they do know my son, come you more nearer

<br>Than your particular demands will touch it.

<span class='playlinenum'>960</span><br>Take you, as 'twere, some distant knowledge of him;

<br>As thus, 'I know his father and his friends,

<br>And in part him.' Do you mark this, Reynaldo?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='964'></a>Ay, very well, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='965'></a>'And in part him, but,' you may say, 'not well.

<span class='playlinenum'>965</span><br>But if't be he I mean, he's very wild

<br>Addicted so and so'; and there put on him

<br>What forgeries you please; marry, none so rank

<br>As may dishonour him- take heed of that;

<br>But, sir, such wanton, wild, and usual slips

<span class='playlinenum'>970</span><br>As are companions noted and most known

<br>To youth and liberty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='973'></a>As gaming, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='974'></a>Ay, or drinking, fencing, swearing, quarrelling,

<br>Drabbing. You may go so far.

<span class='playlinenum'>975</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='976'></a>My lord, that would dishonour him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='977'></a>Faith, no, as you may season it in the charge.

<br>You must not put another scandal on him,

<br>That he is open to incontinency.

<br>That's not my meaning. But breathe his faults so quaintly

<span class='playlinenum'>980</span><br>That they may seem the taints of liberty,

<br>The flash and outbreak of a fiery mind,

<br>A savageness in unreclaimed blood,

<br>Of general assault.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='985'></a>But, my good lord-

<span class='playlinenum'>985</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='986'></a>Wherefore should you do this?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='987'></a>Ay, my lord,

<br>I would know that.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='989'></a>Marry, sir, here's my drift,

<br>And I believe it is a fetch of warrant.

<span class='playlinenum'>990</span><br>You laying these slight sullies on my son

<br>As 'twere a thing a little soil'd i' th' working,

<br>Mark you,

<br>Your party in converse, him you would sound,

<br>Having ever seen in the prenominate crimes

<span class='playlinenum'>995</span><br>The youth you breathe of guilty, be assur'd

<br>He closes with you in this consequence:

<br>'Good sir,' or so, or 'friend,' or 'gentleman'-

<br>According to the phrase or the addition

<br>Of man and country-

<span class='playlinenum'>1000</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1001'></a>Very good, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1002'></a>And then, sir, does 'a this- 'a does- What was I about to say?

<br>By the mass, I was about to say something! Where did I leave?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1004'></a>At 'closes in the consequence,' at 'friend or so,' and

<br>gentleman.'

<span class='playlinenum'>1005</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1006'></a>At 'closes in the consequence'- Ay, marry!

<br>He closes thus: 'I know the gentleman.

<br>I saw him yesterday, or t'other day,

<br>Or then, or then, with such or such; and, as you say,

<br>There was 'a gaming; there o'ertook in's rouse;

<span class='playlinenum'>1010</span><br>There falling out at tennis'; or perchance,

<br>'I saw him enter such a house of sale,'

<br>Videlicet, a brothel, or so forth.

<br>See you now-

<br>Your bait of falsehood takes this carp of truth;

<span class='playlinenum'>1015</span><br>And thus do we of wisdom and of reach,

<br>With windlasses and with assays of bias,

<br>By indirections find directions out.

<br>So, by my former lecture and advice,

<br>Shall you my son. You have me, have you not?

<span class='playlinenum'>1020</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1021'></a>My lord, I have.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1022'></a>God b' wi' ye, fare ye well!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1023'></a>Good my lord! <i>[Going.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1024'></a>Observe his inclination in yourself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1025'></a>I shall, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>1025</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1026'></a>And let him ply his music.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=reynaldo&WorkID=hamlet)'>Reynaldo</a>. </strong><a name='1027'></a>Well, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1028'></a>Farewell!

<br><i>[Exit Reynaldo.]</i>

<br><i>[Enter Ophelia.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>1030</span><br>How now, Ophelia? What's the matter?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1032'></a>O my lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1033'></a>With what, i' th' name of God?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1034'></a>My lord, as I was sewing in my closet,

<br>Lord Hamlet, with his doublet all unbrac'd,

<span class='playlinenum'>1035</span><br>No hat upon his head, his stockings foul'd,

<br>Ungart'red, and down-gyved to his ankle;

<br>Pale as his shirt, his knees knocking each other,

<br>And with a look so piteous in purport

<br>As if he had been loosed out of hell

<span class='playlinenum'>1040</span><br>To speak of horrors- he comes before me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1042'></a>Mad for thy love?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1043'></a>My lord, I do not know,

<br>But truly I do fear it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1045'></a>What said he?

<span class='playlinenum'>1045</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1046'></a>He took me by the wrist and held me hard;

<br>Then goes he to the length of all his arm,

<br>And, with his other hand thus o'er his brow,

<br>He falls to such perusal of my face

<br>As he would draw it. Long stay'd he so.

<span class='playlinenum'>1050</span><br>At last, a little shaking of mine arm,

<br>And thrice his head thus waving up and down,

<br>He rais'd a sigh so piteous and profound

<br>As it did seem to shatter all his bulk

<br>And end his being. That done, he lets me go,

<span class='playlinenum'>1055</span><br>And with his head over his shoulder turn'd

<br>He seem'd to find his way without his eyes,

<br>For out o' doors he went without their help

<br>And to the last bended their light on me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1060'></a>Come, go with me. I will go seek the King.

<span class='playlinenum'>1060</span><br>This is the very ecstasy of love,

<br>Whose violent property fordoes itself

<br>And leads the will to desperate undertakings

<br>As oft as any passion under heaven

<br>That does afflict our natures. I am sorry.

<span class='playlinenum'>1065</span><br>What, have you given him any hard words of late?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1067'></a>No, my good lord; but, as you did command,

<br>I did repel his letters and denied

<br>His access to me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1070'></a>That hath made him mad.

<span class='playlinenum'>1070</span><br>I am sorry that with better heed and judgment

<br>I had not quoted him. I fear'd he did but trifle

<br>And meant to wrack thee; but beshrew my jealousy!

<br>By heaven, it is as proper to our age

<br>To cast beyond ourselves in our opinions

<span class='playlinenum'>1075</span><br>As it is common for the younger sort

<br>To lack discretion. Come, go we to the King.

<br>This must be known; which, being kept close, might move

<br>More grief to hide than hate to utter love.

<br>Come.

<span class='playlinenum'>1080</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1081'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act II, Scene 2</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1082'></a>Flourish. [Enter King and Queen, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern,

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1083'></a>cum aliis.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1084'></a>Welcome, dear Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

<br>Moreover that we much did long to see you,

<span class='playlinenum'>1085</span><br>The need we have to use you did provoke

<br>Our hasty sending. Something have you heard

<br>Of Hamlet's transformation. So I call it,

<br>Sith nor th' exterior nor the inward man

<br>Resembles that it was. What it should be,

<span class='playlinenum'>1090</span><br>More than his father's death, that thus hath put him

<br>So much from th' understanding of himself,

<br>I cannot dream of. I entreat you both

<br>That, being of so young days brought up with him,

<br>And since so neighbour'd to his youth and haviour,

<span class='playlinenum'>1095</span><br>That you vouchsafe your rest here in our court

<br>Some little time; so by your companies

<br>To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather

<br>So much as from occasion you may glean,

<br>Whether aught to us unknown afflicts him thus

<span class='playlinenum'>1100</span><br>That, open'd, lies within our remedy.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1102'></a>Good gentlemen, he hath much talk'd of you,

<br>And sure I am two men there are not living

<br>To whom he more adheres. If it will please you

<br>To show us so much gentry and good will

<span class='playlinenum'>1105</span><br>As to expend your time with us awhile

<br>For the supply and profit of our hope,

<br>Your visitation shall receive such thanks

<br>As fits a king's remembrance.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1110'></a>Both your Majesties

<span class='playlinenum'>1110</span><br>Might, by the sovereign power you have of us,

<br>Put your dread pleasures more into command

<br>Than to entreaty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1114'></a>But we both obey,

<br>And here give up ourselves, in the full bent,

<span class='playlinenum'>1115</span><br>To lay our service freely at your feet,

<br>To be commanded.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1118'></a>Thanks, Rosencrantz and gentle Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1119'></a>Thanks, Guildenstern and gentle Rosencrantz.

<br>And I beseech you instantly to visit

<span class='playlinenum'>1120</span><br>My too much changed son.- Go, some of you,

<br>And bring these gentlemen where Hamlet is.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1123'></a>Heavens make our presence and our practices

<br>Pleasant and helpful to him!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1125'></a>Ay, amen!

<span class='playlinenum'>1125</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1126'></a> Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, [with some Attendants].

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1127'></a> Enter Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1128'></a>Th' ambassadors from Norway, my good lord,

<br>Are joyfully return'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1130'></a>Thou still hast been the father of good news.

<span class='playlinenum'>1130</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1131'></a>Have I, my lord? Assure you, my good liege,

<br>I hold my duty as I hold my soul,

<br>Both to my God and to my gracious king;

<br>And I do think- or else this brain of mine

<br>Hunts not the trail of policy so sure

<span class='playlinenum'>1135</span><br>As it hath us'd to do- that I have found

<br>The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1138'></a>O, speak of that! That do I long to hear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1139'></a>Give first admittance to th' ambassadors.

<br>My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.

<span class='playlinenum'>1140</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1141'></a>Thyself do grace to them, and bring them in.

<br><i>[Exit Polonius.]</i>

<br>He tells me, my dear Gertrude, he hath found

<br>The head and source of all your son's distemper.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1145'></a>I doubt it is no other but the main,

<span class='playlinenum'>1145</span><br>His father's death and our o'erhasty marriage.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1147'></a>Well, we shall sift him.

<br><i>[Enter Polonius, Voltemand, and Cornelius.]</i>

<br>Welcome, my good friends.

<br>Say, Voltemand, what from our brother Norway?

<span class='playlinenum'>1150</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=voltemand&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=voltemand&WorkID=hamlet)'>Voltemand</a>. </strong><a name='1151'></a>Most fair return of greetings and desires.

<br>Upon our first, he sent out to suppress

<br>His nephew's levies; which to him appear'd

<br>To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack,

<br>But better look'd into, he truly found

<span class='playlinenum'>1155</span><br>It was against your Highness; whereat griev'd,

<br>That so his sickness, age, and impotence

<br>Was falsely borne in hand, sends out arrests

<br>On Fortinbras; which he, in brief, obeys,

<br>Receives rebuke from Norway, and, in fine,

<span class='playlinenum'>1160</span><br>Makes vow before his uncle never more

<br>To give th' assay of arms against your Majesty.

<br>Whereon old Norway, overcome with joy,

<br>Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee

<br>And his commission to employ those soldiers,

<span class='playlinenum'>1165</span><br>So levied as before, against the Polack;

<br>With an entreaty, herein further shown,

<br><i>[Gives a paper.]</i>

<br>That it might please you to give quiet pass

<br>Through your dominions for this enterprise,

<span class='playlinenum'>1170</span><br>On such regards of safety and allowance

<br>As therein are set down.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1173'></a>It likes us well;

<br>And at our more consider'd time we'll read,

<br>Answer, and think upon this business.

<span class='playlinenum'>1175</span><br>Meantime we thank you for your well-took labour.

<br>Go to your rest; at night we'll feast together.

<br>Most welcome home! Exeunt Ambassadors.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1179'></a>This business is well ended.

<br>My liege, and madam, to expostulate

<span class='playlinenum'>1180</span><br>What majesty should be, what duty is,

<br>Why day is day, night is night, and time is time.

<br>Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time.

<br>Therefore, since brevity is the soul of wit,

<br>And tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes,

<span class='playlinenum'>1185</span><br>I will be brief. Your noble son is mad.

<br>Mad call I it; for, to define true madness,

<br>What is't but to be nothing else but mad?

<br>But let that go.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1190'></a>More matter, with less art.

<span class='playlinenum'>1190</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1191'></a>Madam, I swear I use no art at all.

<br>That he is mad, 'tis true: 'tis true 'tis pity;

<br>And pity 'tis 'tis true. A foolish figure!

<br>But farewell it, for I will use no art.

<br>Mad let us grant him then. And now remains

<span class='playlinenum'>1195</span><br>That we find out the cause of this effect-

<br>Or rather say, the cause of this defect,

<br>For this effect defective comes by cause.

<br>Thus it remains, and the remainder thus.

<br>Perpend.

<span class='playlinenum'>1200</span><br>I have a daughter (have while she is mine),

<br>Who in her duty and obedience, mark,

<br>Hath given me this. Now gather, and surmise.

<br><i>[Reads]</i> the letter.]</i>

<br>'To the celestial, and my soul's idol, the most beautified Ophelia,'-

<span class='playlinenum'>1205</span><br>That's an ill phrase, a vile phrase; 'beautified' is a vile phrase.

<br>But you shall hear. Thus:

<br><i>[Reads.]</i>

<br>'In her excellent white bosom, these, &c.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1210'></a>Came this from Hamlet to her?

<span class='playlinenum'>1210</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1211'></a>Good madam, stay awhile. I will be faithful. <i>[Reads.]</i>

<br> 'Doubt thou the stars are fire;

<br> Doubt that the sun doth move;

<br> Doubt truth to be a liar;

<br> But never doubt I love.

<span class='playlinenum'>1215</span><br> 'O dear Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers; I have not art to

<br>reckon my groans; but that I love thee best, O most best, believe

<br>it. Adieu.

<br> 'Thine evermore, most dear lady, whilst this machine is to

<br>him, HAMLET.'

<span class='playlinenum'>1220</span><br>This, in obedience, hath my daughter shown me;

<br>And more above, hath his solicitings,

<br>As they fell out by time, by means, and place,

<br>All given to mine ear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1225'></a>But how hath she

<span class='playlinenum'>1225</span><br>Receiv'd his love?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1227'></a>What do you think of me?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1228'></a>As of a man faithful and honourable.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1229'></a>I would fain prove so. But what might you think,

<br>When I had seen this hot love on the wing

<span class='playlinenum'>1230</span><br>(As I perceiv'd it, I must tell you that,

<br>Before my daughter told me), what might you,

<br>Or my dear Majesty your queen here, think,

<br>If I had play'd the desk or table book,

<br>Or given my heart a winking, mute and dumb,

<span class='playlinenum'>1235</span><br>Or look'd upon this love with idle sight?

<br>What might you think? No, I went round to work

<br>And my young mistress thus I did bespeak:

<br>'Lord Hamlet is a prince, out of thy star.

<br>This must not be.' And then I prescripts gave her,

<span class='playlinenum'>1240</span><br>That she should lock herself from his resort,

<br>Admit no messengers, receive no tokens.

<br>Which done, she took the fruits of my advice,

<br>And he, repulsed, a short tale to make,

<br>Fell into a sadness, then into a fast,

<span class='playlinenum'>1245</span><br>Thence to a watch, thence into a weakness,

<br>Thence to a lightness, and, by this declension,

<br>Into the madness wherein now he raves,

<br>And all we mourn for.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1250'></a>Do you think 'tis this?

<span class='playlinenum'>1250</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1251'></a>it may be, very like.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1252'></a>Hath there been such a time- I would fain know that-

<br>That I have Positively said 'Tis so,'

<br>When it prov'd otherwise.?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1255'></a>Not that I know.

<span class='playlinenum'>1255</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1256'></a><i>[points to his head and shoulder]</i> Take this from this, if this be otherwise.

<br>If circumstances lead me, I will find

<br>Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeed

<br>Within the centre.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1260'></a>How may we try it further?

<span class='playlinenum'>1260</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1261'></a>You know sometimes he walks for hours together

<br>Here in the lobby.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1263'></a>So he does indeed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1264'></a>At such a time I'll loose my daughter to him.

<br>Be you and I behind an arras then.

<span class='playlinenum'>1265</span><br>Mark the encounter. If he love her not,

<br>And he not from his reason fall'n thereon

<br>Let me be no assistant for a state,

<br>But keep a farm and carters.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1270'></a>We will try it.

<span class='playlinenum'>1270</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1271'></a> Enter Hamlet, reading on a book.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1272'></a>But look where sadly the poor wretch comes reading.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1273'></a>Away, I do beseech you, both away

<br>I'll board him presently. O, give me leave.

<br><i>[Exeunt King and Queen, <i>[with Attendants]</i>.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>1275</span><br>How does my good Lord Hamlet?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1277'></a>Well, God-a-mercy.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1278'></a>Do you know me, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1279'></a>Excellent well. You are a fishmonger.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1280'></a>Not I, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>1280</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1281'></a>Then I would you were so honest a man.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1282'></a>Honest, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1283'></a>Ay, sir. To be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man

<br>pick'd out of ten thousand.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1285'></a>That's very true, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>1285</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1286'></a>For if the sun breed maggots in a dead dog, being a god

<br>kissing carrion- Have you a daughter?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1288'></a>I have, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1289'></a>Let her not walk i' th' sun. Conception is a blessing, but not

<br>as your daughter may conceive. Friend, look to't.

<span class='playlinenum'>1290</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1291'></a><i>[aside]</i> How say you by that? Still harping on my daughter. Yet

<br>he knew me not at first. He said I was a fishmonger. He is far

<br>gone, far gone! And truly in my youth I suff'red much extremity

<br>for love- very near this. I'll speak to him again.- What do you

<br>read, my lord?

<span class='playlinenum'>1295</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1296'></a>Words, words, words.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1297'></a>What is the matter, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1298'></a>Between who?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1299'></a>I mean, the matter that you read, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1300'></a>Slanders, sir; for the satirical rogue says here that old men

<span class='playlinenum'>1300</span><br>have grey beards; that their faces are wrinkled; their eyes

<br>purging thick amber and plum-tree gum; and that they have a

<br>plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak hams. All which,

<br>sir, though I most powerfully and potently believe, yet I hold it

<br>not honesty to have it thus set down; for you yourself, sir,

<span class='playlinenum'>1305</span><br>should be old as I am if, like a crab, you could go backward.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1307'></a><i>[aside]</i> Though this be madness, yet there is a method in't.-

<br> Will You walk out of the air, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1309'></a>Into my grave?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1310'></a>Indeed, that is out o' th' air. <i>[Aside]</i> How pregnant sometimes

<span class='playlinenum'>1310</span><br>his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which

<br>reason and sanity could not so prosperously be delivered of. I

<br>will leave him and suddenly contrive the means of meeting between

<br>him and my daughter.- My honourable lord, I will most humbly take

<br>my leave of you.

<span class='playlinenum'>1315</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1316'></a>You cannot, sir, take from me anything that I will more

<br>willingly part withal- except my life, except my life, except my

<br>life,

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1319'></a> Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1320'></a>Fare you well, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>1320</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1321'></a>These tedious old fools!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1322'></a>You go to seek the Lord Hamlet. There he is.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1323'></a><i>[to Polonius]</i> God save you, sir!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1324'></a> Exit [Polonius].

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1325'></a>My honour'd lord!

<span class='playlinenum'>1325</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1326'></a>My most dear lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1327'></a>My excellent good friends! How dost thou, Guildenstern? Ah,

<br>Rosencrantz! Good lads, how do ye both?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1329'></a>As the indifferent children of the earth.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1330'></a>Happy in that we are not over-happy.

<span class='playlinenum'>1330</span><br>On Fortune's cap we are not the very button.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1332'></a>Nor the soles of her shoe?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1333'></a>Neither, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1334'></a>Then you live about her waist, or in the middle of her

<br>favours?

<span class='playlinenum'>1335</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1336'></a>Faith, her privates we.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1337'></a>In the secret parts of Fortune? O! most true! she is a

<br>strumpet. What news ?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1339'></a>None, my lord, but that the world's grown honest.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1340'></a>Then is doomsday near! But your news is not true. Let me

<span class='playlinenum'>1340</span><br>question more in particular. What have you, my good friends,

<br>deserved at the hands of Fortune that she sends you to prison

<br>hither?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1344'></a>Prison, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1345'></a>Denmark's a prison.

<span class='playlinenum'>1345</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1346'></a>Then is the world one.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1347'></a>A goodly one; in which there are many confines, wards, and

<br>dungeons, Denmark being one o' th' worst.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1349'></a>We think not so, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1350'></a>Why, then 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good

<span class='playlinenum'>1350</span><br>or bad but thinking makes it so. To me it is a prison.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1352'></a>Why, then your ambition makes it one. 'Tis too narrow for your

<br>mind.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1354'></a>O God, I could be bounded in a nutshell and count myself a

<br>king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams.

<span class='playlinenum'>1355</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1356'></a>Which dreams indeed are ambition; for the very substance of

<br>the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1358'></a>A dream itself is but a shadow.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1359'></a>Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality that

<br>it is but a shadow's shadow.

<span class='playlinenum'>1360</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1361'></a>Then are our beggars bodies, and our monarchs and outstretch'd

<br>heroes the beggars' shadows. Shall we to th' court? for, by my

<br>fay, I cannot reason.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1364'></a><i>[with Guildenstern]</i> We'll wait upon you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1365'></a>No such matter! I will not sort you with the rest of my

<span class='playlinenum'>1365</span><br>servants; for, to speak to you like an honest man, I am most

<br>dreadfully attended. But in the beaten way of friendship, what

<br>make you at Elsinore?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1369'></a>To visit you, my lord; no other occasion.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1370'></a>Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; but I thank you;

<span class='playlinenum'>1370</span><br>and sure, dear friends, my thanks are too dear a halfpenny. Were

<br>you not sent for? Is it your own inclining? Is it a free

<br>visitation? Come, deal justly with me. Come, come! Nay, speak.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1374'></a>What should we say, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1375'></a>Why, anything- but to th' purpose. You were sent for; and

<span class='playlinenum'>1375</span><br>there is a kind of confession in your looks, which your modesties

<br>have not craft enough to colour. I know the good King and Queen

<br>have sent for you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1379'></a>To what end, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1380'></a>That you must teach me. But let me conjure you by the rights

<span class='playlinenum'>1380</span><br>of our fellowship, by the consonancy of our youth, by the

<br>obligation of our ever-preserved love, and by what more dear a

<br>better proposer could charge you withal, be even and direct with

<br>me, whether you were sent for or no.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1385'></a><i>[aside to Guildenstern]</i> What say you?

<span class='playlinenum'>1385</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1386'></a><i>[aside]</i> Nay then, I have an eye of you.- If you love me, hold

<br>not off.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1388'></a>My lord, we were sent for.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1389'></a>I will tell you why. So shall my anticipation prevent your

<br>discovery, and your secrecy to the King and Queen moult no

<span class='playlinenum'>1390</span><br>feather. I have of late- but wherefore I know not- lost all my

<br>mirth, forgone all custom of exercises; and indeed, it goes so

<br>heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, the earth,

<br>seems to me a sterile promontory; this most excellent canopy, the

<br>air, look you, this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical

<span class='playlinenum'>1395</span><br>roof fretted with golden fire- why, it appeareth no other thing

<br>to me than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. What a

<br>piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! how infinite in

<br>faculties! in form and moving how express and admirable! in

<br>action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the

<span class='playlinenum'>1400</span><br>beauty of the world, the paragon of animals! And yet to me what

<br>is this quintessence of dust? Man delights not me- no, nor woman

<br>neither, though by your smiling you seem to say so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1404'></a>My lord, there was no such stuff in my thoughts.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1405'></a>Why did you laugh then, when I said 'Man delights not me'?

<span class='playlinenum'>1405</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1406'></a>To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what lenten

<br>entertainment the players shall receive from you. We coted them

<br>on the way, and hither are they coming to offer you service.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1409'></a>He that plays the king shall be welcome- his Majesty shall

<br>have tribute of me; the adventurous knight shall use his foil and

<span class='playlinenum'>1410</span><br>target; the lover shall not sigh gratis; the humorous man shall

<br>end his part in peace; the clown shall make those laugh whose

<br>lungs are tickle o' th' sere; and the lady shall say her mind

<br>freely, or the blank verse shall halt for't. What players are

<br>they?

<span class='playlinenum'>1415</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1416'></a>Even those you were wont to take such delight in, the

<br>tragedians of the city.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1418'></a>How chances it they travel? Their residence, both in

<br>reputation and profit, was better both ways.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1420'></a>I think their inhibition comes by the means of the late

<span class='playlinenum'>1420</span><br>innovation.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1422'></a>Do they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the

<br>city? Are they so follow'd?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1424'></a>No indeed are they not.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1425'></a>How comes it? Do they grow rusty?

<span class='playlinenum'>1425</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1426'></a>Nay, their endeavour keeps in the wonted pace; but there is,

<br>sir, an eyrie of children, little eyases, that cry out on the top

<br>of question and are most tyrannically clapp'd for't. These are now

<br>the fashion, and so berattle the common stages (so they call

<br>them) that many wearing rapiers are afraid of goosequills and

<span class='playlinenum'>1430</span><br>dare scarce come thither.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1432'></a>What, are they children? Who maintains 'em? How are they

<br>escoted? Will they pursue the quality no longer than they can

<br>sing? Will they not say afterwards, if they should grow

<br>themselves to common players (as it is most like, if their means

<span class='playlinenum'>1435</span><br>are no better), their writers do them wrong to make them exclaim

<br>against their own succession.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1438'></a>Faith, there has been much to do on both sides; and the nation

<br>holds it no sin to tarre them to controversy. There was, for a

<br>while, no money bid for argument unless the poet and the player

<span class='playlinenum'>1440</span><br>went to cuffs in the question.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1442'></a>Is't possible?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1443'></a>O, there has been much throwing about of brains.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1444'></a>Do the boys carry it away?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1445'></a>Ay, that they do, my lord- Hercules and his load too.

<span class='playlinenum'>1445</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1446'></a>It is not very strange; for my uncle is King of Denmark, and

<br>those that would make mows at him while my father lived give

<br>twenty, forty, fifty, a hundred ducats apiece for his picture in

<br>little. 'Sblood, there is something in this more than natural, if

<br>philosophy could find it out.

<span class='playlinenum'>1450</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1451'></a> Flourish for the Players.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1452'></a>There are the players.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1453'></a>Gentlemen, you are welcome to Elsinore. Your hands, come! Th'

<br>appurtenance of welcome is fashion and ceremony. Let me comply

<br>with you in this garb, lest my extent to the players (which I

<span class='playlinenum'>1455</span><br>tell you must show fairly outwards) should more appear like

<br>entertainment than yours. You are welcome. But my uncle-father

<br>and aunt-mother are deceiv'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1459'></a>In what, my dear lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1460'></a>I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly I

<span class='playlinenum'>1460</span><br>know a hawk from a handsaw.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1462'></a> Enter Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1463'></a>Well be with you, gentlemen!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1464'></a>Hark you, Guildenstern- and you too- at each ear a hearer!

<br>That great baby you see there is not yet out of his swaddling

<span class='playlinenum'>1465</span><br>clouts.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1467'></a>Happily he's the second time come to them; for they say an old

<br>man is twice a child.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1469'></a>I will prophesy he comes to tell me of the players. Mark it.-

<br>You say right, sir; a Monday morning; twas so indeed.

<span class='playlinenum'>1470</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1471'></a>My lord, I have news to tell you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1472'></a>My lord, I have news to tell you. When Roscius was an actor in Rome-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1473'></a>The actors are come hither, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1474'></a>Buzz, buzz!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1475'></a>Upon my honour-

<span class='playlinenum'>1475</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1476'></a>Then came each actor on his ass-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1477'></a>The best actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy,

<br>history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral,

<br>tragical-historical, tragical-comical-historical-pastoral; scene

<br>individable, or poem unlimited. Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor

<span class='playlinenum'>1480</span><br>Plautus too light. For the law of writ and the liberty, these are

<br>the only men.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1483'></a>O Jephthah, judge of Israel, what a treasure hadst thou!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1484'></a>What treasure had he, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1485'></a>Why,

<span class='playlinenum'>1485</span><br> 'One fair daughter, and no more,

<br> The which he loved passing well.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1488'></a><i>[aside]</i> Still on my daughter.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1489'></a>Am I not i' th' right, old Jephthah?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1490'></a>If you call me Jephthah, my lord, I have a daughter that I

<span class='playlinenum'>1490</span><br>love passing well.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1492'></a>Nay, that follows not.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1493'></a>What follows then, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1494'></a>Why,

<br> 'As by lot, God wot,'

<span class='playlinenum'>1495</span><br> and then, you know,

<br> 'It came to pass, as most like it was.'

<br>The first row of the pious chanson will show you more; for look

<br>where my abridgment comes.

<br><i>[Enter four or five Players.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>1500</span><br>You are welcome, masters; welcome, all.- I am glad to see thee

<br>well.- Welcome, good friends.- O, my old friend? Why, thy face is

<br>valanc'd since I saw thee last. Com'st' thou to' beard me in

<br>Denmark?- What, my young lady and mistress? By'r Lady, your

<br>ladyship is nearer to heaven than when I saw you last by the

<span class='playlinenum'>1505</span><br>altitude of a chopine. Pray God your voice, like a piece of

<br>uncurrent gold, be not crack'd within the ring.- Masters, you are

<br>all welcome. We'll e'en to't like French falconers, fly at

<br>anything we see. We'll have a speech straight. Come, give us a

<br>taste of your quality. Come, a passionate speech.

<span class='playlinenum'>1510</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1511'></a>What speech, my good lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1512'></a>I heard thee speak me a speech once, but it was never acted;

<br>or if it was, not above once; for the play, I remember, pleas'd

<br>not the million, 'twas caviary to the general; but it was (as I

<br>receiv'd it, and others, whose judgments in such matters cried in

<span class='playlinenum'>1515</span><br>the top of mine) an excellent play, well digested in the scenes,

<br>set down with as much modesty as cunning. I remember one said

<br>there were no sallets in the lines to make the matter savoury,

<br>nor no matter in the phrase that might indict the author of

<br>affectation; but call'd it an honest method, as wholesome as

<span class='playlinenum'>1520</span><br>sweet, and by very much more handsome than fine. One speech in't

<br>I chiefly lov'd. 'Twas AEneas' tale to Dido, and thereabout of it

<br>especially where he speaks of Priam's slaughter. If it live in

<br>your memory, begin at this line- let me see, let me see:

<br> 'The rugged Pyrrhus, like th' Hyrcanian beast-'

<span class='playlinenum'>1525</span><br>'Tis not so; it begins with Pyrrhus:

<br> 'The rugged Pyrrhus, he whose sable arms,

<br> Black as his purpose, did the night resemble

<br> When he lay couched in the ominous horse,

<br> Hath now this dread and black complexion smear'd

<span class='playlinenum'>1530</span><br> With heraldry more dismal. Head to foot

<br> Now is be total gules, horridly trick'd

<br> With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sons,

<br> Bak'd and impasted with the parching streets,

<br> That lend a tyrannous and a damned light

<span class='playlinenum'>1535</span><br> To their lord's murther. Roasted in wrath and fire,

<br> And thus o'ersized with coagulate gore,

<br> With eyes like carbuncles, the hellish Pyrrhus

<br> Old grandsire Priam seeks.'

<br>So, proceed you.

<span class='playlinenum'>1540</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1541'></a>Fore God, my lord, well spoken, with good accent and good discretion.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1542'></a>'Anon he finds him,

<br> Striking too short at Greeks. His antique sword,

<br> Rebellious to his arm, lies where it falls,

<br> Repugnant to command. Unequal match'd,

<span class='playlinenum'>1545</span><br> Pyrrhus at Priam drives, in rage strikes wide;

<br> But with the whiff and wind of his fell sword

<br> Th' unnerved father falls. Then senseless Ilium,

<br> Seeming to feel this blow, with flaming top

<br> Stoops to his base, and with a hideous crash

<span class='playlinenum'>1550</span><br> Takes prisoner Pyrrhus' ear. For lo! his sword,

<br> Which was declining on the milky head

<br> Of reverend Priam, seem'd i' th' air to stick.

<br> So, as a painted tyrant, Pyrrhus stood,

<br> And, like a neutral to his will and matter,

<span class='playlinenum'>1555</span><br> Did nothing.

<br> But, as we often see, against some storm,

<br> A silence in the heavens, the rack stand still,

<br> The bold winds speechless, and the orb below

<br> As hush as death- anon the dreadful thunder

<span class='playlinenum'>1560</span><br> Doth rend the region; so, after Pyrrhus' pause,

<br> Aroused vengeance sets him new awork;

<br> And never did the Cyclops' hammers fall

<br> On Mars's armour, forg'd for proof eterne,

<br> With less remorse than Pyrrhus' bleeding sword

<span class='playlinenum'>1565</span><br> Now falls on Priam.

<br> Out, out, thou strumpet Fortune! All you gods,

<br> In general synod take away her power;

<br> Break all the spokes and fellies from her wheel,

<br> And bowl the round nave down the hill of heaven,

<span class='playlinenum'>1570</span><br> As low as to the fiends!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1572'></a>This is too long.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1573'></a>It shall to the barber's, with your beard.- Prithee say on.

<br>He's for a jig or a tale of bawdry, or he sleeps. Say on; come to

<br>Hecuba.

<span class='playlinenum'>1575</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1576'></a>'But who, O who, had seen the mobled queen-'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1577'></a>'The mobled queen'?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1578'></a>That's good! 'Mobled queen' is good.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1579'></a>'Run barefoot up and down, threat'ning the flames

<br> With bisson rheum; a clout upon that head

<span class='playlinenum'>1580</span><br> Where late the diadem stood, and for a robe,

<br> About her lank and all o'erteemed loins,

<br> A blanket, in the alarm of fear caught up-

<br> Who this had seen, with tongue in venom steep'd

<br> 'Gainst Fortune's state would treason have pronounc'd.

<span class='playlinenum'>1585</span><br> But if the gods themselves did see her then,

<br> When she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport

<br> In Mincing with his sword her husband's limbs,

<br> The instant burst of clamour that she made

<br> (Unless things mortal move them not at all)

<span class='playlinenum'>1590</span><br> Would have made milch the burning eyes of heaven

<br> And passion in the gods.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1593'></a>Look, whe'r he has not turn'd his colour, and has tears in's

<br>eyes. Prithee no more!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1595'></a>'Tis well. I'll have thee speak out the rest of this soon.-

<span class='playlinenum'>1595</span><br>Good my lord, will you see the players well bestow'd? Do you

<br>hear? Let them be well us'd; for they are the abstract and brief

<br>chronicles of the time. After your death you were better have a

<br>bad epitaph than their ill report while you live.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1600'></a>My lord, I will use them according to their desert.

<span class='playlinenum'>1600</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1601'></a>God's bodykins, man, much better! Use every man after his

<br>desert, and who should scape whipping? Use them after your own

<br>honour and dignity. The less they deserve, the more merit is in

<br>your bounty. Take them in.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1605'></a>Come, sirs.

<span class='playlinenum'>1605</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1606'></a>Follow him, friends. We'll hear a play to-morrow.

<br><i>[Exeunt Polonius and Players <i>[except the First]</i>.]</i>

<br>Dost thou hear me, old friend? Can you play 'The Murther of

<br>Gonzago'?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1610'></a>Ay, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>1610</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1611'></a>We'll ha't to-morrow night. You could, for a need, study a

<br>speech of some dozen or sixteen lines which I would set down and

<br>insert in't, could you not?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1614'></a>Ay, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1615'></a>Very well. Follow that lord- and look you mock him not.

<span class='playlinenum'>1615</span><br><i>[Exit First Player.]</i>

<br>My good friends, I'll leave you till night. You are welcome to

<br>Elsinore.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1619'></a>Good my lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1620'></a>Ay, so, God b' wi' ye!

<span class='playlinenum'>1620</span><br><i>[Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern]</i>

<br>Now I am alone.

<br>O what a rogue and peasant slave am I!

<br>Is it not monstrous that this player here,

<br>But in a fiction, in a dream of passion,

<span class='playlinenum'>1625</span><br>Could force his soul so to his own conceit

<br>That, from her working, all his visage wann'd,

<br>Tears in his eyes, distraction in's aspect,

<br>A broken voice, and his whole function suiting

<br>With forms to his conceit? And all for nothing!

<span class='playlinenum'>1630</span><br>For Hecuba!

<br>What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba,

<br>That he should weep for her? What would he do,

<br>Had he the motive and the cue for passion

<br>That I have? He would drown the stage with tears

<span class='playlinenum'>1635</span><br>And cleave the general ear with horrid speech;

<br>Make mad the guilty and appal the free,

<br>Confound the ignorant, and amaze indeed

<br>The very faculties of eyes and ears.

<br>Yet I,

<span class='playlinenum'>1640</span><br>A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak

<br>Like John-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause,

<br>And can say nothing! No, not for a king,

<br>Upon whose property and most dear life

<br>A damn'd defeat was made. Am I a coward?

<span class='playlinenum'>1645</span><br>Who calls me villain? breaks my pate across?

<br>Plucks off my beard and blows it in my face?

<br>Tweaks me by th' nose? gives me the lie i' th' throat

<br>As deep as to the lungs? Who does me this, ha?

<br>'Swounds, I should take it! for it cannot be

<span class='playlinenum'>1650</span><br>But I am pigeon-liver'd and lack gall

<br>To make oppression bitter, or ere this

<br>I should have fatted all the region kites

<br>With this slave's offal. Bloody bawdy villain!

<br>Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!

<span class='playlinenum'>1655</span><br>O, vengeance!

<br>Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave,

<br>That I, the son of a dear father murther'd,

<br>Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,

<br>Must (like a whore) unpack my heart with words

<span class='playlinenum'>1660</span><br>And fall a-cursing like a very drab,

<br>A scullion!

<br>Fie upon't! foh! About, my brain! Hum, I have heard

<br>That guilty creatures, sitting at a play,

<br>Have by the very cunning of the scene

<span class='playlinenum'>1665</span><br>Been struck so to the soul that presently

<br>They have proclaim'd their malefactions;

<br>For murther, though it have no tongue, will speak

<br>With most miraculous organ, I'll have these Players

<br>Play something like the murther of my father

<span class='playlinenum'>1670</span><br>Before mine uncle. I'll observe his looks;

<br>I'll tent him to the quick. If he but blench,

<br>I know my course. The spirit that I have seen

<br>May be a devil; and the devil hath power

<br>T' assume a pleasing shape; yea, and perhaps

<span class='playlinenum'>1675</span><br>Out of my weakness and my melancholy,

<br>As he is very potent with such spirits,

<br>Abuses me to damn me. I'll have grounds

<br>More relative than this. The play's the thing

<br>Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King. Exit.

<span class='playlinenum'>1680</span></li></ul>

</td>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act III, Scene 1</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

<img src='[/images/arrow\_down\_small.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/arrow_down_small.gif)' width='9' height='10' border='0' alt='.' align='bottom'>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1681'></a>Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern,

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1682'></a>and Lords.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1683'></a>And can you by no drift of circumstance

<br>Get from him why he puts on this confusion,

<br>Grating so harshly all his days of quiet

<span class='playlinenum'>1685</span><br>With turbulent and dangerous lunacy?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1687'></a>He does confess he feels himself distracted,

<br>But from what cause he will by no means speak.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1689'></a>Nor do we find him forward to be sounded,

<br>But with a crafty madness keeps aloof

<span class='playlinenum'>1690</span><br>When we would bring him on to some confession

<br>Of his true state.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1693'></a>Did he receive you well?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1694'></a>Most like a gentleman.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='1695'></a>But with much forcing of his disposition.

<span class='playlinenum'>1695</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1696'></a>Niggard of question, but of our demands

<br>Most free in his reply.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1698'></a>Did you assay him

<br>To any pastime?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1700'></a>Madam, it so fell out that certain players

<span class='playlinenum'>1700</span><br>We o'erraught on the way. Of these we told him,

<br>And there did seem in him a kind of joy

<br>To hear of it. They are here about the court,

<br>And, as I think, they have already order

<br>This night to play before him.

<span class='playlinenum'>1705</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1706'></a>'Tis most true;

<br>And he beseech'd me to entreat your Majesties

<br>To hear and see the matter.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1709'></a>With all my heart, and it doth much content me

<br>To hear him so inclin'd.

<span class='playlinenum'>1710</span><br>Good gentlemen, give him a further edge

<br>And drive his purpose on to these delights.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1713'></a>We shall, my lord.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1714'></a> Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1715'></a>Sweet Gertrude, leave us too;

<span class='playlinenum'>1715</span><br>For we have closely sent for Hamlet hither,

<br>That he, as 'twere by accident, may here

<br>Affront Ophelia.

<br>Her father and myself (lawful espials)

<br>Will so bestow ourselves that, seeing unseen,

<span class='playlinenum'>1720</span><br>We may of their encounter frankly judge

<br>And gather by him, as he is behav'd,

<br>If't be th' affliction of his love, or no,

<br>That thus he suffers for.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1725'></a>I shall obey you;

<span class='playlinenum'>1725</span><br>And for your part, Ophelia, I do wish

<br>That your good beauties be the happy cause

<br>Of Hamlet's wildness. So shall I hope your virtues

<br>Will bring him to his wonted way again,

<br>To both your honours.

<span class='playlinenum'>1730</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1731'></a>Madam, I wish it may.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1732'></a> [Exit Queen.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1733'></a>Ophelia, walk you here.- Gracious, so please you,

<br>We will bestow ourselves.- <i>[To Ophelia]</i> Read on this book,

<br>That show of such an exercise may colour

<span class='playlinenum'>1735</span><br>Your loneliness.- We are oft to blame in this,

<br>'Tis too much prov'd, that with devotion's visage

<br>And pious action we do sugar o'er

<br>The Devil himself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1740'></a><i>[aside]</i> O, 'tis too true!

<span class='playlinenum'>1740</span><br>How smart a lash that speech doth give my conscience!

<br>The harlot's cheek, beautied with plast'ring art,

<br>Is not more ugly to the thing that helps it

<br>Than is my deed to my most painted word.

<br>O heavy burthen!

<span class='playlinenum'>1745</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1746'></a>I hear him coming. Let's withdraw, my lord.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1747'></a> Exeunt King and Polonius].

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1748'></a> Enter Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1749'></a>To be, or not to be- that is the question:

<br>Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

<span class='playlinenum'>1750</span><br>The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune

<br>Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,

<br>And by opposing end them. To die- to sleep-

<br>No more; and by a sleep to say we end

<br>The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks

<span class='playlinenum'>1755</span><br>That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation

<br>Devoutly to be wish'd. To die- to sleep.

<br>To sleep- perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub!

<br>For in that sleep of death what dreams may come

<br>When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,

<span class='playlinenum'>1760</span><br>Must give us pause. There's the respect

<br>That makes calamity of so long life.

<br>For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,

<br>Th' oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,

<br>The pangs of despis'd love, the law's delay,

<span class='playlinenum'>1765</span><br>The insolence of office, and the spurns

<br>That patient merit of th' unworthy takes,

<br>When he himself might his quietus make

<br>With a bare bodkin? Who would these fardels bear,

<br>To grunt and sweat under a weary life,

<span class='playlinenum'>1770</span><br>But that the dread of something after death-

<br>The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn

<br>No traveller returns- puzzles the will,

<br>And makes us rather bear those ills we have

<br>Than fly to others that we know not of?

<span class='playlinenum'>1775</span><br>Thus conscience does make cowards of us all,

<br>And thus the native hue of resolution

<br>Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,

<br>And enterprises of great pith and moment

<br>With this regard their currents turn awry

<span class='playlinenum'>1780</span><br>And lose the name of action.- Soft you now!

<br>The fair Ophelia!- Nymph, in thy orisons

<br>Be all my sins rememb'red.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1784'></a>Good my lord,

<br>How does your honour for this many a day?

<span class='playlinenum'>1785</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1786'></a>I humbly thank you; well, well, well.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1787'></a>My lord, I have remembrances of yours

<br>That I have longed long to re-deliver.

<br>I pray you, now receive them.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1790'></a>No, not I!

<span class='playlinenum'>1790</span><br>I never gave you aught.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1792'></a>My honour'd lord, you know right well you did,

<br>And with them words of so sweet breath compos'd

<br>As made the things more rich. Their perfume lost,

<br>Take these again; for to the noble mind

<span class='playlinenum'>1795</span><br>Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.

<br>There, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1798'></a>Ha, ha! Are you honest?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1799'></a>My lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1800'></a>Are you fair?

<span class='playlinenum'>1800</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1801'></a>What means your lordship?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1802'></a>That if you be honest and fair, your honesty should admit no

<br>discourse to your beauty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1804'></a>Could beauty, my lord, have better commerce than with honesty?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1805'></a>Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will sooner transform

<span class='playlinenum'>1805</span><br>honesty from what it is to a bawd than the force of honesty can

<br>translate beauty into his likeness. This was sometime a paradox,

<br>but now the time gives it proof. I did love you once.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1809'></a>Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1810'></a>You should not have believ'd me; for virtue cannot so

<span class='playlinenum'>1810</span><br>inoculate our old stock but we shall relish of it. I loved you

<br>not.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1813'></a>I was the more deceived.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1814'></a>Get thee to a nunnery! Why wouldst thou be a breeder of

<br>sinners? I am myself indifferent honest, but yet I could accuse

<span class='playlinenum'>1815</span><br>me of such things that it were better my mother had not borne me.

<br>I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious; with more offences at my

<br>beck than I have thoughts to put them in, imagination to give

<br>them shape, or time to act them in. What should such fellows as I

<br>do, crawling between earth and heaven? We are arrant knaves all;

<span class='playlinenum'>1820</span><br>believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery. Where's your

<br>father?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1823'></a>At home, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1824'></a>Let the doors be shut upon him, that he may play the fool

<br>nowhere but in's own house. Farewell.

<span class='playlinenum'>1825</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1826'></a>O, help him, you sweet heavens!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1827'></a>If thou dost marry, I'll give thee this plague for thy dowry:

<br>be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape

<br>calumny. Get thee to a nunnery. Go, farewell. Or if thou wilt

<br>needs marry, marry a fool; for wise men know well enough what

<span class='playlinenum'>1830</span><br>monsters you make of them. To a nunnery, go; and quickly too.

<br>Farewell.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1833'></a>O heavenly powers, restore him!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1834'></a>I have heard of your paintings too, well enough. God hath

<br>given you one face, and you make yourselves another. You jig, you

<span class='playlinenum'>1835</span><br>amble, and you lisp; you nickname God's creatures and make your

<br>wantonness your ignorance. Go to, I'll no more on't! it hath made

<br>me mad. I say, we will have no moe marriages. Those that are

<br>married already- all but one- shall live; the rest shall keep as

<br>they are. To a nunnery, go. Exit.

<span class='playlinenum'>1840</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1841'></a>O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!

<br>The courtier's, scholar's, soldier's, eye, tongue, sword,

<br>Th' expectancy and rose of the fair state,

<br>The glass of fashion and the mould of form,

<br>Th' observ'd of all observers- quite, quite down!

<span class='playlinenum'>1845</span><br>And I, of ladies most deject and wretched,

<br>That suck'd the honey of his music vows,

<br>Now see that noble and most sovereign reason,

<br>Like sweet bells jangled, out of tune and harsh;

<br>That unmatch'd form and feature of blown youth

<span class='playlinenum'>1850</span><br>Blasted with ecstasy. O, woe is me

<br>T' have seen what I have seen, see what I see!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1853'></a> Enter King and Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1854'></a>Love? his affections do not that way tend;

<br>Nor what he spake, though it lack'd form a little,

<span class='playlinenum'>1855</span><br>Was not like madness. There's something in his soul

<br>O'er which his melancholy sits on brood;

<br>And I do doubt the hatch and the disclose

<br>Will be some danger; which for to prevent,

<br>I have in quick determination

<span class='playlinenum'>1860</span><br>Thus set it down: he shall with speed to England

<br>For the demand of our neglected tribute.

<br>Haply the seas, and countries different,

<br>With variable objects, shall expel

<br>This something-settled matter in his heart,

<span class='playlinenum'>1865</span><br>Whereon his brains still beating puts him thus

<br>From fashion of himself. What think you on't?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1868'></a>It shall do well. But yet do I believe

<br>The origin and commencement of his grief

<br>Sprung from neglected love.- How now, Ophelia?

<span class='playlinenum'>1870</span><br>You need not tell us what Lord Hamlet said.

<br>We heard it all.- My lord, do as you please;

<br>But if you hold it fit, after the play

<br>Let his queen mother all alone entreat him

<br>To show his grief. Let her be round with him;

<span class='playlinenum'>1875</span><br>And I'll be plac'd so please you, in the ear

<br>Of all their conference. If she find him not,

<br>To England send him; or confine him where

<br>Your wisdom best shall think.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1880'></a>It shall be so.

<span class='playlinenum'>1880</span><br>Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go. Exeunt.

</li></ul>

</td>

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</table>

</div> <a name='a3,s2' id='a3,s2'></a> <img src='[/images/fancy\_long\_line.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/fancy_long_line.gif)' width='760' height='8' border='0' align='center' alt='---'>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

</a>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act III, Scene 2</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. hall in the Castle.</p>

</td>

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&nbsp; &nbsp; &nbsp;

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

<img src='[/images/arrow\_down\_small.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/arrow_down_small.gif)' width='9' height='10' border='0' alt='.' align='bottom'>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1882'></a>Enter Hamlet and three of the Players.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1883'></a>Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounc'd it to you,

<br>trippingly on the tongue. But if you mouth it, as many of our

<br>players do, I had as live the town crier spoke my lines. Nor do

<span class='playlinenum'>1885</span><br>not saw the air too much with your hand, thus, but use all

<br>gently; for in the very torrent, tempest, and (as I may say)

<br>whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire and beget a

<br>temperance that may give it smoothness. O, it offends me to the

<br>soul to hear a robustious periwig-pated fellow tear a passion to

<span class='playlinenum'>1890</span><br>tatters, to very rags, to split the cars of the groundlings, who

<br>(for the most part) are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb

<br>shows and noise. I would have such a fellow whipp'd for o'erdoing

<br>Termagant. It out-herods Herod. Pray you avoid it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1895'></a>I warrant your honour.

<span class='playlinenum'>1895</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1896'></a>Be not too tame neither; but let your own discretion be your

<br>tutor. Suit the action to the word, the word to the action; with

<br>this special observance, that you o'erstep not the modesty of

<br>nature: for anything so overdone is from the purpose of playing,

<br>whose end, both at the first and now, was and is, to hold, as

<span class='playlinenum'>1900</span><br>'twere, the mirror up to nature; to show Virtue her own feature,

<br>scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his

<br>form and pressure. Now this overdone, or come tardy off, though

<br>it make the unskilful laugh, cannot but make the judicious

<br>grieve; the censure of the which one must in your allowance

<span class='playlinenum'>1905</span><br>o'erweigh a whole theatre of others. O, there be players that I

<br>have seen play, and heard others praise, and that highly (not to

<br>speak it profanely), that, neither having the accent of

<br>Christians, nor the gait of Christian, pagan, nor man, have so

<br>strutted and bellowed that I have thought some of Nature's

<span class='playlinenum'>1910</span><br>journeymen had made men, and not made them well, they imitated

<br>humanity so abominably.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=1player-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Player</a>. </strong><a name='1913'></a>I hope we have reform'd that indifferently with us, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1914'></a>O, reform it altogether! And let those that play your clowns

<br>speak no more than is set down for them. For there be of them

<span class='playlinenum'>1915</span><br>that will themselves laugh, to set on some quantity of barren

<br>spectators to laugh too, though in the mean time some necessary

<br>question of the play be then to be considered. That's villanous

<br>and shows a most pitiful ambition in the fool that uses it. Go

<br>make you ready.

<span class='playlinenum'>1920</span><br><i>[Exeunt Players.]</i>

<br><i>[Enter Polonius, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.]</i>

<br>How now, my lord? Will the King hear this piece of work?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1924'></a>And the Queen too, and that presently.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1925'></a>Bid the players make haste, <i>[Exit Polonius.]</i> Will you two

<span class='playlinenum'>1925</span><br>help to hasten them?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1927'></a><i>[with Guildenstern]</i> We will, my lord.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1928'></a> Exeunt they two.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1929'></a>What, ho, Horatio!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1930'></a> Enter Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='1931'></a>Here, sweet lord, at your service.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1932'></a>Horatio, thou art e'en as just a man

<br>As e'er my conversation cop'd withal.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='1934'></a>O, my dear lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1935'></a>Nay, do not think I flatter;

<span class='playlinenum'>1935</span><br>For what advancement may I hope from thee,

<br>That no revenue hast but thy good spirits

<br>To feed and clothe thee? Why should the poor be flatter'd?

<br>No, let the candied tongue lick absurd pomp,

<br>And crook the pregnant hinges of the knee

<span class='playlinenum'>1940</span><br>Where thrift may follow fawning. Dost thou hear?

<br>Since my dear soul was mistress of her choice

<br>And could of men distinguish, her election

<br>Hath seal'd thee for herself. For thou hast been

<br>As one, in suff'ring all, that suffers nothing;

<span class='playlinenum'>1945</span><br>A man that Fortune's buffets and rewards

<br>Hast ta'en with equal thanks; and blest are those

<br>Whose blood and judgment are so well commingled

<br>That they are not a pipe for Fortune's finger

<br>To sound what stop she please. Give me that man

<span class='playlinenum'>1950</span><br>That is not passion's slave, and I will wear him

<br>In my heart's core, ay, in my heart of heart,

<br>As I do thee. Something too much of this I

<br>There is a play to-night before the King.

<br>One scene of it comes near the circumstance,

<span class='playlinenum'>1955</span><br>Which I have told thee, of my father's death.

<br>I prithee, when thou seest that act afoot,

<br>Even with the very comment of thy soul

<br>Observe my uncle. If his occulted guilt

<br>Do not itself unkennel in one speech,

<span class='playlinenum'>1960</span><br>It is a damned ghost that we have seen,

<br>And my imaginations are as foul

<br>As Vulcan's stithy. Give him heedful note;

<br>For I mine eyes will rivet to his face,

<br>And after we will both our judgments join

<span class='playlinenum'>1965</span><br>In censure of his seeming.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='1967'></a>Well, my lord.

<br>If he steal aught the whilst this play is playing,

<br>And scape detecting, I will pay the theft.

<br>Sound a flourish. <i>[Enter Trumpets and Kettledrums. Danish

<span class='playlinenum'>1970</span><br>march. <i>[Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern,

<br>and other Lords attendant, with the Guard carrying torches.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1973'></a>They are coming to the play. I must be idle.

<br>Get you a place.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1975'></a>How fares our cousin Hamlet?

<span class='playlinenum'>1975</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1976'></a>Excellent, i' faith; of the chameleon's dish. I eat the air,

<br>promise-cramm'd. You cannot feed capons so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='1978'></a>I have nothing with this answer, Hamlet. These words are not

<br>mine.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1980'></a>No, nor mine now. <i>[To Polonius]</i> My lord, you play'd once

<span class='playlinenum'>1980</span><br>i' th' university, you say?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1982'></a>That did I, my lord, and was accounted a good actor.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1983'></a>What did you enact?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1984'></a>I did enact Julius Caesar; I was kill'd i' th' Capitol; Brutus

<br>kill'd me.

<span class='playlinenum'>1985</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1986'></a>It was a brute part of him to kill so capital a calf there. Be

<br>the players ready.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='1988'></a>Ay, my lord. They stay upon your patience.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='1989'></a>Come hither, my dear Hamlet, sit by me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1990'></a>No, good mother. Here's metal more attractive.

<span class='playlinenum'>1990</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='1991'></a><i>[to the King]</i> O, ho! do you mark that?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1992'></a>Lady, shall I lie in your lap?

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='1993'></a> [Sits down at Ophelia's feet.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1994'></a>No, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1995'></a>I mean, my head upon your lap?

<span class='playlinenum'>1995</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1996'></a>Ay, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1997'></a>Do you think I meant country matters?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='1998'></a>I think nothing, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='1999'></a>That's a fair thought to lie between maids' legs.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2000'></a>What is, my lord?

<span class='playlinenum'>2000</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2001'></a>Nothing.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2002'></a>You are merry, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2003'></a>Who, I?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2004'></a>Ay, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2005'></a>O God, your only jig-maker! What should a man do but be merry?

<span class='playlinenum'>2005</span><br>For look you how cheerfully my mother looks, and my father died

<br>within 's two hours.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2008'></a>Nay 'tis twice two months, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2009'></a>So long? Nay then, let the devil wear black, for I'll have a

<br>suit of sables. O heavens! die two months ago, and not forgotten

<span class='playlinenum'>2010</span><br>yet? Then there's hope a great man's memory may outlive his life

<br>half a year. But, by'r Lady, he must build churches then; or else

<br>shall he suffer not thinking on, with the hobby-horse, whose

<br>epitaph is 'For O, for O, the hobby-horse is forgot!'

<br><i>[Hautboys play. The dumb show enters.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2015</span><br>Enter a King and a Queen very lovingly; the Queen embracing

<br>him and he her. She kneels, and makes show of protestation

<br>unto him. He takes her up, and declines his head upon her

<br>neck. He lays him down upon a bank of flowers. She, seeing

<br>him asleep, leaves him. Anon comes in a fellow, takes off his

<span class='playlinenum'>2020</span><br>crown, kisses it, pours poison in the sleeper's ears, and

<br>leaves him. The Queen returns, finds the King dead, and makes

<br>passionate action. The Poisoner with some three or four Mutes,

<br>comes in again, seem to condole with her. The dead body is

<br>carried away. The Poisoner wooes the Queen with gifts; she

<span class='playlinenum'>2025</span><br>seems harsh and unwilling awhile, but in the end accepts

<br>his love.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2028'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2029'></a>What means this, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2030'></a>Marry, this is miching malhecho; it means mischief.

<span class='playlinenum'>2030</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2031'></a>Belike this show imports the argument of the play.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2032'></a> Enter Prologue.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2033'></a>We shall know by this fellow. The players cannot keep counsel;

<br>they'll tell all.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2035'></a>Will he tell us what this show meant?

<span class='playlinenum'>2035</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2036'></a>Ay, or any show that you'll show him. Be not you asham'd to

<br>show, he'll not shame to tell you what it means.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2038'></a>You are naught, you are naught! I'll mark the play.

<br>Pro. For us, and for our tragedy,

<br> Here stooping to your clemency,

<span class='playlinenum'>2040</span><br> We beg your hearing patiently. <i>[Exit.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2042'></a>Is this a prologue, or the posy of a ring?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2043'></a>'Tis brief, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2044'></a>As woman's love.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2045'></a> Enter [two Players as] King and Queen.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player King</a>. </strong><a name='2046'></a>Full thirty times hath Phoebus' cart gone round

<br> Neptune's salt wash and Tellus' orbed ground,

<br> And thirty dozen moons with borrowed sheen

<br> About the world have times twelve thirties been,

<br> Since love our hearts, and Hymen did our hands,

<span class='playlinenum'>2050</span><br> Unite comutual in most sacred bands.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player Queen</a>. </strong><a name='2052'></a>So many journeys may the sun and moon

<br> Make us again count o'er ere love be done!

<br> But woe is me! you are so sick of late,

<br> So far from cheer and from your former state.

<span class='playlinenum'>2055</span><br> That I distrust you. Yet, though I distrust,

<br> Discomfort you, my lord, it nothing must;

<br> For women's fear and love holds quantity,

<br> In neither aught, or in extremity.

<br> Now what my love is, proof hath made you know;

<span class='playlinenum'>2060</span><br> And as my love is siz'd, my fear is so.

<br> Where love is great, the littlest doubts are fear;

<br> Where little fears grow great, great love grows there.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player King</a>. </strong><a name='2064'></a>Faith, I must leave thee, love, and shortly too;

<br> My operant powers their functions leave to do.

<span class='playlinenum'>2065</span><br> And thou shalt live in this fair world behind,

<br> Honour'd, belov'd, and haply one as kind

<br> For husband shalt thou-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player Queen</a>. </strong><a name='2069'></a>O, confound the rest!

<br> Such love must needs be treason in my breast.

<span class='playlinenum'>2070</span><br> When second husband let me be accurst!

<br> None wed the second but who killed the first.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2073'></a><i>[aside]</i> Wormwood, wormwood!

<br>Queen. The instances that second marriage move

<br> Are base respects of thrift, but none of love.

<span class='playlinenum'>2075</span><br> A second time I kill my husband dead

<br> When second husband kisses me in bed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player King</a>. </strong><a name='2078'></a>I do believe you think what now you speak;

<br> But what we do determine oft we break.

<br> Purpose is but the slave to memory,

<span class='playlinenum'>2080</span><br> Of violent birth, but poor validity;

<br> Which now, like fruit unripe, sticks on the tree,

<br> But fall unshaken when they mellow be.

<br> Most necessary 'tis that we forget

<br> To pay ourselves what to ourselves is debt.

<span class='playlinenum'>2085</span><br> What to ourselves in passion we propose,

<br> The passion ending, doth the purpose lose.

<br> The violence of either grief or joy

<br> Their own enactures with themselves destroy.

<br> Where joy most revels, grief doth most lament;

<span class='playlinenum'>2090</span><br> Grief joys, joy grieves, on slender accident.

<br> This world is not for aye, nor 'tis not strange

<br> That even our loves should with our fortunes change;

<br> For 'tis a question left us yet to prove,

<br> Whether love lead fortune, or else fortune love.

<span class='playlinenum'>2095</span><br> The great man down, you mark his favourite flies,

<br> The poor advanc'd makes friends of enemies;

<br> And hitherto doth love on fortune tend,

<br> For who not needs shall never lack a friend,

<br> And who in want a hollow friend doth try,

<span class='playlinenum'>2100</span><br> Directly seasons him his enemy.

<br> But, orderly to end where I begun,

<br> Our wills and fates do so contrary run

<br> That our devices still are overthrown;

<br> Our thoughts are ours, their ends none of our own.

<span class='playlinenum'>2105</span><br> So think thou wilt no second husband wed;

<br> But die thy thoughts when thy first lord is dead.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player Queen</a>. </strong><a name='2108'></a>Nor earth to me give food, nor heaven light,

<br> Sport and repose lock from me day and night,

<br> To desperation turn my trust and hope,

<span class='playlinenum'>2110</span><br> An anchor's cheer in prison be my scope,

<br> Each opposite that blanks the face of joy

<br> Meet what I would have well, and it destroy,

<br> Both here and hence pursue me lasting strife,

<br> If, once a widow, ever I be wife!

<span class='playlinenum'>2115</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2116'></a>If she should break it now!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerKing&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player King</a>. </strong><a name='2117'></a>'Tis deeply sworn. Sweet, leave me here awhile.

<br> My spirits grow dull, and fain I would beguile

<br> The tedious day with sleep.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player Queen</a>. </strong><a name='2120'></a>Sleep rock thy brain,

<span class='playlinenum'>2120</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2121'></a>He sleeps.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=PlayerQueen&WorkID=hamlet)'>Player Queen</a>. </strong><a name='2122'></a>And never come mischance between us twain!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2123'></a>Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2124'></a>Madam, how like you this play?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2125'></a>The lady doth protest too much, methinks.

<span class='playlinenum'>2125</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2126'></a>O, but she'll keep her word.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2127'></a>Have you heard the argument? Is there no offence in't?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2128'></a>No, no! They do but jest, poison in jest; no offence i' th'

<br>world.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2130'></a>What do you call the play?

<span class='playlinenum'>2130</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2131'></a>'The Mousetrap.' Marry, how? Tropically. This play is the

<br>image of a murther done in Vienna. Gonzago is the duke's name;

<br>his wife, Baptista. You shall see anon. 'Tis a knavish piece of

<br>work; but what o' that? Your Majesty, and we that have free

<br>souls, it touches us not. Let the gall'd jade winch; our withers

<span class='playlinenum'>2135</span><br>are unwrung.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2137'></a> Enter Lucianus.This is one Lucianus, nephew to the King.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2138'></a>You are as good as a chorus, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2139'></a>I could interpret between you and your love, if I could see

<br>the puppets dallying.

<span class='playlinenum'>2140</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2141'></a>You are keen, my lord, you are keen.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2142'></a>It would cost you a groaning to take off my edge.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2143'></a>Still better, and worse.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2144'></a>So you must take your husbands.- Begin, murtherer. Pox, leave

<br>thy damnable faces, and begin! Come, the croaking raven doth

<span class='playlinenum'>2145</span><br>bellow for revenge.

<br>Luc. Thoughts black, hands apt, drugs fit, and time agreeing; Confederate season, else no creature seeing; Thou mixture rank, of midnight weeds collected, With Hecate's ban thrice blasted, thrice infected, Thy natural magic and dire property On wholesome life usurp immediately.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2148'></a> Pours the poison in his ears.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2149'></a>He poisons him i' th' garden for's estate. His name's Gonzago.

<br>The story is extant, and written in very choice Italian. You

<span class='playlinenum'>2150</span><br>shall see anon how the murtherer gets the love of Gonzago's wife.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2152'></a>The King rises.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2153'></a>What, frighted with false fire?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2154'></a>How fares my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2155'></a>Give o'er the play.

<span class='playlinenum'>2155</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2156'></a>Give me some light! Away!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='2157'></a>Lights, lights, lights!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2158'></a> Exeunt all but Hamlet and Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2159'></a>Why, let the strucken deer go weep,

<br> The hart ungalled play;

<span class='playlinenum'>2160</span><br> For some must watch, while some must sleep:

<br> Thus runs the world away.

<br>Would not this, sir, and a forest of feathers- if the rest of my

<br>fortunes turn Turk with me-with two Provincial roses on my raz'd

<br>shoes, get me a fellowship in a cry of players, sir?

<span class='playlinenum'>2165</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='2166'></a>Half a share.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2167'></a>A whole one I!

<br> For thou dost know, O Damon dear,

<br> This realm dismantled was

<br> Of Jove himself; and now reigns here

<span class='playlinenum'>2170</span><br> A very, very- pajock.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='2172'></a>You might have rhym'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2173'></a>O good Horatio, I'll take the ghost's word for a thousand

<br>pound! Didst perceive?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='2175'></a>Very well, my lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>2175</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2176'></a>Upon the talk of the poisoning?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='2177'></a>I did very well note him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2178'></a>Aha! Come, some music! Come, the recorders!

<br> For if the King like not the comedy,

<br> Why then, belike he likes it not, perdy.

<span class='playlinenum'>2180</span><br>Come, some music!

<br> Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2183'></a>Good my lord, vouchsafe me a word with you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2184'></a>Sir, a whole history.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2185'></a>The King, sir-

<span class='playlinenum'>2185</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2186'></a>Ay, sir, what of him?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2187'></a>Is in his retirement, marvellous distemper'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2188'></a>With drink, sir?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2189'></a>No, my lord; rather with choler.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2190'></a>Your wisdom should show itself more richer to signify this to

<span class='playlinenum'>2190</span><br>the doctor; for me to put him to his purgation would perhaps

<br>plunge him into far more choler.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2193'></a>Good my lord, put your discourse into some frame, and start

<br>not so wildly from my affair.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2195'></a>I am tame, sir; pronounce.

<span class='playlinenum'>2195</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2196'></a>The Queen, your mother, in most great affliction of spirit

<br>hath sent me to you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2198'></a>You are welcome.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2199'></a>Nay, good my lord, this courtesy is not of the right breed.

<br>If it shall please you to make me a wholesome answer, I will do

<span class='playlinenum'>2200</span><br>your mother's commandment; if not, your pardon and my return

<br>shall be the end of my business.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2203'></a>Sir, I cannot.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2204'></a>What, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2205'></a>Make you a wholesome answer; my wit's diseas'd. But, sir, such

<span class='playlinenum'>2205</span><br>answer as I can make, you shall command; or rather, as you say,

<br>my mother. Therefore no more, but to the matter! My mother, you

<br>say-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2209'></a>Then thus she says: your behaviour hath struck her into

<br>amazement and admiration.

<span class='playlinenum'>2210</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2211'></a>O wonderful son, that can so stonish a mother! But is there no

<br>sequel at the heels of this mother's admiration? Impart.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2213'></a>She desires to speak with you in her closet ere you go to bed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2214'></a>We shall obey, were she ten times our mother. Have you any

<br>further trade with us?

<span class='playlinenum'>2215</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2216'></a>My lord, you once did love me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2217'></a>And do still, by these pickers and stealers!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2218'></a>Good my lord, what is your cause of distemper? You do surely

<br>bar the door upon your own liberty, if you deny your griefs to

<br>your friend.

<span class='playlinenum'>2220</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2221'></a>Sir, I lack advancement.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2222'></a>How can that be, when you have the voice of the King himself

<br>for your succession in Denmark?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2224'></a>Ay, sir, but 'while the grass grows'- the proverb is something

<br>musty.

<span class='playlinenum'>2225</span><br><i>[Enter the Players with recorders. ]</i>

<br>O, the recorders! Let me see one. To withdraw with you- why do

<br>you go about to recover the wind of me, as if you would drive me

<br>into a toil?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2230'></a>O my lord, if my duty be too bold, my love is too unmannerly.

<span class='playlinenum'>2230</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2231'></a>I do not well understand that. Will you play upon this pipe?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2232'></a>My lord, I cannot.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2233'></a>I pray you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2234'></a>Believe me, I cannot.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2235'></a>I do beseech you.

<span class='playlinenum'>2235</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2236'></a>I know, no touch of it, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2237'></a>It is as easy as lying. Govern these ventages with your

<br>fingers and thumbs, give it breath with your mouth, and it will

<br>discourse most eloquent music. Look you, these are the stops.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2240'></a>But these cannot I command to any utt'rance of harmony. I

<span class='playlinenum'>2240</span><br>have not the skill.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2242'></a>Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You

<br>would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would

<br>pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my

<br>lowest note to the top of my compass; and there is much music,

<span class='playlinenum'>2245</span><br>excellent voice, in this little organ, yet cannot you make it

<br>speak. 'Sblood, do you think I am easier to be play'd on than a

<br>pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me,

<br>you cannot play upon me.

<br><i>[Enter Polonius.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2250</span><br>God bless you, sir!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2252'></a>My lord, the Queen would speak with you, and presently.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2253'></a>Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2254'></a>By th' mass, and 'tis like a camel indeed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2255'></a>Methinks it is like a weasel.

<span class='playlinenum'>2255</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2256'></a>It is back'd like a weasel.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2257'></a>Or like a whale.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2258'></a>Very like a whale.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2259'></a>Then will I come to my mother by-and-by.- They fool me to the

<br>top of my bent.- I will come by-and-by.

<span class='playlinenum'>2260</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2261'></a>I will say so. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2262'></a>'By-and-by' is easily said.- Leave me, friends.

<br><i>[Exeunt all but Hamlet.]</i>

<br>'Tis now the very witching time of night,

<br>When churchyards yawn, and hell itself breathes out

<span class='playlinenum'>2265</span><br>Contagion to this world. Now could I drink hot blood

<br>And do such bitter business as the day

<br>Would quake to look on. Soft! now to my mother!

<br>O heart, lose not thy nature; let not ever

<br>The soul of Nero enter this firm bosom.

<span class='playlinenum'>2270</span><br>Let me be cruel, not unnatural;

<br>I will speak daggers to her, but use none.

<br>My tongue and soul in this be hypocrites-

<br>How in my words somever she be shent,

<br>To give them seals never, my soul, consent! Exit.

<span class='playlinenum'>2275</span></li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act III, Scene 3</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>A room in the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2276'></a>Enter King, Rosencrantz, and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2277'></a>I like him not, nor stands it safe with us

<br>To let his madness range. Therefore prepare you;

<br>I your commission will forthwith dispatch,

<br>And he to England shall along with you.

<span class='playlinenum'>2280</span><br>The terms of our estate may not endure

<br>Hazard so near us as doth hourly grow

<br>Out of his lunacies.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2284'></a>We will ourselves provide.

<br>Most holy and religious fear it is

<span class='playlinenum'>2285</span><br>To keep those many many bodies safe

<br>That live and feed upon your Majesty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2288'></a>The single and peculiar life is bound

<br>With all the strength and armour of the mind

<br>To keep itself from noyance; but much more

<span class='playlinenum'>2290</span><br>That spirit upon whose weal depends and rests

<br>The lives of many. The cesse of majesty

<br>Dies not alone, but like a gulf doth draw

<br>What's near it with it. It is a massy wheel,

<br>Fix'd on the summit of the highest mount,

<span class='playlinenum'>2295</span><br>To whose huge spokes ten thousand lesser things

<br>Are mortis'd and adjoin'd; which when it falls,

<br>Each small annexment, petty consequence,

<br>Attends the boist'rous ruin. Never alone

<br>Did the king sigh, but with a general groan.

<span class='playlinenum'>2300</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2301'></a>Arm you, I pray you, to this speedy voyage;

<br>For we will fetters put upon this fear,

<br>Which now goes too free-footed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2304'></a><i>[with Guildenstern]</i> We will haste us.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2305'></a> Exeunt Gentlemen.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2306'></a> Enter Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2307'></a>My lord, he's going to his mother's closet.

<br>Behind the arras I'll convey myself

<br>To hear the process. I'll warrant she'll tax him home;

<br>And, as you said, and wisely was it said,

<span class='playlinenum'>2310</span><br>'Tis meet that some more audience than a mother,

<br>Since nature makes them partial, should o'erhear

<br>The speech, of vantage. Fare you well, my liege.

<br>I'll call upon you ere you go to bed

<br>And tell you what I know.

<span class='playlinenum'>2315</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2316'></a>Thanks, dear my lord.

<br><i>[Exit <i>[Polonius]</i>.]</i>

<br>O, my offence is rank, it smells to heaven;

<br>It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,

<br>A brother's murther! Pray can I not,

<span class='playlinenum'>2320</span><br>Though inclination be as sharp as will.

<br>My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent,

<br>And, like a man to double business bound,

<br>I stand in pause where I shall first begin,

<br>And both neglect. What if this cursed hand

<span class='playlinenum'>2325</span><br>Were thicker than itself with brother's blood,

<br>Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens

<br>To wash it white as snow? Whereto serves mercy

<br>But to confront the visage of offence?

<br>And what's in prayer but this twofold force,

<span class='playlinenum'>2330</span><br>To be forestalled ere we come to fall,

<br>Or pardon'd being down? Then I'll look up;

<br>My fault is past. But, O, what form of prayer

<br>Can serve my turn? 'Forgive me my foul murther'?

<br>That cannot be; since I am still possess'd

<span class='playlinenum'>2335</span><br>Of those effects for which I did the murther-

<br>My crown, mine own ambition, and my queen.

<br>May one be pardon'd and retain th' offence?

<br>In the corrupted currents of this world

<br>Offence's gilded hand may shove by justice,

<span class='playlinenum'>2340</span><br>And oft 'tis seen the wicked prize itself

<br>Buys out the law; but 'tis not so above.

<br>There is no shuffling; there the action lies

<br>In his true nature, and we ourselves compell'd,

<br>Even to the teeth and forehead of our faults,

<span class='playlinenum'>2345</span><br>To give in evidence. What then? What rests?

<br>Try what repentance can. What can it not?

<br>Yet what can it when one cannot repent?

<br>O wretched state! O bosom black as death!

<br>O limed soul, that, struggling to be free,

<span class='playlinenum'>2350</span><br>Art more engag'd! Help, angels! Make assay.

<br>Bow, stubborn knees; and heart with strings of steel,

<br>Be soft as sinews of the new-born babe!

<br>All may be well. He kneels.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2355'></a> Enter Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2356'></a>Now might I do it pat, now he is praying;

<br>And now I'll do't. And so he goes to heaven,

<br>And so am I reveng'd. That would be scann'd.

<br>A villain kills my father; and for that,

<br>I, his sole son, do this same villain send

<span class='playlinenum'>2360</span><br>To heaven.

<br>Why, this is hire and salary, not revenge!

<br>He took my father grossly, full of bread,

<br>With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as May;

<br>And how his audit stands, who knows save heaven?

<span class='playlinenum'>2365</span><br>But in our circumstance and course of thought,

<br>'Tis heavy with him; and am I then reveng'd,

<br>To take him in the purging of his soul,

<br>When he is fit and seasoned for his passage?

<br>No.

<span class='playlinenum'>2370</span><br>Up, sword, and know thou a more horrid hent.

<br>When he is drunk asleep; or in his rage;

<br>Or in th' incestuous pleasure of his bed;

<br>At gaming, swearing, or about some act

<br>That has no relish of salvation in't-

<span class='playlinenum'>2375</span><br>Then trip him, that his heels may kick at heaven,

<br>And that his soul may be as damn'd and black

<br>As hell, whereto it goes. My mother stays.

<br>This physic but prolongs thy sickly days. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2380'></a><i>[rises]</i> My words fly up, my thoughts remain below.

<span class='playlinenum'>2380</span><br>Words without thoughts never to heaven go. Exit.

</li></ul>

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</div> <a name='a3,s4' id='a3,s4'></a> <img src='[/images/fancy\_long\_line.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/fancy_long_line.gif)' width='760' height='8' border='0' align='center' alt='---'>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act III, Scene 4</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>The Queen&#8217;s closet.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2382'></a>Enter Queen and Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2383'></a>He will come straight. Look you lay home to him.

<br>Tell him his pranks have been too broad to bear with,

<br>And that your Grace hath screen'd and stood between

<span class='playlinenum'>2385</span><br>Much heat and him. I'll silence me even here.

<br>Pray you be round with him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2388'></a><i>[within]</i> Mother, mother, mother!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2389'></a>I'll warrant you; fear me not. Withdraw; I hear him coming.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2390'></a> [Polonius hides behind the arras.]

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2391'></a> Enter Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2392'></a>Now, mother, what's the matter?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2393'></a>Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2394'></a>Mother, you have my father much offended.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2395'></a>Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

<span class='playlinenum'>2395</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2396'></a>Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2397'></a>Why, how now, Hamlet?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2398'></a>What's the matter now?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2399'></a>Have you forgot me?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2400'></a>No, by the rood, not so!

<span class='playlinenum'>2400</span><br>You are the Queen, your husband's brother's wife,

<br>And (would it were not so!) you are my mother.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2403'></a>Nay, then I'll set those to you that can speak.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2404'></a>Come, come, and sit you down. You shall not budge;

<br>You go not till I set you up a glass

<span class='playlinenum'>2405</span><br>Where you may see the inmost part of you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2407'></a>What wilt thou do? Thou wilt not murther me?

<br>Help, help, ho!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2409'></a><i>[behind]</i> What, ho! help, help, help!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2410'></a><i>[draws]</i> How now? a rat? Dead for a ducat, dead!

<span class='playlinenum'>2410</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2411'></a> [Makes a pass through the arras and] kills Polonius.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=polonius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Polonius</a>. </strong><a name='2412'></a><i>[behind]</i> O, I am slain!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2413'></a>O me, what hast thou done?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2414'></a>Nay, I know not. Is it the King?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2415'></a>O, what a rash and bloody deed is this!

<span class='playlinenum'>2415</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2416'></a>A bloody deed- almost as bad, good mother,

<br>As kill a king, and marry with his brother.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2418'></a>As kill a king?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2419'></a>Ay, lady, it was my word.

<br><i>[Lifts up the arras and sees Polonius.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2420</span><br>Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell!

<br>I took thee for thy better. Take thy fortune.

<br>Thou find'st to be too busy is some danger.

<br>Leave wringing of your hands. Peace! sit you down

<br>And let me wring your heart; for so I shall

<span class='playlinenum'>2425</span><br>If it be made of penetrable stuff;

<br>If damned custom have not braz'd it so

<br>That it is proof and bulwark against sense.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2429'></a>What have I done that thou dar'st wag thy tongue

<br>In noise so rude against me?

<span class='playlinenum'>2430</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2431'></a>Such an act

<br>That blurs the grace and blush of modesty;

<br>Calls virtue hypocrite; takes off the rose

<br>From the fair forehead of an innocent love,

<br>And sets a blister there; makes marriage vows

<span class='playlinenum'>2435</span><br>As false as dicers' oaths. O, such a deed

<br>As from the body of contraction plucks

<br>The very soul, and sweet religion makes

<br>A rhapsody of words! Heaven's face doth glow;

<br>Yea, this solidity and compound mass,

<span class='playlinenum'>2440</span><br>With tristful visage, as against the doom,

<br>Is thought-sick at the act.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2443'></a>Ah me, what act,

<br>That roars so loud and thunders in the index?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2445'></a>Look here upon th's picture, and on this,

<span class='playlinenum'>2445</span><br>The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.

<br>See what a grace was seated on this brow;

<br>Hyperion's curls; the front of Jove himself;

<br>An eye like Mars, to threaten and command;

<br>A station like the herald Mercury

<span class='playlinenum'>2450</span><br>New lighted on a heaven-kissing hill:

<br>A combination and a form indeed

<br>Where every god did seem to set his seal

<br>To give the world assurance of a man.

<br>This was your husband. Look you now what follows.

<span class='playlinenum'>2455</span><br>Here is your husband, like a mildew'd ear

<br>Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you eyes?

<br>Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,

<br>And batten on this moor? Ha! have you eyes

<br>You cannot call it love; for at your age

<span class='playlinenum'>2460</span><br>The heyday in the blood is tame, it's humble,

<br>And waits upon the judgment; and what judgment

<br>Would step from this to this? Sense sure you have,

<br>Else could you not have motion; but sure that sense

<br>Is apoplex'd; for madness would not err,

<span class='playlinenum'>2465</span><br>Nor sense to ecstacy was ne'er so thrall'd

<br>But it reserv'd some quantity of choice

<br>To serve in such a difference. What devil was't

<br>That thus hath cozen'd you at hoodman-blind?

<br>Eyes without feeling, feeling without sight,

<span class='playlinenum'>2470</span><br>Ears without hands or eyes, smelling sans all,

<br>Or but a sickly part of one true sense

<br>Could not so mope.

<br>O shame! where is thy blush? Rebellious hell,

<br>If thou canst mutine in a matron's bones,

<span class='playlinenum'>2475</span><br>To flaming youth let virtue be as wax

<br>And melt in her own fire. Proclaim no shame

<br>When the compulsive ardour gives the charge,

<br>Since frost itself as actively doth burn,

<br>And reason panders will.

<span class='playlinenum'>2480</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2481'></a>O Hamlet, speak no more!

<br>Thou turn'st mine eyes into my very soul,

<br>And there I see such black and grained spots

<br>As will not leave their tinct.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2485'></a>Nay, but to live

<span class='playlinenum'>2485</span><br>In the rank sweat of an enseamed bed,

<br>Stew'd in corruption, honeying and making love

<br>Over the nasty sty!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2489'></a>O, speak to me no more!

<br>These words like daggers enter in mine ears.

<span class='playlinenum'>2490</span><br>No more, sweet Hamlet!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2492'></a>A murtherer and a villain!

<br>A slave that is not twentieth part the tithe

<br>Of your precedent lord; a vice of kings;

<br>A cutpurse of the empire and the rule,

<span class='playlinenum'>2495</span><br>That from a shelf the precious diadem stole

<br>And put it in his pocket!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2498'></a>No more!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2499'></a> Enter the Ghost in his nightgown.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2500'></a>A king of shreds and patches!-

<span class='playlinenum'>2500</span><br>Save me and hover o'er me with your wings,

<br>You heavenly guards! What would your gracious figure?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2503'></a>Alas, he's mad!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2504'></a>Do you not come your tardy son to chide,

<br>That, laps'd in time and passion, lets go by

<span class='playlinenum'>2505</span><br>Th' important acting of your dread command?

<br>O, say!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamghost&WorkID=hamlet)'>Father's Ghost</a>. </strong><a name='2508'></a>Do not forget. This visitation

<br>Is but to whet thy almost blunted purpose.

<br>But look, amazement on thy mother sits.

<span class='playlinenum'>2510</span><br>O, step between her and her fighting soul

<br>Conceit in weakest bodies strongest works.

<br>Speak to her, Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2514'></a>How is it with you, lady?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2515'></a>Alas, how is't with you,

<span class='playlinenum'>2515</span><br>That you do bend your eye on vacancy,

<br>And with th' encorporal air do hold discourse?

<br>Forth at your eyes your spirits wildly peep;

<br>And, as the sleeping soldiers in th' alarm,

<br>Your bedded hairs, like life in excrements,

<span class='playlinenum'>2520</span><br>Start up and stand an end. O gentle son,

<br>Upon the heat and flame of thy distemper

<br>Sprinkle cool patience! Whereon do you look?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2524'></a>On him, on him! Look you how pale he glares!

<br>His form and cause conjoin'd, preaching to stones,

<span class='playlinenum'>2525</span><br>Would make them capable.- Do not look upon me,

<br>Lest with this piteous action you convert

<br>My stern effects. Then what I have to do

<br>Will want true colour- tears perchance for blood.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2530'></a>To whom do you speak this?

<span class='playlinenum'>2530</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2531'></a>Do you see nothing there?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2532'></a>Nothing at all; yet all that is I see.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2533'></a>Nor did you nothing hear?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2534'></a>No, nothing but ourselves.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2535'></a>Why, look you there! Look how it steals away!

<span class='playlinenum'>2535</span><br>My father, in his habit as he liv'd!

<br>Look where he goes even now out at the portal!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2538'></a> Exit Ghost.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2539'></a>This is the very coinage of your brain.

<br>This bodiless creation ecstasy

<span class='playlinenum'>2540</span><br>Is very cunning in.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2542'></a>Ecstasy?

<br>My pulse as yours doth temperately keep time

<br>And makes as healthful music. It is not madness

<br>That I have utt'red. Bring me to the test,

<span class='playlinenum'>2545</span><br>And I the matter will reword; which madness

<br>Would gambol from. Mother, for love of grace,

<br>Lay not that flattering unction to your soul

<br>That not your trespass but my madness speaks.

<br>It will but skin and film the ulcerous place,

<span class='playlinenum'>2550</span><br>Whiles rank corruption, mining all within,

<br>Infects unseen. Confess yourself to heaven;

<br>Repent what's past; avoid what is to come;

<br>And do not spread the compost on the weeds

<br>To make them ranker. Forgive me this my virtue;

<span class='playlinenum'>2555</span><br>For in the fatness of these pursy times

<br>Virtue itself of vice must pardon beg-

<br>Yea, curb and woo for leave to do him good.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2559'></a>O Hamlet, thou hast cleft my heart in twain.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2560'></a>O, throw away the worser part of it,

<span class='playlinenum'>2560</span><br>And live the purer with the other half,

<br>Good night- but go not to my uncle's bed.

<br>Assume a virtue, if you have it not.

<br>That monster, custom, who all sense doth eat

<br>Of habits evil, is angel yet in this,

<span class='playlinenum'>2565</span><br>That to the use of actions fair and good

<br>He likewise gives a frock or livery,

<br>That aptly is put on. Refrain to-night,

<br>And that shall lend a kind of easiness

<br>To the next abstinence; the next more easy;

<span class='playlinenum'>2570</span><br>For use almost can change the stamp of nature,

<br>And either <i>[master]</i> the devil, or throw him out

<br>With wondrous potency. Once more, good night;

<br>And when you are desirous to be blest,

<br>I'll blessing beg of you.- For this same lord,

<span class='playlinenum'>2575</span><br>I do repent; but heaven hath pleas'd it so,

<br>To punish me with this, and this with me,

<br>That I must be their scourge and minister.

<br>I will bestow him, and will answer well

<br>The death I gave him. So again, good night.

<span class='playlinenum'>2580</span><br>I must be cruel, only to be kind;

<br>Thus bad begins, and worse remains behind.

<br>One word more, good lady.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2584'></a>What shall I do?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2585'></a>Not this, by no means, that I bid you do:

<span class='playlinenum'>2585</span><br>Let the bloat King tempt you again to bed;

<br>Pinch wanton on your cheek; call you his mouse;

<br>And let him, for a pair of reechy kisses,

<br>Or paddling in your neck with his damn'd fingers,

<br>Make you to ravel all this matter out,

<span class='playlinenum'>2590</span><br>That I essentially am not in madness,

<br>But mad in craft. 'Twere good you let him know;

<br>For who that's but a queen, fair, sober, wise,

<br>Would from a paddock, from a bat, a gib

<br>Such dear concernings hide? Who would do so?

<span class='playlinenum'>2595</span><br>No, in despite of sense and secrecy,

<br>Unpeg the basket on the house's top,

<br>Let the birds fly, and like the famous ape,

<br>To try conclusions, in the basket creep

<br>And break your own neck down.

<span class='playlinenum'>2600</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2601'></a>Be thou assur'd, if words be made of breath,

<br>And breath of life, I have no life to breathe

<br>What thou hast said to me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2604'></a>I must to England; you know that?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2605'></a>Alack,

<span class='playlinenum'>2605</span><br>I had forgot! 'Tis so concluded on.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2607'></a>There's letters seal'd; and my two schoolfellows,

<br>Whom I will trust as I will adders fang'd,

<br>They bear the mandate; they must sweep my way

<br>And marshal me to knavery. Let it work;

<span class='playlinenum'>2610</span><br>For 'tis the sport to have the enginer

<br>Hoist with his own petar; and 't shall go hard

<br>But I will delve one yard below their mines

<br>And blow them at the moon. O, 'tis most sweet

<br>When in one line two crafts directly meet.

<span class='playlinenum'>2615</span><br>This man shall set me packing.

<br>I'll lug the guts into the neighbour room.-

<br>Mother, good night.- Indeed, this counsellor

<br>Is now most still, most secret, and most grave,

<br>Who was in life a foolish peating knave.

<span class='playlinenum'>2620</span><br>Come, sir, to draw toward an end with you.

<br>Good night, mother.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2623'></a> [Exit the Queen. Then] Exit Hamlet, tugging in

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2624'></a> Polonius.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 1</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2625'></a>Enter King and Queen, with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2626'></a>There's matter in these sighs. These profound heaves

<br>You must translate; 'tis fit we understand them.

<br>Where is your son?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2629'></a>Bestow this place on us a little while.

<br><i>[Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2630</span><br>Ah, mine own lord, what have I seen to-night!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2632'></a>What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2633'></a>Mad as the sea and wind when both contend

<br>Which is the mightier. In his lawless fit

<br>Behind the arras hearing something stir,

<span class='playlinenum'>2635</span><br>Whips out his rapier, cries 'A rat, a rat!'

<br>And in this brainish apprehension kills

<br>The unseen good old man.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2639'></a>O heavy deed!

<br>It had been so with us, had we been there.

<span class='playlinenum'>2640</span><br>His liberty is full of threats to all-

<br>To you yourself, to us, to every one.

<br>Alas, how shall this bloody deed be answer'd?

<br>It will be laid to us, whose providence

<br>Should have kept short, restrain'd, and out of haunt

<span class='playlinenum'>2645</span><br>This mad young man. But so much was our love

<br>We would not understand what was most fit,

<br>But, like the owner of a foul disease,

<br>To keep it from divulging, let it feed

<br>Even on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

<span class='playlinenum'>2650</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2651'></a>To draw apart the body he hath kill'd;

<br>O'er whom his very madness, like some ore

<br>Among a mineral of metals base,

<br>Shows itself pure. He weeps for what is done.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2655'></a>O Gertrude, come away!

<span class='playlinenum'>2655</span><br>The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch

<br>But we will ship him hence; and this vile deed

<br>We must with all our majesty and skill

<br>Both countenance and excuse. Ho, Guildenstern!

<br><i>[Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2660</span><br>Friends both, go join you with some further aid.

<br>Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain,

<br>And from his mother's closet hath he dragg'd him.

<br>Go seek him out; speak fair, and bring the body

<br>Into the chapel. I pray you haste in this.

<span class='playlinenum'>2665</span><br><i>[Exeunt <i>[Rosencrantz and Guildenstern]</i>.]</i>

<br>Come, Gertrude, we'll call up our wisest friends

<br>And let them know both what we mean to do

<br>And what's untimely done. <i>[So haply slander-]</i>

<br>Whose whisper o'er the world's diameter,

<span class='playlinenum'>2670</span><br>As level as the cannon to his blank,

<br>Transports his poisoned shot- may miss our name

<br>And hit the woundless air.- O, come away!

<br>My soul is full of discord and dismay.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2675'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 2</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A passage in the Castle.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2676'></a>Enter Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2677'></a>Safely stow'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gents-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gents-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gentlemen</a>. </strong><a name='2678'></a><i>[within]</i> Hamlet! Lord Hamlet!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2679'></a>But soft! What noise? Who calls on Hamlet? O, here they

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2680'></a>come.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2681'></a> Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2682'></a>What have you done, my lord, with the dead body?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2683'></a>Compounded it with dust, whereto 'tis kin.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2684'></a>Tell us where 'tis, that we may take it thence

<br>And bear it to the chapel.

<span class='playlinenum'>2685</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2686'></a>Do not believe it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2687'></a>Believe what?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2688'></a>That I can keep your counsel, and not mine own. Besides, to be

<br>demanded of a sponge, what replication should be made by the son

<br>of a king?

<span class='playlinenum'>2690</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2691'></a>Take you me for a sponge, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2692'></a>Ay, sir; that soaks up the King's countenance, his rewards,

<br>his authorities. But such officers do the King best service in

<br>the end. He keeps them, like an ape, in the corner of his jaw;

<br>first mouth'd, to be last swallowed. When he needs what you have

<span class='playlinenum'>2695</span><br>glean'd, it is but squeezing you and, sponge, you shall be dry

<br>again.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2698'></a>I understand you not, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2699'></a>I am glad of it. A knavish speech sleeps in a foolish ear.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2700'></a>My lord, you must tell us where the body is and go with us to

<span class='playlinenum'>2700</span><br>the King.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2702'></a>The body is with the King, but the King is not with the body.

<br>The King is a thing-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=guildenstern&WorkID=hamlet)'>Guildenstern</a>. </strong><a name='2704'></a>A thing, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2705'></a>Of nothing. Bring me to him. Hide fox, and all after.

<span class='playlinenum'>2705</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2706'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 3</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2707'></a>Enter King.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2708'></a>I have sent to seek him and to find the body.

<br>How dangerous is it that this man goes loose!

<br>Yet must not we put the strong law on him.

<span class='playlinenum'>2710</span><br>He's lov'd of the distracted multitude,

<br>Who like not in their judgment, but their eyes;

<br>And where 'tis so, th' offender's scourge is weigh'd,

<br>But never the offence. To bear all smooth and even,

<br>This sudden sending him away must seem

<span class='playlinenum'>2715</span><br>Deliberate pause. Diseases desperate grown

<br>By desperate appliance are reliev'd,

<br>Or not at all.

<br><i>[Enter Rosencrantz.]</i>

<br>How now O What hath befall'n?

<span class='playlinenum'>2720</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2721'></a>Where the dead body is bestow'd, my lord,

<br>We cannot get from him.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2723'></a>But where is he?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2724'></a>Without, my lord; guarded, to know your pleasure.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2725'></a>Bring him before us.

<span class='playlinenum'>2725</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2726'></a>Ho, Guildenstern! Bring in my lord.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2727'></a> Enter Hamlet and Guildenstern [with Attendants].

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2728'></a>Now, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2729'></a>At supper.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2730'></a>At supper? Where?

<span class='playlinenum'>2730</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2731'></a>Not where he eats, but where he is eaten. A certain

<br>convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. Your worm is your

<br>only emperor for diet. We fat all creatures else to fat us, and

<br>we fat ourselves for maggots. Your fat king and your lean beggar

<br>is but variable service- two dishes, but to one table. That's the

<span class='playlinenum'>2735</span><br>end.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2737'></a>Alas, alas!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2738'></a>A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat

<br>of the fish that hath fed of that worm.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2740'></a>What dost thou mean by this?

<span class='playlinenum'>2740</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2741'></a>Nothing but to show you how a king may go a progress through

<br>the guts of a beggar.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2743'></a>Where is Polonius?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2744'></a>In heaven. Send thither to see. If your messenger find him not

<br>there, seek him i' th' other place yourself. But indeed, if you

<span class='playlinenum'>2745</span><br>find him not within this month, you shall nose him as you go up

<br>the stair, into the lobby.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2748'></a>Go seek him there. <i>[To Attendants.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2749'></a>He will stay till you come.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2750'></a> [Exeunt Attendants.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2751'></a>Hamlet, this deed, for thine especial safety,-

<br>Which we do tender as we dearly grieve

<br>For that which thou hast done,- must send thee hence

<br>With fiery quickness. Therefore prepare thyself.

<br>The bark is ready and the wind at help,

<span class='playlinenum'>2755</span><br>Th' associates tend, and everything is bent

<br>For England.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2758'></a>For England?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2759'></a>Ay, Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2760'></a>Good.

<span class='playlinenum'>2760</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2761'></a>So is it, if thou knew'st our purposes.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2762'></a>I see a cherub that sees them. But come, for England!

<br>Farewell, dear mother.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2764'></a>Thy loving father, Hamlet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2765'></a>My mother! Father and mother is man and wife; man and wife is

<span class='playlinenum'>2765</span><br>one flesh; and so, my mother. Come, for England!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2767'></a>Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2768'></a>Follow him at foot; tempt him with speed aboard.

<br>Delay it not; I'll have him hence to-night.

<br>Away! for everything is seal'd and done

<span class='playlinenum'>2770</span><br>That else leans on th' affair. Pray you make haste.

<br><i>[Exeunt Rosencrantz and Guildenstern]</i>

<br>And, England, if my love thou hold'st at aught,-

<br>As my great power thereof may give thee sense,

<br>Since yet thy cicatrice looks raw and red

<span class='playlinenum'>2775</span><br>After the Danish sword, and thy free awe

<br>Pays homage to us,- thou mayst not coldly set

<br>Our sovereign process, which imports at full,

<br>By letters congruing to that effect,

<br>The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England;

<span class='playlinenum'>2780</span><br>For like the hectic in my blood he rages,

<br>And thou must cure me. Till I know 'tis done,

<br>Howe'er my haps, my joys were ne'er begun. Exit.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 4</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Near Elsinore.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2784'></a>Enter Fortinbras with his Army over the stage.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='2785'></a>Go, Captain, from me greet the Danish king.

<span class='playlinenum'>2785</span><br>Tell him that by his license Fortinbras

<br>Craves the conveyance of a promis'd march

<br>Over his kingdom. You know the rendezvous.

<br>If that his Majesty would aught with us,

<br>We shall express our duty in his eye;

<span class='playlinenum'>2790</span><br>And let him know so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2792'></a>I will do't, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='2793'></a>Go softly on.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2794'></a> Exeunt [all but the Captain].

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2795'></a> Enter Hamlet, Rosencrantz, [Guildenstern,] and others.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2796'></a>Good sir, whose powers are these?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2797'></a>They are of Norway, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2798'></a>How purpos'd, sir, I pray you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2799'></a>Against some part of Poland.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2800'></a>Who commands them, sir?

<span class='playlinenum'>2800</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2801'></a>The nephew to old Norway, Fortinbras.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2802'></a>Goes it against the main of Poland, sir,

<br>Or for some frontier?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2804'></a>Truly to speak, and with no addition,

<br>We go to gain a little patch of ground

<span class='playlinenum'>2805</span><br>That hath in it no profit but the name.

<br>To pay five ducats, five, I would not farm it;

<br>Nor will it yield to Norway or the Pole

<br>A ranker rate, should it be sold in fee.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2810'></a>Why, then the Polack never will defend it.

<span class='playlinenum'>2810</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2811'></a>Yes, it is already garrison'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2812'></a>Two thousand souls and twenty thousand ducats

<br>Will not debate the question of this straw.

<br>This is th' imposthume of much wealth and peace,

<br>That inward breaks, and shows no cause without

<span class='playlinenum'>2815</span><br>Why the man dies.- I humbly thank you, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=norcapt&WorkID=hamlet)'>Norwegian Captain</a>. </strong><a name='2817'></a>God b' wi' you, sir. <i>[Exit.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=rosencrantz&WorkID=hamlet)'>Rosencrantz</a>. </strong><a name='2818'></a>Will't please you go, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='2819'></a>I'll be with you straight. Go a little before.

<br><i>[Exeunt all but Hamlet.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2820</span><br>How all occasions do inform against me

<br>And spur my dull revenge! What is a man,

<br>If his chief good and market of his time

<br>Be but to sleep and feed? A beast, no more.

<br>Sure he that made us with such large discourse,

<span class='playlinenum'>2825</span><br>Looking before and after, gave us not

<br>That capability and godlike reason

<br>To fust in us unus'd. Now, whether it be

<br>Bestial oblivion, or some craven scruple

<br>Of thinking too precisely on th' event,-

<span class='playlinenum'>2830</span><br>A thought which, quarter'd, hath but one part wisdom

<br>And ever three parts coward,- I do not know

<br>Why yet I live to say 'This thing's to do,'

<br>Sith I have cause, and will, and strength, and means

<br>To do't. Examples gross as earth exhort me.

<span class='playlinenum'>2835</span><br>Witness this army of such mass and charge,

<br>Led by a delicate and tender prince,

<br>Whose spirit, with divine ambition puff'd,

<br>Makes mouths at the invisible event,

<br>Exposing what is mortal and unsure

<span class='playlinenum'>2840</span><br>To all that fortune, death, and danger dare,

<br>Even for an eggshell. Rightly to be great

<br>Is not to stir without great argument,

<br>But greatly to find quarrel in a straw

<br>When honour's at the stake. How stand I then,

<span class='playlinenum'>2845</span><br>That have a father kill'd, a mother stain'd,

<br>Excitements of my reason and my blood,

<br>And let all sleep, while to my shame I see

<br>The imminent death of twenty thousand men

<br>That for a fantasy and trick of fame

<span class='playlinenum'>2850</span><br>Go to their graves like beds, fight for a plot

<br>Whereon the numbers cannot try the cause,

<br>Which is not tomb enough and continent

<br>To hide the slain? O, from this time forth,

<br>My thoughts be bloody, or be nothing worth! Exit.

<span class='playlinenum'>2855</span></li></ul>

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</div> <a name='a4,s5' id='a4,s5'></a> <img src='[/images/fancy\_long\_line.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/fancy_long_line.gif)' width='760' height='8' border='0' align='center' alt='---'>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<td>

<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 5</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A room in the Castle.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2856'></a>Enter Horatio, Queen, and a Gentleman.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2857'></a>I will not speak with her.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamgent&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamgent&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gentleman</a>. </strong><a name='2858'></a>She is importunate, indeed distract.

<br>Her mood will needs be pitied.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2860'></a>What would she have?

<span class='playlinenum'>2860</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamgent&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamgent&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gentleman</a>. </strong><a name='2861'></a>She speaks much of her father; says she hears

<br>There's tricks i' th' world, and hems, and beats her heart;

<br>Spurns enviously at straws; speaks things in doubt,

<br>That carry but half sense. Her speech is nothing,

<br>Yet the unshaped use of it doth move

<span class='playlinenum'>2865</span><br>The hearers to collection; they aim at it,

<br>And botch the words up fit to their own thoughts;

<br>Which, as her winks and nods and gestures yield them,

<br>Indeed would make one think there might be thought,

<br>Though nothing sure, yet much unhappily.

<span class='playlinenum'>2870</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='2871'></a>'Twere good she were spoken with; for she may strew

<br>Dangerous conjectures in ill-breeding minds.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2873'></a>Let her come in.

<br><i>[Exit Gentleman.]</i>

<br><i>[Aside]</i> To my sick soul (as sin's true nature is)

<span class='playlinenum'>2875</span><br>Each toy seems Prologue to some great amiss.

<br>So full of artless jealousy is guilt

<br>It spills itself in fearing to be spilt.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2879'></a> Enter Ophelia distracted.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2880'></a>Where is the beauteous Majesty of Denmark?

<span class='playlinenum'>2880</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2881'></a>How now, Ophelia?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2882'></a><i>[sings]</i>

<br> How should I your true-love know

<br> From another one?

<br> By his cockle bat and' staff

<span class='playlinenum'>2885</span><br> And his sandal shoon.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2887'></a>Alas, sweet lady, what imports this song?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2888'></a>Say you? Nay, pray You mark.

<br>(Sings) He is dead and gone, lady,

<br> He is dead and gone;

<span class='playlinenum'>2890</span><br> At his head a grass-green turf,

<br> At his heels a stone.

<br>O, ho!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2894'></a>Nay, but Ophelia-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2895'></a>Pray you mark.

<span class='playlinenum'>2895</span><br>(Sings) White his shroud as the mountain snow-

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2897'></a> Enter King.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2898'></a>Alas, look here, my lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2899'></a><i>[Sings]</i>

<br> Larded all with sweet flowers;

<span class='playlinenum'>2900</span><br> Which bewept to the grave did not go

<br> With true-love showers.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2903'></a>How do you, pretty lady?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2904'></a>Well, God dild you! They say the owl was a baker's daughter.

<br>Lord, we know what we are, but know not what we may be. God be at

<span class='playlinenum'>2905</span><br>your table!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2907'></a>Conceit upon her father.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2908'></a>Pray let's have no words of this; but when they ask, you what

<br>it means, say you this:

<br>(Sings) To-morrow is Saint Valentine's day,

<span class='playlinenum'>2910</span><br> All in the morning bedtime,

<br> And I a maid at your window,

<br> To be your Valentine.

<br> Then up he rose and donn'd his clo'es

<br> And dupp'd the chamber door,

<span class='playlinenum'>2915</span><br> Let in the maid, that out a maid

<br> Never departed more.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2918'></a>Pretty Ophelia!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2919'></a>Indeed, la, without an oath, I'll make an end on't!

<br><i>[Sings]</i> By Gis and by Saint Charity,

<span class='playlinenum'>2920</span><br> Alack, and fie for shame!

<br> Young men will do't if they come to't

<br> By Cock, they are to blame.

<br> Quoth she, 'Before you tumbled me,

<br> You promis'd me to wed.'

<span class='playlinenum'>2925</span><br>He answers:

<br> 'So would I 'a' done, by yonder sun,

<br> An thou hadst not come to my bed.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2929'></a>How long hath she been thus?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='2930'></a>I hope all will be well. We must be patient; but I cannot

<span class='playlinenum'>2930</span><br>choose but weep to think they would lay him i' th' cold ground.

<br>My brother shall know of it; and so I thank you for your good

<br>counsel. Come, my coach! Good night, ladies. Good night, sweet

<br>ladies. Good night, good night. Exit

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2935'></a>Follow her close; give her good watch, I pray you.

<span class='playlinenum'>2935</span><br><i>[Exit Horatio.]</i>

<br>O, this is the poison of deep grief; it springs

<br>All from her father's death. O Gertrude, Gertrude,

<br>When sorrows come, they come not single spies.

<br>But in battalions! First, her father slain;

<span class='playlinenum'>2940</span><br>Next, your son gone, and he most violent author

<br>Of his own just remove; the people muddied,

<br>Thick and and unwholesome in their thoughts and whispers

<br>For good Polonius' death, and we have done but greenly

<br>In hugger-mugger to inter him; poor Ophelia

<span class='playlinenum'>2945</span><br>Divided from herself and her fair judgment,

<br>Without the which we are pictures or mere beasts;

<br>Last, and as much containing as all these,

<br>Her brother is in secret come from France;

<br>Feeds on his wonder, keeps, himself in clouds,

<span class='playlinenum'>2950</span><br>And wants not buzzers to infect his ear

<br>With pestilent speeches of his father's death,

<br>Wherein necessity, of matter beggar'd,

<br>Will nothing stick our person to arraign

<br>In ear and ear. O my dear Gertrude, this,

<span class='playlinenum'>2955</span><br>Like to a murd'ring piece, in many places

<br>Give me superfluous death. A noise within.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2958'></a>Alack, what noise is this?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2959'></a>Where are my Switzers? Let them guard the door.

<br><i>[Enter a Messenger.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>2960</span><br>What is the matter?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Messenger</a>. </strong><a name='2962'></a>Save Yourself, my lord:

<br>The ocean, overpeering of his list,

<br>Eats not the flats with more impetuous haste

<br>Than Young Laertes, in a riotous head,

<span class='playlinenum'>2965</span><br>O'erbears Your offices. The rabble call him lord;

<br>And, as the world were now but to begin,

<br>Antiquity forgot, custom not known,

<br>The ratifiers and props of every word,

<br>They cry 'Choose we! Laertes shall be king!'

<span class='playlinenum'>2970</span><br>Caps, hands, and tongues applaud it to the clouds,

<br>'Laertes shall be king! Laertes king!'

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2973'></a> A noise within.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2974'></a>How cheerfully on the false trail they cry!

<br>O, this is counter, you false Danish dogs!

<span class='playlinenum'>2975</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2976'></a>The doors are broke.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='2977'></a> Enter Laertes with others.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='2978'></a>Where is this king?- Sirs, staid you all without.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='2979'></a>No, let's come in!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='2980'></a>I pray you give me leave.

<span class='playlinenum'>2980</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='2981'></a>We will, we will!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='2982'></a>I thank you. Keep the door. <i>[Exeunt his Followers.]</i>

<br>O thou vile king,

<br>Give me my father!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='2985'></a>Calmly, good Laertes.

<span class='playlinenum'>2985</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='2986'></a>That drop of blood that's calm proclaims me bastard;

<br>Cries cuckold to my father; brands the harlot

<br>Even here between the chaste unsmirched brows

<br>Of my true mother.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2990'></a>What is the cause, Laertes,

<span class='playlinenum'>2990</span><br>That thy rebellion looks so giantlike?

<br>Let him go, Gertrude. Do not fear our person.

<br>There's such divinity doth hedge a king

<br>That treason can but peep to what it would,

<br>Acts little of his will. Tell me, Laertes,

<span class='playlinenum'>2995</span><br>Why thou art thus incens'd. Let him go, Gertrude.

<br>Speak, man.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='2998'></a>Where is my father?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='2999'></a>Dead.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3000'></a>But not by him!

<span class='playlinenum'>3000</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3001'></a>Let him demand his fill.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3002'></a>How came he dead? I'll not be juggled with:

<br>To hell, allegiance! vows, to the blackest devil

<br>Conscience and grace, to the profoundest pit!

<br>I dare damnation. To this point I stand,

<span class='playlinenum'>3005</span><br>That both the world, I give to negligence,

<br>Let come what comes; only I'll be reveng'd

<br>Most throughly for my father.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3009'></a>Who shall stay you?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3010'></a>My will, not all the world!

<span class='playlinenum'>3010</span><br>And for my means, I'll husband them so well

<br>They shall go far with little.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3013'></a>Good Laertes,

<br>If you desire to know the certainty

<br>Of your dear father's death, is't writ in your revenge

<span class='playlinenum'>3015</span><br>That sweepstake you will draw both friend and foe,

<br>Winner and loser?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3018'></a>None but his enemies.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3019'></a>Will you know them then?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3020'></a>To his good friends thus wide I'll ope my arms

<span class='playlinenum'>3020</span><br>And, like the kind life-rend'ring pelican,

<br>Repast them with my blood.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3023'></a>Why, now You speak

<br>Like a good child and a true gentleman.

<br>That I am guiltless of your father's death,

<span class='playlinenum'>3025</span><br>And am most sensibly in grief for it,

<br>It shall as level to your judgment pierce

<br>As day does to your eye.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3029'></a> A noise within: 'Let her come in.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3030'></a>How now? What noise is that?

<span class='playlinenum'>3030</span><br><i>[Enter Ophelia. ]</i>

<br>O heat, dry up my brains! Tears seven times salt

<br>Burn out the sense and virtue of mine eye!

<br>By heaven, thy madness shall be paid by weight

<br>Till our scale turn the beam. O rose of May!

<span class='playlinenum'>3035</span><br>Dear maid, kind sister, sweet Ophelia!

<br>O heavens! is't possible a young maid's wits

<br>Should be as mortal as an old man's life?

<br>Nature is fine in love, and where 'tis fine,

<br>It sends some precious instance of itself

<span class='playlinenum'>3040</span><br>After the thing it loves.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='3042'></a><i>[sings]</i>

<br> They bore him barefac'd on the bier

<br> (Hey non nony, nony, hey nony)

<br> And in his grave rain'd many a tear.

<span class='playlinenum'>3045</span><br>Fare you well, my dove!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3047'></a>Hadst thou thy wits, and didst persuade revenge,

<br>It could not move thus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='3049'></a>You must sing 'A-down a-down, and you call him a-down-a.' O,

<br>how the wheel becomes it! It is the false steward, that stole his

<span class='playlinenum'>3050</span><br>master's daughter.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3052'></a>This nothing's more than matter.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='3053'></a>There's rosemary, that's for remembrance. Pray you, love,

<br>remember. And there is pansies, that's for thoughts.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3055'></a>A document in madness! Thoughts and remembrance fitted.

<span class='playlinenum'>3055</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='3056'></a>There's fennel for you, and columbines. There's rue for you,

<br>and here's some for me. We may call it herb of grace o' Sundays.

<br>O, you must wear your rue with a difference! There's a daisy. I

<br>would give you some violets, but they wither'd all when my father

<br>died. They say he made a good end.

<span class='playlinenum'>3060</span><br><i>[Sings]</i> For bonny sweet Robin is all my joy.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3062'></a>Thought and affliction, passion, hell itself,

<br>She turns to favour and to prettiness.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ophelia&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ophelia</a>. </strong><a name='3064'></a><i>[sings]</i>

<br> And will he not come again?

<span class='playlinenum'>3065</span><br> And will he not come again?

<br> No, no, he is dead;

<br> Go to thy deathbed;

<br> He never will come again.

<br> His beard was as white as snow,

<span class='playlinenum'>3070</span><br> All flaxen was his poll.

<br> He is gone, he is gone,

<br> And we cast away moan.

<br> God 'a'mercy on his soul!

<br>And of all Christian souls, I pray God. God b' wi' you.

<span class='playlinenum'>3075</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3076'></a>Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3077'></a>Do you see this, O God?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3078'></a>Laertes, I must commune with your grief,

<br>Or you deny me right. Go but apart,

<br>Make choice of whom your wisest friends you will,

<span class='playlinenum'>3080</span><br>And they shall hear and judge 'twixt you and me.

<br>If by direct or by collateral hand

<br>They find us touch'd, we will our kingdom give,

<br>Our crown, our life, and all that we call ours,

<br>To you in satisfaction; but if not,

<span class='playlinenum'>3085</span><br>Be you content to lend your patience to us,

<br>And we shall jointly labour with your soul

<br>To give it due content.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3089'></a>Let this be so.

<br>His means of death, his obscure funeral-

<span class='playlinenum'>3090</span><br>No trophy, sword, nor hatchment o'er his bones,

<br>No noble rite nor formal ostentation,-

<br>Cry to be heard, as 'twere from heaven to earth,

<br>That I must call't in question.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3095'></a>So you shall;

<span class='playlinenum'>3095</span><br>And where th' offence is let the great axe fall.

<br>I pray you go with me.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3098'></a> Exeunt

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 6</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. Another room in the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

<img src='[/images/arrow\_down\_small.gif](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/images/arrow_down_small.gif)' width='9' height='10' border='0' alt='.' align='bottom'>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3099'></a>Enter Horatio with an Attendant.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3100'></a>What are they that would speak with me?

<span class='playlinenum'>3100</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=servant-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=servant-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Servant</a>. </strong><a name='3101'></a>Seafaring men, sir. They say they have letters for you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3102'></a>Let them come in.

<br><i>[Exit Attendant.]</i>

<br>I do not know from what part of the world

<br>I should be greeted, if not from Lord Hamlet.

<span class='playlinenum'>3105</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3106'></a> Enter Sailors.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=sailor-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=sailor-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Sailor</a>. </strong><a name='3107'></a>God bless you, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3108'></a>Let him bless thee too.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=sailor-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=sailor-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Sailor</a>. </strong><a name='3109'></a>'A shall, sir, an't please him. There's a letter for you,

<br>sir,- it comes from th' ambassador that was bound for England- if

<span class='playlinenum'>3110</span><br>your name be Horatio, as I am let to know it is.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3112'></a><i>[reads the letter]</i> 'Horatio, when thou shalt have overlook'd

<br>this, give these fellows some means to the King. They have

<br>letters for him. Ere we were two days old at sea, a pirate of

<br>very warlike appointment gave us chase. Finding ourselves too

<span class='playlinenum'>3115</span><br>slow of sail, we put on a compelled valour, and in the grapple I

<br>boarded them. On the instant they got clear of our ship; so I

<br>alone became their prisoner. They have dealt with me like thieves

<br>of mercy; but they knew what they did: I am to do a good turn for

<br>them. Let the King have the letters I have sent, and repair thou

<span class='playlinenum'>3120</span><br>to me with as much speed as thou wouldst fly death. I have words

<br>to speak in thine ear will make thee dumb; yet are they much too

<br>light for the bore of the matter. These good fellows will bring

<br>thee where I am. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern hold their course

<br>for England. Of them I have much to tell thee. Farewell.

<span class='playlinenum'>3125</span><br>'He that thou knowest thine, HAMLET.'

<br>Come, I will give you way for these your letters,

<br>And do't the speedier that you may direct me

<br>To him from whom you brought them. Exeunt.

</li></ul>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act IV, Scene 7</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. Another room in the Castle.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3130'></a>Enter King and Laertes.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3131'></a>Now must your conscience my acquittance seal,

<br>And You must put me in your heart for friend,

<br>Sith you have heard, and with a knowing ear,

<br>That he which hath your noble father slain

<br>Pursued my life.

<span class='playlinenum'>3135</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3136'></a>It well appears. But tell me

<br>Why you proceeded not against these feats

<br>So crimeful and so capital in nature,

<br>As by your safety, wisdom, all things else,

<br>You mainly were stirr'd up.

<span class='playlinenum'>3140</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3141'></a>O, for two special reasons,

<br>Which may to you, perhaps, seem much unsinew'd,

<br>But yet to me they are strong. The Queen his mother

<br>Lives almost by his looks; and for myself,-

<br>My virtue or my plague, be it either which,-

<span class='playlinenum'>3145</span><br>She's so conjunctive to my life and soul

<br>That, as the star moves not but in his sphere,

<br>I could not but by her. The other motive

<br>Why to a public count I might not go

<br>Is the great love the general gender bear him,

<span class='playlinenum'>3150</span><br>Who, dipping all his faults in their affection,

<br>Would, like the spring that turneth wood to stone,

<br>Convert his gives to graces; so that my arrows,

<br>Too slightly timber'd for so loud a wind,

<br>Would have reverted to my bow again,

<span class='playlinenum'>3155</span><br>And not where I had aim'd them.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3157'></a>And so have I a noble father lost;

<br>A sister driven into desp'rate terms,

<br>Whose worth, if praises may go back again,

<br>Stood challenger on mount of all the age

<span class='playlinenum'>3160</span><br>For her perfections. But my revenge will come.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3162'></a>Break not your sleeps for that. You must not think

<br>That we are made of stuff so flat and dull

<br>That we can let our beard be shook with danger,

<br>And think it pastime. You shortly shall hear more.

<span class='playlinenum'>3165</span><br>I lov'd your father, and we love ourself,

<br>And that, I hope, will teach you to imagine-

<br><i>[Enter a Messenger with letters.]</i>

<br>How now? What news?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Messenger</a>. </strong><a name='3170'></a>Letters, my lord, from Hamlet:

<span class='playlinenum'>3170</span><br>This to your Majesty; this to the Queen.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3172'></a>From Hamlet? Who brought them?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=messenger-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Messenger</a>. </strong><a name='3173'></a>Sailors, my lord, they say; I saw them not.

<br>They were given me by Claudio; he receiv'd them

<br>Of him that brought them.

<span class='playlinenum'>3175</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3176'></a>Laertes, you shall hear them.

<br>Leave us.

<br><i>[Exit Messenger.]</i>

<br><i>[Reads]</i>'High and Mighty,-You shall know I am set naked on your

<br>kingdom. To-morrow shall I beg leave to see your kingly eyes;

<span class='playlinenum'>3180</span><br>when I shall (first asking your pardon thereunto) recount the

<br>occasion of my sudden and more strange return. 'HAMLET.'

<br>What should this mean? Are all the rest come back?

<br>Or is it some abuse, and no such thing?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3185'></a>Know you the hand?

<span class='playlinenum'>3185</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3186'></a>'Tis Hamlet's character. 'Naked!'

<br>And in a postscript here, he says 'alone.'

<br>Can you advise me?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3189'></a>I am lost in it, my lord. But let him come!

<br>It warms the very sickness in my heart

<span class='playlinenum'>3190</span><br>That I shall live and tell him to his teeth,

<br>'Thus didest thou.'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3193'></a>If it be so, Laertes

<br>(As how should it be so? how otherwise?),

<br>Will you be rul'd by me?

<span class='playlinenum'>3195</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3196'></a>Ay my lord,

<br>So you will not o'errule me to a peace.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3198'></a>To thine own peace. If he be now return'd

<br>As checking at his voyage, and that he means

<br>No more to undertake it, I will work him

<span class='playlinenum'>3200</span><br>To exploit now ripe in my device,

<br>Under the which he shall not choose but fall;

<br>And for his death no wind shall breathe

<br>But even his mother shall uncharge the practice

<br>And call it accident.

<span class='playlinenum'>3205</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3206'></a>My lord, I will be rul'd;

<br>The rather, if you could devise it so

<br>That I might be the organ.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3209'></a>It falls right.

<br>You have been talk'd of since your travel much,

<span class='playlinenum'>3210</span><br>And that in Hamlet's hearing, for a quality

<br>Wherein they say you shine, Your sum of parts

<br>Did not together pluck such envy from him

<br>As did that one; and that, in my regard,

<br>Of the unworthiest siege.

<span class='playlinenum'>3215</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3216'></a>What part is that, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3217'></a>A very riband in the cap of youth-

<br>Yet needfull too; for youth no less becomes

<br>The light and careless livery that it wears

<br>Than settled age his sables and his weeds,

<span class='playlinenum'>3220</span><br>Importing health and graveness. Two months since

<br>Here was a gentleman of Normandy.

<br>I have seen myself, and serv'd against, the French,

<br>And they can well on horseback; but this gallant

<br>Had witchcraft in't. He grew unto his seat,

<span class='playlinenum'>3225</span><br>And to such wondrous doing brought his horse

<br>As had he been incorps'd and demi-natur'd

<br>With the brave beast. So far he topp'd my thought

<br>That I, in forgery of shapes and tricks,

<br>Come short of what he did.

<span class='playlinenum'>3230</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3231'></a>A Norman was't?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3232'></a>A Norman.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3233'></a>Upon my life, Lamound.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3234'></a>The very same.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3235'></a>I know him well. He is the broach indeed

<span class='playlinenum'>3235</span><br>And gem of all the nation.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3237'></a>He made confession of you;

<br>And gave you such a masterly report

<br>For art and exercise in your defence,

<br>And for your rapier most especially,

<span class='playlinenum'>3240</span><br>That he cried out 'twould be a sight indeed

<br>If one could match you. The scrimers of their nation

<br>He swore had neither motion, guard, nor eye,

<br>If you oppos'd them. Sir, this report of his

<br>Did Hamlet so envenom with his envy

<span class='playlinenum'>3245</span><br>That he could nothing do but wish and beg

<br>Your sudden coming o'er to play with you.

<br>Now, out of this-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3249'></a>What out of this, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3250'></a>Laertes, was your father dear to you?

<span class='playlinenum'>3250</span><br>Or are you like the painting of a sorrow,

<br>A face without a heart,'

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3253'></a>Why ask you this?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3254'></a>Not that I think you did not love your father;

<br>But that I know love is begun by time,

<span class='playlinenum'>3255</span><br>And that I see, in passages of proof,

<br>Time qualifies the spark and fire of it.

<br>There lives within the very flame of love

<br>A kind of wick or snuff that will abate it;

<br>And nothing is at a like goodness still;

<span class='playlinenum'>3260</span><br>For goodness, growing to a plurisy,

<br>Dies in his own too-much. That we would do,

<br>We should do when we would; for this 'would' changes,

<br>And hath abatements and delays as many

<br>As there are tongues, are hands, are accidents;

<span class='playlinenum'>3265</span><br>And then this 'should' is like a spendthrift sigh,

<br>That hurts by easing. But to the quick o' th' ulcer!

<br>Hamlet comes back. What would you undertake

<br>To show yourself your father's son in deed

<br>More than in words?

<span class='playlinenum'>3270</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3271'></a>To cut his throat i' th' church!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3272'></a>No place indeed should murther sanctuarize;

<br>Revenge should have no bounds. But, good Laertes,

<br>Will you do this? Keep close within your chamber.

<br>Hamlet return'd shall know you are come home.

<span class='playlinenum'>3275</span><br>We'll put on those shall praise your excellence

<br>And set a double varnish on the fame

<br>The Frenchman gave you; bring you in fine together

<br>And wager on your heads. He, being remiss,

<br>Most generous, and free from all contriving,

<span class='playlinenum'>3280</span><br>Will not peruse the foils; so that with ease,

<br>Or with a little shuffling, you may choose

<br>A sword unbated, and, in a pass of practice,

<br>Requite him for your father.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3285'></a>I will do't!

<span class='playlinenum'>3285</span><br>And for that purpose I'll anoint my sword.

<br>I bought an unction of a mountebank,

<br>So mortal that, but dip a knife in it,

<br>Where it draws blood no cataplasm so rare,

<br>Collected from all simples that have virtue

<span class='playlinenum'>3290</span><br>Under the moon, can save the thing from death

<br>This is but scratch'd withal. I'll touch my point

<br>With this contagion, that, if I gall him slightly,

<br>It may be death.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3295'></a>Let's further think of this,

<span class='playlinenum'>3295</span><br>Weigh what convenience both of time and means

<br>May fit us to our shape. If this should fall,

<br>And that our drift look through our bad performance.

<br>'Twere better not assay'd. Therefore this project

<br>Should have a back or second, that might hold

<span class='playlinenum'>3300</span><br>If this did blast in proof. Soft! let me see.

<br>We'll make a solemn wager on your cunnings-

<br>I ha't!

<br>When in your motion you are hot and dry-

<br>As make your bouts more violent to that end-

<span class='playlinenum'>3305</span><br>And that he calls for drink, I'll have prepar'd him

<br>A chalice for the nonce; whereon but sipping,

<br>If he by chance escape your venom'd stuck,

<br>Our purpose may hold there.- But stay, what noise,

<br><i>[Enter Queen.]</i>

<span class='playlinenum'>3310</span><br>How now, sweet queen?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3312'></a>One woe doth tread upon another's heel,

<br>So fast they follow. Your sister's drown'd, Laertes.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3314'></a>Drown'd! O, where?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3315'></a>There is a willow grows aslant a brook,

<span class='playlinenum'>3315</span><br>That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream.

<br>There with fantastic garlands did she come

<br>Of crowflowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples,

<br>That liberal shepherds give a grosser name,

<br>But our cold maids do dead men's fingers call them.

<span class='playlinenum'>3320</span><br>There on the pendant boughs her coronet weeds

<br>Clamb'ring to hang, an envious sliver broke,

<br>When down her weedy trophies and herself

<br>Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide

<br>And, mermaid-like, awhile they bore her up;

<span class='playlinenum'>3325</span><br>Which time she chaunted snatches of old tunes,

<br>As one incapable of her own distress,

<br>Or like a creature native and indued

<br>Unto that element; but long it could not be

<br>Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,

<span class='playlinenum'>3330</span><br>Pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay

<br>To muddy death.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3333'></a>Alas, then she is drown'd?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3334'></a>Drown'd, drown'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3335'></a>Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia,

<span class='playlinenum'>3335</span><br>And therefore I forbid my tears; but yet

<br>It is our trick; nature her custom holds,

<br>Let shame say what it will. When these are gone,

<br>The woman will be out. Adieu, my lord.

<br>I have a speech of fire, that fain would blaze

<span class='playlinenum'>3340</span><br>But that this folly douts it. Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3342'></a>Let's follow, Gertrude.

<br>How much I had to do to calm his rage I

<br>Now fear I this will give it start again;

<br>Therefore let's follow.

<span class='playlinenum'>3345</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3346'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

</td>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

</a>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act V, Scene 1</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A churchyard.</p>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>next scene</span>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3347'></a>Enter two Clowns, [with spades and pickaxes].

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3348'></a>Is she to be buried in Christian burial when she wilfully seeks her own salvation?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3349'></a>I tell thee she is; therefore make her grave straight.

<br>The crowner hath sate on her, and finds it Christian burial.

<span class='playlinenum'>3350</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3351'></a>How can that be, unless she drown'd herself in her own

<br>defence?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3353'></a>Why, 'tis found so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3354'></a>It must be se offendendo; it cannot be else. For here lies

<br>the point: if I drown myself wittingly, it argues an act; and an

<span class='playlinenum'>3355</span><br>act hath three branches-it is to act, to do, and to perform;

<br>argal, she drown'd herself wittingly.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3358'></a>Nay, but hear you, Goodman Delver!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3359'></a>Give me leave. Here lies the water; good. Here stands the

<br>man; good. If the man go to this water and drown himself, it is,

<span class='playlinenum'>3360</span><br>will he nill he, he goes- mark you that. But if the water come to

<br>him and drown him, he drowns not himself. Argal, he that is not

<br>guilty of his own death shortens not his own life.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3364'></a>But is this law?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3365'></a>Ay, marry, is't- crowner's quest law.

<span class='playlinenum'>3365</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3366'></a>Will you ha' the truth an't? If this had not been a

<br>gentlewoman, she should have been buried out o' Christian burial.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3368'></a>Why, there thou say'st! And the more pity that great folk

<br>should have count'nance in this world to drown or hang themselves

<br>more than their even-Christian. Come, my spade! There is no

<span class='playlinenum'>3370</span><br>ancient gentlemen but gard'ners, ditchers, and grave-makers. They

<br>hold up Adam's profession.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3373'></a>Was he a gentleman?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3374'></a>'A was the first that ever bore arms.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3375'></a>Why, he had none.

<span class='playlinenum'>3375</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3376'></a>What, art a heathen? How dost thou understand the Scripture?

<br>The Scripture says Adam digg'd. Could he dig without arms? I'll

<br>put another question to thee. If thou answerest me not to the

<br>purpose, confess thyself-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3380'></a>Go to!

<span class='playlinenum'>3380</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3381'></a>What is he that builds stronger than either the mason, the

<br>shipwright, or the carpenter?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3383'></a>The gallows-maker; for that frame outlives a thousand

<br>tenants.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3385'></a>I like thy wit well, in good faith. The gallows does well.

<span class='playlinenum'>3385</span><br>But how does it well? It does well to those that do ill. Now,

<br>thou dost ill to say the gallows is built stronger than the

<br>church. Argal, the gallows may do well to thee. To't again, come!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3389'></a>Who builds stronger than a mason, a shipwright, or a

<br>carpenter?

<span class='playlinenum'>3390</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3391'></a>Ay, tell me that, and unyoke.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3392'></a>Marry, now I can tell!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3393'></a>To't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown2-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Second Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3394'></a>Mass, I cannot tell.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3395'></a> Enter Hamlet and Horatio afar off.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3396'></a>Cudgel thy brains no more about it, for your dull ass will

<br>not mend his pace with beating; and when you are ask'd this

<br>question next, say 'a grave-maker.' The houses he makes lasts

<br>till doomsday. Go, get thee to Yaughan; fetch me a stoup of

<br>liquor.

<span class='playlinenum'>3400</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3401'></a> [Exit Second Clown.]

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3402'></a> [Clown digs and] sings.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3403'></a>In youth when I did love, did love,

<br> Methought it was very sweet;

<br> To contract- O- the time for- a- my behove,

<span class='playlinenum'>3405</span><br> O, methought there- a- was nothing- a- meet.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3407'></a>Has this fellow no feeling of his business, that he sings at

<br>grave-making?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3409'></a>Custom hath made it in him a property of easiness.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3410'></a>'Tis e'en so. The hand of little employment hath the daintier

<span class='playlinenum'>3410</span><br>sense.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3412'></a><i>[sings]</i>

<br> But age with his stealing steps

<br> Hath clawed me in his clutch,

<br> And hath shipped me intil the land,

<span class='playlinenum'>3415</span><br> As if I had never been such.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3417'></a> [Throws up a skull.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3418'></a>That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once. How the

<br>knave jowls it to the ground,as if 'twere Cain's jawbone, that

<br>did the first murther! This might be the pate of a Politician,

<span class='playlinenum'>3420</span><br>which this ass now o'erreaches; one that would circumvent God,

<br>might it not?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3423'></a>It might, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3424'></a>Or of a courtier, which could say 'Good morrow, sweet lord!

<br>How dost thou, good lord?' This might be my Lord Such-a-one, that

<span class='playlinenum'>3425</span><br>prais'd my Lord Such-a-one's horse when he meant to beg it- might

<br>it not?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3428'></a>Ay, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3429'></a>Why, e'en so! and now my Lady Worm's, chapless, and knock'd

<br>about the mazzard with a sexton's spade. Here's fine revolution,

<span class='playlinenum'>3430</span><br>and we had the trick to see't. Did these bones cost no more the

<br>breeding but to play at loggets with 'em? Mine ache to think

<br>on't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3434'></a><i>[Sings]</i>

<br> A pickaxe and a spade, a spade,

<span class='playlinenum'>3435</span><br> For and a shrouding sheet;

<br> O, a Pit of clay for to be made

<br> For such a guest is meet.

<br> Throws up <i>[another skull]</i>.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3440'></a>There's another. Why may not that be the skull of a lawyer?

<span class='playlinenum'>3440</span><br>Where be his quiddits now, his quillets, his cases, his tenures,

<br>and his tricks? Why does he suffer this rude knave now to knock

<br>him about the sconce with a dirty shovel, and will not tell him

<br>of his action of battery? Hum! This fellow might be in's time a

<br>great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognizances, his

<span class='playlinenum'>3445</span><br>fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries. Is this the fine of

<br>his fines, and the recovery of his recoveries, to have his fine

<br>pate full of fine dirt? Will his vouchers vouch him no more of

<br>his purchases, and double ones too, than the length and breadth

<br>of a pair of indentures? The very conveyances of his lands will

<span class='playlinenum'>3450</span><br>scarcely lie in this box; and must th' inheritor himself have no

<br>more, ha?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3453'></a>Not a jot more, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3454'></a>Is not parchment made of sheepskins?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3455'></a>Ay, my lord, And of calveskins too.

<span class='playlinenum'>3455</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3456'></a>They are sheep and calves which seek out assurance in that. I

<br>will speak to this fellow. Whose grave's this, sirrah?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3458'></a>Mine, sir.

<br><i>[Sings]</i> O, a pit of clay for to be made

<br> For such a guest is meet.

<span class='playlinenum'>3460</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3461'></a>I think it be thine indeed, for thou liest in't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3462'></a>You lie out on't, sir, and therefore 'tis not yours.

<br>For my part, I do not lie in't, yet it is mine.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3464'></a>Thou dost lie in't, to be in't and say it is thine. 'Tis for

<br>the dead, not for the quick; therefore thou liest.

<span class='playlinenum'>3465</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3466'></a>'Tis a quick lie, sir; 'twill away again from me to you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3467'></a>What man dost thou dig it for?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3468'></a>For no man, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3469'></a>What woman then?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3470'></a>For none neither.

<span class='playlinenum'>3470</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3471'></a>Who is to be buried in't?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3472'></a>One that was a woman, sir; but, rest her soul, she's dead.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3473'></a>How absolute the knave is! We must speak by the card, or

<br>equivocation will undo us. By the Lord, Horatio, this three years

<br>I have taken note of it, the age is grown so picked that the toe

<span class='playlinenum'>3475</span><br>of the peasant comes so near the heel of the courtier he galls

<br>his kibe.- How long hast thou been a grave-maker?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3478'></a>Of all the days i' th' year, I came to't that day that our

<br>last king Hamlet overcame Fortinbras.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3480'></a>How long is that since?

<span class='playlinenum'>3480</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3481'></a>Cannot you tell that? Every fool can tell that. It was the

<br>very day that young Hamlet was born- he that is mad, and sent

<br>into England.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3484'></a>Ay, marry, why was be sent into England?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3485'></a>Why, because 'a was mad. 'A shall recover his wits there;

<span class='playlinenum'>3485</span><br>or, if 'a do not, 'tis no great matter there.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3487'></a>Why?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3488'></a>'Twill not he seen in him there. There the men are as mad as

<br>he.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3490'></a>How came he mad?

<span class='playlinenum'>3490</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3491'></a>Very strangely, they say.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3492'></a>How strangely?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3493'></a>Faith, e'en with losing his wits.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3494'></a>Upon what ground?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3495'></a>Why, here in Denmark. I have been sexton here, man and boy

<span class='playlinenum'>3495</span><br>thirty years.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3497'></a>How long will a man lie i' th' earth ere he rot?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3498'></a>Faith, if 'a be not rotten before 'a die (as we have many

<br>pocky corses now-a-days that will scarce hold the laying in, I

<br>will last you some eight year or nine year. A tanner will last

<span class='playlinenum'>3500</span><br>you nine year.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3502'></a>Why he more than another?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3503'></a>Why, sir, his hide is so tann'd with his trade that 'a will

<br>keep out water a great while; and your water is a sore decayer of

<br>your whoreson dead body. Here's a skull now. This skull hath lien

<span class='playlinenum'>3505</span><br>you i' th' earth three-and-twenty years.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3507'></a>Whose was it?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3508'></a>A whoreson, mad fellow's it was. Whose do you think it was?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3509'></a>Nay, I know not.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3510'></a>A pestilence on him for a mad rogue! 'A pour'd a flagon of

<span class='playlinenum'>3510</span><br>Rhenish on my head once. This same skull, sir, was Yorick's

<br>skull, the King's jester.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3513'></a>This?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=clown1-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>First Clown</a>. </strong><a name='3514'></a>E'en that.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3515'></a>Let me see. <i>[Takes the skull.]</i> Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him,

<span class='playlinenum'>3515</span><br>Horatio. A fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. He

<br>hath borne me on his back a thousand times. And now how abhorred

<br>in my imagination it is! My gorge rises at it. Here hung those

<br>lips that I have kiss'd I know not how oft. Where be your gibes

<br>now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment that

<span class='playlinenum'>3520</span><br>were wont to set the table on a roar? Not one now, to mock your

<br>own grinning? Quite chap- fall'n? Now get you to my lady's

<br>chamber, and tell her, let her paint an inch thick, to this

<br>favour she must come. Make her laugh at that. Prithee, Horatio,

<br>tell me one thing.

<span class='playlinenum'>3525</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3526'></a>What's that, my lord?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3527'></a>Dost thou think Alexander look'd o' this fashion i' th' earth?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3528'></a>E'en so.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3529'></a>And smelt so? Pah!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3530'></a> [Puts down the skull.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3531'></a>E'en so, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3532'></a>To what base uses we may return, Horatio! Why may not

<br>imagination trace the noble dust of Alexander till he find it

<br>stopping a bunghole?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3535'></a>'Twere to consider too curiously, to consider so.

<span class='playlinenum'>3535</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3536'></a>No, faith, not a jot; but to follow him thither with modesty

<br>enough, and likelihood to lead it; as thus: Alexander died,

<br>Alexander was buried, Alexander returneth into dust; the dust is

<br>earth; of earth we make loam; and why of that loam (whereto he

<br>was converted) might they not stop a beer barrel?

<span class='playlinenum'>3540</span><br>Imperious Caesar, dead and turn'd to clay,

<br>Might stop a hole to keep the wind away.

<br>O, that that earth which kept the world in awe

<br>Should patch a wall t' expel the winter's flaw!

<br>But soft! but soft! aside! Here comes the King-

<span class='playlinenum'>3545</span><br>Enter <i>[priests with]</i> a coffin <i>[in funeral procession]</i>, King,

<br><i>[Queen, Laertes, with Lords attendant.]</i>

<br>The Queen, the courtiers. Who is this they follow?

<br>And with such maimed rites? This doth betoken

<br>The corse they follow did with desp'rate hand

<span class='playlinenum'>3550</span><br>Fordo it own life. 'Twas of some estate.

<br>Couch we awhile, and mark.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3553'></a> [Retires with Horatio.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3554'></a>What ceremony else?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3555'></a>That is Laertes,

<span class='playlinenum'>3555</span><br>A very noble youth. Mark.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3557'></a>What ceremony else?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hampriest&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hampriest&WorkID=hamlet)'>Priest</a>. </strong><a name='3558'></a>Her obsequies have been as far enlarg'd

<br>As we have warranty. Her death was doubtful;

<br>And, but that great command o'ersways the order,

<span class='playlinenum'>3560</span><br>She should in ground unsanctified have lodg'd

<br>Till the last trumpet. For charitable prayers,

<br>Shards, flints, and pebbles should be thrown on her.

<br>Yet here she is allow'd her virgin rites,

<br>Her maiden strewments, and the bringing home

<span class='playlinenum'>3565</span><br>Of bell and burial.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3567'></a>Must there no more be done?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hampriest&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hampriest&WorkID=hamlet)'>Priest</a>. </strong><a name='3568'></a>No more be done.

<br>We should profane the service of the dead

<br>To sing a requiem and such rest to her

<span class='playlinenum'>3570</span><br>As to peace-parted souls.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3572'></a>Lay her i' th' earth;

<br>And from her fair and unpolluted flesh

<br>May violets spring! I tell thee, churlish priest,

<br>A minist'ring angel shall my sister be

<span class='playlinenum'>3575</span><br>When thou liest howling.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3577'></a>What, the fair Ophelia?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3578'></a>Sweets to the sweet! Farewell.

<br><i>[Scatters flowers.]</i>

<br>I hop'd thou shouldst have been my Hamlet's wife;

<span class='playlinenum'>3580</span><br>I thought thy bride-bed to have deck'd, sweet maid,

<br>And not have strew'd thy grave.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3583'></a>O, treble woe

<br>Fall ten times treble on that cursed head

<br>Whose wicked deed thy most ingenious sense

<span class='playlinenum'>3585</span><br>Depriv'd thee of! Hold off the earth awhile,

<br>Till I have caught her once more in mine arms.

<br><i>[Leaps in the grave.]</i>

<br>Now pile your dust upon the quick and dead

<br>Till of this flat a mountain you have made

<span class='playlinenum'>3590</span><br>T' o'ertop old Pelion or the skyish head

<br>Of blue Olympus.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3593'></a><i>[comes forward]</i> What is he whose grief

<br>Bears such an emphasis? whose phrase of sorrow

<br>Conjures the wand'ring stars, and makes them stand

<span class='playlinenum'>3595</span><br>Like wonder-wounded hearers? This is I,

<br>Hamlet the Dane. <i>[Leaps in after Laertes.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3598'></a>The devil take thy soul!

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3599'></a>[Grapples with him.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3600'></a>Thou pray'st not well.

<span class='playlinenum'>3600</span><br>I prithee take thy fingers from my throat;

<br>For, though I am not splenitive and rash,

<br>Yet have I in me something dangerous,

<br>Which let thy wisdom fear. Hold off thy hand!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3605'></a>Pluck them asunder.

<span class='playlinenum'>3605</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3606'></a>Hamlet, Hamlet!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='3607'></a>Gentlemen!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3608'></a>Good my lord, be quiet.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3609'></a>[The Attendants part them, and they come out of the grave.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3610'></a>Why, I will fight with him upon this theme

<span class='playlinenum'>3610</span><br>Until my eyelids will no longer wag.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3612'></a>O my son, what theme?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3613'></a>I lov'd Ophelia. Forty thousand brothers

<br>Could not (with all their quantity of love)

<br>Make up my sum. What wilt thou do for her?

<span class='playlinenum'>3615</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3616'></a>O, he is mad, Laertes.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3617'></a>For love of God, forbear him!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3618'></a>'Swounds, show me what thou't do.

<br>Woo't weep? woo't fight? woo't fast? woo't tear thyself?

<br>Woo't drink up esill? eat a crocodile?

<span class='playlinenum'>3620</span><br>I'll do't. Dost thou come here to whine?

<br>To outface me with leaping in her grave?

<br>Be buried quick with her, and so will I.

<br>And if thou prate of mountains, let them throw

<br>Millions of acres on us, till our ground,

<span class='playlinenum'>3625</span><br>Singeing his pate against the burning zone,

<br>Make Ossa like a wart! Nay, an thou'lt mouth,

<br>I'll rant as well as thou.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3629'></a>This is mere madness;

<br>And thus a while the fit will work on him.

<span class='playlinenum'>3630</span><br>Anon, as patient as the female dove

<br>When that her golden couplets are disclos'd,

<br>His silence will sit drooping.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3634'></a>Hear you, sir!

<br>What is the reason that you use me thus?

<span class='playlinenum'>3635</span><br>I lov'd you ever. But it is no matter.

<br>Let Hercules himself do what he may,

<br>The cat will mew, and dog will have his day.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3639'></a>Exit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3640'></a>I pray thee, good Horatio, wait upon him.

<span class='playlinenum'>3640</span><br><i>[Exit Horatio.]</i>

<br><i>[To Laertes]</i> Strengthen your patience in our last night's speech.

<br>We'll put the matter to the present push.-

<br>Good Gertrude, set some watch over your son.-

<br>This grave shall have a living monument.

<span class='playlinenum'>3645</span><br>An hour of quiet shortly shall we see;

<br>Till then in patience our proceeding be.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3648'></a> Exeunt.

</li></ul>

</td>

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<span class='playtextsmall'>previous scene</span>

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<p class='scenetitle'>Act V, Scene 2</p>

<p class='scenetitle'>Elsinore. A hall in the Castle.</p>

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<td></li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3649'></a>Enter Hamlet and Horatio.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3650'></a>So much for this, sir; now shall you see the other.

<span class='playlinenum'>3650</span><br>You do remember all the circumstance?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3652'></a>Remember it, my lord!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3653'></a>Sir, in my heart there was a kind of fighting

<br>That would not let me sleep. Methought I lay

<br>Worse than the mutinies in the bilboes. Rashly-

<span class='playlinenum'>3655</span><br>And prais'd be rashness for it; let us know,

<br>Our indiscretion sometime serves us well

<br>When our deep plots do pall; and that should learn us

<br>There's a divinity that shapes our ends,

<br>Rough-hew them how we will-

<span class='playlinenum'>3660</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3661'></a>That is most certain.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3662'></a>Up from my cabin,

<br>My sea-gown scarf'd about me, in the dark

<br>Grop'd I to find out them; had my desire,

<br>Finger'd their packet, and in fine withdrew

<span class='playlinenum'>3665</span><br>To mine own room again; making so bold

<br>(My fears forgetting manners) to unseal

<br>Their grand commission; where I found, Horatio

<br>(O royal knavery!), an exact command,

<br>Larded with many several sorts of reasons,

<span class='playlinenum'>3670</span><br>Importing Denmark's health, and England's too,

<br>With, hoo! such bugs and goblins in my life-

<br>That, on the supervise, no leisure bated,

<br>No, not to stay the finding of the axe,

<br>My head should be struck off.

<span class='playlinenum'>3675</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3676'></a>Is't possible?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3677'></a>Here's the commission; read it at more leisure.

<br>But wilt thou bear me how I did proceed?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3679'></a>I beseech you.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3680'></a>Being thus benetted round with villanies,

<span class='playlinenum'>3680</span><br>Or I could make a prologue to my brains,

<br>They had begun the play. I sat me down;

<br>Devis'd a new commission; wrote it fair.

<br>I once did hold it, as our statists do,

<br>A baseness to write fair, and labour'd much

<span class='playlinenum'>3685</span><br>How to forget that learning; but, sir, now

<br>It did me yeoman's service. Wilt thou know

<br>Th' effect of what I wrote?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3689'></a>Ay, good my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3690'></a>An earnest conjuration from the King,

<span class='playlinenum'>3690</span><br>As England was his faithful tributary,

<br>As love between them like the palm might flourish,

<br>As peace should still her wheaten garland wear

<br>And stand a comma 'tween their amities,

<br>And many such-like as's of great charge,

<span class='playlinenum'>3695</span><br>That, on the view and knowing of these contents,

<br>Without debatement further, more or less,

<br>He should the bearers put to sudden death,

<br>Not shriving time allow'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3700'></a>How was this seal'd?

<span class='playlinenum'>3700</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3701'></a>Why, even in that was heaven ordinant.

<br>I had my father's signet in my purse,

<br>Which was the model of that Danish seal;

<br>Folded the writ up in the form of th' other,

<br>Subscrib'd it, gave't th' impression, plac'd it safely,

<span class='playlinenum'>3705</span><br>The changeling never known. Now, the next day

<br>Was our sea-fight; and what to this was sequent

<br>Thou know'st already.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3709'></a>So Guildenstern and Rosencrantz go to't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3710'></a>Why, man, they did make love to this employment!

<span class='playlinenum'>3710</span><br>They are not near my conscience; their defeat

<br>Does by their own insinuation grow.

<br>'Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes

<br>Between the pass and fell incensed points

<br>Of mighty opposites.

<span class='playlinenum'>3715</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3716'></a>Why, what a king is this!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3717'></a>Does it not, thinks't thee, stand me now upon-

<br>He that hath kill'd my king, and whor'd my mother;

<br>Popp'd in between th' election and my hopes;

<br>Thrown out his angle for my proper life,

<span class='playlinenum'>3720</span><br>And with such coz'nage- is't not perfect conscience

<br>To quit him with this arm? And is't not to be damn'd

<br>To let this canker of our nature come

<br>In further evil?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3725'></a>It must be shortly known to him from England

<span class='playlinenum'>3725</span><br>What is the issue of the business there.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3727'></a>It will be short; the interim is mine,

<br>And a man's life is no more than to say 'one.'

<br>But I am very sorry, good Horatio,

<br>That to Laertes I forgot myself,

<span class='playlinenum'>3730</span><br>For by the image of my cause I see

<br>The portraiture of his. I'll court his favours.

<br>But sure the bravery of his grief did put me

<br>Into a tow'ring passion.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3735'></a>Peace! Who comes here?

<span class='playlinenum'>3735</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3736'></a> Enter young Osric, a courtier.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3737'></a>Your lordship is right welcome back to Denmark.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3738'></a>I humbly thank you, sir. <i>[Aside to Horatio]</i> Dost know this

<br>waterfly?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3740'></a><i>[aside to Hamlet]</i> No, my good lord.

<span class='playlinenum'>3740</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3741'></a><i>[aside to Horatio]</i> Thy state is the more gracious; for 'tis a

<br>vice to know him. He hath much land, and fertile. Let a beast be

<br>lord of beasts, and his crib shall stand at the king's mess. 'Tis

<br>a chough; but, as I say, spacious in the possession of dirt.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3745'></a>Sweet lord, if your lordship were at leisure, I should impart

<span class='playlinenum'>3745</span><br>a thing to you from his Majesty.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3747'></a>I will receive it, sir, with all diligence of spirit. Put your

<br>bonnet to his right use. 'Tis for the head.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3749'></a>I thank your lordship, it is very hot.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3750'></a>No, believe me, 'tis very cold; the wind is northerly.

<span class='playlinenum'>3750</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3751'></a>It is indifferent cold, my lord, indeed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3752'></a>But yet methinks it is very sultry and hot for my complexion.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3753'></a>Exceedingly, my lord; it is very sultry, as 'twere- I cannot

<br>tell how. But, my lord, his Majesty bade me signify to you that

<br>he has laid a great wager on your head. Sir, this is the matter-

<span class='playlinenum'>3755</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3756'></a>I beseech you remember.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3757'></a> [Hamlet moves him to put on his hat.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3758'></a>Nay, good my lord; for mine ease, in good faith. Sir, here is

<br>newly come to court Laertes; believe me, an absolute gentleman,

<br>full of most excellent differences, of very soft society and

<span class='playlinenum'>3760</span><br>great showing. Indeed, to speak feelingly of him, he is the card

<br>or calendar of gentry; for you shall find in him the continent of

<br>what part a gentleman would see.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3764'></a>Sir, his definement suffers no perdition in you; though, I

<br>know, to divide him inventorially would dozy th' arithmetic of

<span class='playlinenum'>3765</span><br>memory, and yet but yaw neither in respect of his quick sail.

<br>But, in the verity of extolment, I take him to be a soul of great

<br>article, and his infusion of such dearth and rareness as, to make

<br>true diction of him, his semblable is his mirror, and who else would trace him, his umbrage, nothing more.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3770'></a>Your lordship speaks most infallibly of him.

<span class='playlinenum'>3770</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3771'></a>The concernancy, sir? Why do we wrap the gentleman in our more

<br>rawer breath?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3773'></a>Sir?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3774'></a><i>[aside to Hamlet]</i> Is't not possible to understand in another

<br>tongue? You will do't, sir, really.

<span class='playlinenum'>3775</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3776'></a>What imports the nomination of this gentleman?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3777'></a>Of Laertes?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3778'></a><i>[aside]</i> His purse is empty already. All's golden words are

<br>spent.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3780'></a>Of him, sir.

<span class='playlinenum'>3780</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3781'></a>I know you are not ignorant-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3782'></a>I would you did, sir; yet, in faith, if you did, it would not

<br>much approve me. Well, sir?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3784'></a>You are not ignorant of what excellence Laertes is-

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3785'></a>I dare not confess that, lest I should compare with him in

<span class='playlinenum'>3785</span><br>excellence; but to know a man well were to know himself.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3787'></a>I mean, sir, for his weapon; but in the imputation laid on him

<br>by them, in his meed he's unfellowed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3789'></a>What's his weapon?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3790'></a>Rapier and dagger.

<span class='playlinenum'>3790</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3791'></a>That's two of his weapons- but well.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3792'></a>The King, sir, hath wager'd with him six Barbary horses;

<br>against the which he has impon'd, as I take it, six French

<br>rapiers and poniards, with their assigns, as girdle, hangers, and

<br>so. Three of the carriages, in faith, are very dear to fancy,

<span class='playlinenum'>3795</span><br>very responsive to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of

<br>very liberal conceit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3798'></a>What call you the carriages?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3799'></a><i>[aside to Hamlet]</i> I knew you must be edified by the margent

<br>ere you had done.

<span class='playlinenum'>3800</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3801'></a>The carriages, sir, are the hangers.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3802'></a>The phrase would be more germane to the matter if we could

<br>carry cannon by our sides. I would it might be hangers till then.

<br>But on! Six Barbary horses against six French swords, their

<br>assigns, and three liberal-conceited carriages: that's the French

<span class='playlinenum'>3805</span><br>bet against the Danish. Why is this all impon'd, as you call it?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3807'></a>The King, sir, hath laid that, in a dozen passes between

<br>yourself and him, he shall not exceed you three hits; he hath

<br>laid on twelve for nine, and it would come to immediate trial

<br>if your lordship would vouchsafe the answer.

<span class='playlinenum'>3810</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3811'></a>How if I answer no?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3812'></a>I mean, my lord, the opposition of your person in trial.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3813'></a>Sir, I will walk here in the hall. If it please his Majesty,

<br>it is the breathing time of day with me. Let the foils be

<br>brought, the gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose,

<span class='playlinenum'>3815</span><br>I will win for him if I can; if not, I will gain nothing but my

<br>shame and the odd hits.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3818'></a>Shall I redeliver you e'en so?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3819'></a>To this effect, sir, after what flourish your nature will.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3820'></a>I commend my duty to your lordship.

<span class='playlinenum'>3820</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3821'></a>Yours, yours. <i>[Exit Osric.]</i> He does well to commend it

<br>himself; there are no tongues else for's turn.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3823'></a>This lapwing runs away with the shell on his head.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3824'></a>He did comply with his dug before he suck'd it. Thus has he,

<br>and many more of the same bevy that I know the drossy age dotes

<span class='playlinenum'>3825</span><br>on, only got the tune of the time and outward habit of encounter-

<br>a kind of yesty collection, which carries them through and

<br>through the most fann'd and winnowed opinions; and do but blow

<br>them to their trial-the bubbles are out,

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3830'></a> Enter a Lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Lord</a>. </strong><a name='3831'></a>My lord, his Majesty commended him to you by young Osric, who

<br>brings back to him, that you attend him in the hall. He sends to

<br>know if your pleasure hold to play with Laertes, or that you will

<br>take longer time.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3835'></a>I am constant to my purposes; they follow the King's pleasure.

<span class='playlinenum'>3835</span><br>If his fitness speaks, mine is ready; now or whensoever, provided

<br>I be so able as now.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Lord</a>. </strong><a name='3838'></a>The King and Queen and all are coming down.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3839'></a>In happy time.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=lord-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>Lord</a>. </strong><a name='3840'></a>The Queen desires you to use some gentle entertainment to

<span class='playlinenum'>3840</span><br>Laertes before you fall to play.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3842'></a>She well instructs me.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3843'></a> [Exit Lord.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3844'></a>You will lose this wager, my lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3845'></a>I do not think so. Since he went into France I have been in

<span class='playlinenum'>3845</span><br>continual practice. I shall win at the odds. But thou wouldst not

<br>think how ill all's here about my heart. But it is no matter.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3848'></a>Nay, good my lord&mdash;

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3849'></a>It is but foolery; but it is such a kind of gaingiving as

<br>would perhaps trouble a woman.

<span class='playlinenum'>3850</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3851'></a>If your mind dislike anything, obey it. I will forestall their

<br>repair hither and say you are not fit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3853'></a>Not a whit, we defy augury; there's a special providence in

<br>the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be

<br>not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come:

<span class='playlinenum'>3855</span><br>the readiness is all. Since no man knows aught of what he leaves,

<br>what is't to leave betimes? Let be.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3858'></a>Enter King, Queen, Laertes, Osric, and Lords, with other

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3859'></a> Attendants with foils and gauntlets.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3860'></a> A table and flagons of wine on it.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3861'></a>Come, Hamlet, come, and take this hand from me.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3862'></a> [The King puts Laertes' hand into Hamlet's.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3863'></a>Give me your pardon, sir. I have done you wrong;

<br>But pardon't, as you are a gentleman.

<br>This presence knows,

<span class='playlinenum'>3865</span><br>And you must needs have heard, how I am punish'd

<br>With sore distraction. What I have done

<br>That might your nature, honour, and exception

<br>Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.

<br>Was't Hamlet wrong'd Laertes? Never Hamlet.

<span class='playlinenum'>3870</span><br>If Hamlet from himself be taken away,

<br>And when he's not himself does wrong Laertes,

<br>Then Hamlet does it not, Hamlet denies it.

<br>Who does it, then? His madness. If't be so,

<br>Hamlet is of the faction that is wrong'd;

<span class='playlinenum'>3875</span><br>His madness is poor Hamlet's enemy.

<br>Sir, in this audience,

<br>Let my disclaiming from a purpos'd evil

<br>Free me so far in your most generous thoughts

<br>That I have shot my arrow o'er the house

<span class='playlinenum'>3880</span><br>And hurt my brother.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3882'></a>I am satisfied in nature,

<br>Whose motive in this case should stir me most

<br>To my revenge. But in my terms of honour

<br>I stand aloof, and will no reconcilement

<span class='playlinenum'>3885</span><br>Till by some elder masters of known honour

<br>I have a voice and precedent of peace

<br>To keep my name ungor'd. But till that time

<br>I do receive your offer'd love like love,

<br>And will not wrong it.

<span class='playlinenum'>3890</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3891'></a>I embrace it freely,

<br>And will this brother's wager frankly play.

<br>Give us the foils. Come on.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3894'></a>Come, one for me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3895'></a>I'll be your foil, Laertes. In mine ignorance

<span class='playlinenum'>3895</span><br>Your skill shall, like a star i' th' darkest night,

<br>Stick fiery off indeed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3898'></a>You mock me, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3899'></a>No, by this hand.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3900'></a>Give them the foils, young Osric. Cousin Hamlet,

<span class='playlinenum'>3900</span><br>You know the wager?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3902'></a>Very well, my lord.

<br>Your Grace has laid the odds o' th' weaker side.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3904'></a>I do not fear it, I have seen you both;

<br>But since he is better'd, we have therefore odds.

<span class='playlinenum'>3905</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3906'></a>This is too heavy; let me see another.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3907'></a>This likes me well. These foils have all a length?

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3908'></a> Prepare to play.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3909'></a>Ay, my good lord.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3910'></a>Set me the stoups of wine upon that table.

<span class='playlinenum'>3910</span><br>If Hamlet give the first or second hit,

<br>Or quit in answer of the third exchange,

<br>Let all the battlements their ordnance fire;

<br>The King shall drink to Hamlet's better breath,

<br>And in the cup an union shall he throw

<span class='playlinenum'>3915</span><br>Richer than that which four successive kings

<br>In Denmark's crown have worn. Give me the cups;

<br>And let the kettle to the trumpet speak,

<br>The trumpet to the cannoneer without,

<br>The cannons to the heavens, the heaven to earth,

<span class='playlinenum'>3920</span><br>'Now the King drinks to Hamlet.' Come, begin.

<br>And you the judges, bear a wary eye.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3923'></a>Come on, sir.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3924'></a>Come, my lord. They play.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3925'></a>One.

<span class='playlinenum'>3925</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3926'></a>No.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3927'></a>Judgment!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3928'></a>A hit, a very palpable hit.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3929'></a>Well, again!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3930'></a>Stay, give me drink. Hamlet, this pearl is thine;

<span class='playlinenum'>3930</span><br>Here's to thy health.

<br><i>[Drum; trumpets sound; a piece goes off <i>[within]</i>.]</i>

<br>Give him the cup.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3934'></a>I'll play this bout first; set it by awhile.

<br>Come. <i>[They play.]</i> Another hit. What say you?

<span class='playlinenum'>3935</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3936'></a>A touch, a touch; I do confess't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3937'></a>Our son shall win.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3938'></a>He's fat, and scant of breath.

<br>Here, Hamlet, take my napkin, rub thy brows.

<br>The Queen carouses to thy fortune, Hamlet.

<span class='playlinenum'>3940</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3941'></a>Good madam!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3942'></a>Gertrude, do not drink.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3943'></a>I will, my lord; I pray you pardon me. Drinks.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3944'></a><i>[aside]</i> It is the poison'd cup; it is too late.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3945'></a>I dare not drink yet, madam; by-and-by.

<span class='playlinenum'>3945</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3946'></a>Come, let me wipe thy face.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3947'></a>My lord, I'll hit him now.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3948'></a>I do not think't.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3949'></a><i>[aside]</i> And yet it is almost against my conscience.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3950'></a>Come for the third, Laertes! You but dally.

<span class='playlinenum'>3950</span><br>Pray you pass with your best violence;

<br>I am afeard you make a wanton of me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3953'></a>Say you so? Come on. Play.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3954'></a>Nothing neither way.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3955'></a>Have at you now!

<span class='playlinenum'>3955</span></li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3956'></a> [Laertes wounds Hamlet; then] in scuffling, they change rapiers, [and Hamlet wounds Laertes].

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3957'></a>Part them! They are incens'd.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3958'></a>Nay come! again! The Queen falls.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3959'></a>Look to the Queen there, ho!

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3960'></a>They bleed on both sides. How is it, my lord?

<span class='playlinenum'>3960</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='3961'></a>How is't, Laertes?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3962'></a>Why, as a woodcock to mine own springe, Osric.I am justly kill'd with mine own treachery.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3963'></a>How does the Queen?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3964'></a>She sounds to see them bleed.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=gertrude&WorkID=hamlet)'>Gertrude</a>. </strong><a name='3965'></a>No, no! the drink, the drink! O my dear Hamlet!

<span class='playlinenum'>3965</span><br>The drink, the drink! I am poison'd. <i>[Dies.]</i>

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3967'></a>O villany! Ho! let the door be lock'd.

<br>Treachery! Seek it out.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='3969'></a> [Laertes falls.]

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3970'></a>It is here, Hamlet. Hamlet, thou art slain;

<span class='playlinenum'>3970</span><br>No medicine in the world can do thee good.

<br>In thee there is not half an hour of life.

<br>The treacherous instrument is in thy hand,

<br>Unbated and envenom'd. The foul practice

<br>Hath turn'd itself on me. Lo, here I lie,

<span class='playlinenum'>3975</span><br>Never to rise again. Thy mother's poison'd.

<br>I can no more. The King, the King's to blame.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3978'></a>The point envenom'd too?

<br>Then, venom, to thy work. Hurts the King.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=all-ham&WorkID=hamlet)'>All</a>. </strong><a name='3980'></a>Treason! treason!

<span class='playlinenum'>3980</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=claudius&WorkID=hamlet)'>Claudius</a>. </strong><a name='3981'></a>O, yet defend me, friends! I am but hurt.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3982'></a>Here, thou incestuous, murd'rous, damned Dane,

<br>Drink off this potion! Is thy union here?

<br>Follow my mother. King dies.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=laertes&WorkID=hamlet)'>Laertes</a>. </strong><a name='3985'></a>He is justly serv'd.

<span class='playlinenum'>3985</span><br>It is a poison temper'd by himself.

<br>Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet.

<br>Mine and my father's death come not upon thee,

<br>Nor thine on me! Dies.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='3990'></a>Heaven make thee free of it! I follow thee.

<span class='playlinenum'>3990</span><br>I am dead, Horatio. Wretched queen, adieu!

<br>You that look pale and tremble at this chance,

<br>That are but mutes or audience to this act,

<br>Had I but time (as this fell sergeant, Death,

<br>Is strict in his arrest) O, I could tell you-

<span class='playlinenum'>3995</span><br>But let it be. Horatio, I am dead;

<br>Thou liv'st; report me and my cause aright

<br>To the unsatisfied.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='3999'></a>Never believe it.

<br>I am more an antique Roman than a Dane.

<span class='playlinenum'>4000</span><br>Here's yet some liquor left.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='4002'></a>As th'art a man,

<br>Give me the cup. Let go! By heaven, I'll ha't.

<br>O good Horatio, what a wounded name

<br>(Things standing thus unknown) shall live behind me!

<span class='playlinenum'>4005</span><br>If thou didst ever hold me in thy heart,

<br>Absent thee from felicity awhile,

<br>And in this harsh world draw thy breath in pain,

<br>To tell my story. <i>[March afar off, and shot within.]</i>

<br>What warlike noise is this?

<span class='playlinenum'>4010</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=osric&WorkID=hamlet)'>Osric</a>. </strong><a name='4011'></a>Young Fortinbras, with conquest come from Poland,

<br>To the ambassadors of England gives

<br>This warlike volley.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=hamlet&WorkID=hamlet)'>Hamlet</a>. </strong><a name='4014'></a>O, I die, Horatio!

<br>The potent poison quite o'ercrows my spirit.

<span class='playlinenum'>4015</span><br>I cannot live to hear the news from England,

<br>But I do prophesy th' election lights

<br>On Fortinbras. He has my dying voice.

<br>So tell him, with th' occurrents, more and less,

<br>Which have solicited- the rest is silence. Dies.

<span class='playlinenum'>4020</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='4021'></a>Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince,

<br>And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!

<br><i>[March within.]</i>

<br>Why does the drum come hither?

<br>Enter Fortinbras and English Ambassadors, with Drum, Colours, and Attendants.

<span class='playlinenum'>4025</span></li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='4026'></a>Where is this sight?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='4027'></a>What is it you will see?

<br>If aught of woe or wonder, cease your search.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='4029'></a>This quarry cries on havoc. O proud Death,

<br>What feast is toward in thine eternal cell

<span class='playlinenum'>4030</span><br>That thou so many princes at a shot

<br>So bloodily hast struck.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=ambassador&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=ambassador&WorkID=hamlet)'>Ambassador</a>. </strong><a name='4033'></a>The sight is dismal;

<br>And our affairs from England come too late.

<br>The ears are senseless that should give us hearing

<span class='playlinenum'>4035</span><br>To tell him his commandment is fulfill'd

<br>That Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.

<br>Where should we have our thanks?

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='4039'></a>Not from his mouth,

<br>Had it th' ability of life to thank you.

<span class='playlinenum'>4040</span><br>He never gave commandment for their death.

<br>But since, so jump upon this bloody question,

<br>You from the Polack wars, and you from England,

<br>Are here arriv'd, give order that these bodies

<br>High on a stage be placed to the view;

<span class='playlinenum'>4045</span><br>And let me speak to the yet unknowing world

<br>How these things came about. So shall you hear

<br>Of carnal, bloody and unnatural acts;

<br>Of accidental judgments, casual slaughters;

<br>Of deaths put on by cunning and forc'd cause;

<span class='playlinenum'>4050</span><br>And, in this upshot, purposes mistook

<br>Fall'n on th' inventors' heads. All this can I

<br>Truly deliver.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='4054'></a>Let us haste to hear it,

<br>And call the noblest to the audience.

<span class='playlinenum'>4055</span><br>For me, with sorrow I embrace my fortune.

<br>I have some rights of memory in this kingdom

<br>Which now, to claim my vantage doth invite me.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=horatio&WorkID=hamlet)'>Horatio</a>. </strong><a name='4059'></a>Of that I shall have also cause to speak,

<br>And from his mouth whose voice will draw on more.

<span class='playlinenum'>4060</span><br>But let this same be presently perform'd,

<br>Even while men's minds are wild, lest more mischance

<br>On plots and errors happen.

</li></ul>

<ul><li class='playtext'><strong><a href='[characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet](view-source:https://www.opensourceshakespeare.org/views/plays/characters/charlines.php?CharID=fortinbras&WorkID=hamlet)'>Fortinbras</a>. </strong><a name='4064'></a>Let four captains

<br>Bear Hamlet like a soldier to the stage;

<span class='playlinenum'>4065</span><br>For he was likely, had he been put on,

<br>To have prov'd most royally; and for his passage

<br>The soldiers' music and the rites of war

<br>Speak loudly for him.

<br>Take up the bodies. Such a sight as this

<span class='playlinenum'>4070</span><br>Becomes the field but here shows much amiss.

<br>Go, bid the soldiers shoot.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='4073'></a> Exeunt marching; after the which a peal of ordnance are shot off.

</li></ul>

</li></ul><p class='stagedir'><a name='4074'></a>THE END</li></ul>

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<p style='font-size: 18px;'>Program code and database &copy; 2003-2022 <a href="[http://english.gmu.edu/](view-source:http://english.gmu.edu/)">George Mason University</a>.<br>

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