

Play: *HAMLET*.

Act: ACT II.

Scen: SCENE I.

Text: [Elsinore. A room in Polonius' house.]

[Enter POLONIUS and REYNALDO.]

POLONIUS.

Give him this money and these notes, Reynaldo. 2/1/1

REYNALDO.

I will, my lord. 2/1/2

POLONIUS.

You shall do marvellous wisely, good Reynaldo, 2/1/3

Before you visit him, to make inquiry 2/1/4

Of his behaviour. 2/1/5

REYNALDO.

My lord, I did intend it.

POLONIUS.

Marry, well said; very well said. Look you, sir, 2/1/6

Inquire me first what *Dankers* are in Paris;

2/1/7

And how, and who, what means, and where they keep, 2/1/8

What company, at what expense; and finding, 2/1/9

By this encompassment and drift of question, 2/1/10

That they do know my son, come you more nearer 2/1/11

Than your particular demands will touch it: 2/1/12

Take you, as 'twere, some distant knowledge of him; 2/1/13

As thus, "I know his father and his friends, 2/1/14

And in part him;"- do you mark this, Reynaldo? 2/1/15

REYNALDO.

Ay, very well, my lord. 2/1/16

POLONIUS.

"And in part him;- but," you may say, "not well: 2/1/17

But, if't be he I mean, he's very wild; 2/1/18

Addicted so and so;"- and there put on him 2/1/19

What forgeries you please; marry, none so rank 2/1/20

As may dishonour him; take heed of that; 2/1/21

But, sir, such wanton, wild, and usual slips 2/1/22

As are companions noted and most known 2/1/23

To youth and liberty. 2/1/24

REYNALDO.

As gaming, my lord.

POLONIUS.

Ay, or drinking, fencing, swearing, 2/1/25

Quarrelling, drabbing:- you may go so far. 2/1/26

REYNALDO.
 My lord, that would dishonour him. 2/1/27
 POLONIUS.
 Faith, no; as you may season it in the charge. 2/1/28
 You must not put another scandal on him, 2/1/29
 That he is open to incontinency; 2/1/30
 That's not my meaning: but breathe his faults so quaintly, 2/1/31
 That they may seem the taints of liberty; 2/1/32
 The flash and outbreak of a fiery mind; 2/1/33
 A savageness in unreclaimed blood, 2/1/34
 Of general assault. 2/1/35
 REYNALDO.
 But, my good lord,-
 POLONIUS.
 Wherefore should you do this? 2/1/36
 REYNALDO.
 Ay, my lord,
 I would know that. 2/1/37
 POLONIUS.
 Marry, sir, here's my drift;
 And, I believe, it is a fetch of warrant: 2/1/38
 You laying these slight sullies on my son, 2/1/39
 As 'twere a thing a little soil'd i' th'working, 2/1/40
 Mark you, 2/1/41
 Your party in converse, him you would sound, 2/1/42
 Having ever seen in the prenominate crimes 2/1/43
 The youth you breathe of guilty, be assured 2/1/44
 He closes with you in this consequence; 2/1/45
 "Good sir," or so; or "friend," or "gentleman,"- 2/1/46
 According to the phrase, or the addition, 2/1/47
 Of man and country. 2/1/48
 REYNALDO.
 Very good, my lord.
 POLONIUS.
 And then, sir, does he this,- he does- What was I about to 2/1/49
 say?- By the mass, I was about to say something:- where did 2/1/50
 I leave? 2/1/51
 REYNALDO.
 At "closes in the consequence," at "friend or so," and 2/1/52
 "gentleman." 2/1/53
 POLONIUS.
 At "closes in the consequence,"- ay, marry; 2/1/54
 He closes with you thus: "I know the gentleman; 2/1/55

I saw him yesterday, or t'other day,	2/1/56
Or then, or then; with such, or such; and, as you say,	2/1/57
There was a' gaming; there o'ertook in's rouse;	2/1/58
There falling out at tennis:" or perchance,	2/1/59
"I saw him enter such a house of sale,"-	2/1/60
Videlicet, a brothel,- or so forth.-	2/1/61
See you now;	2/1/62
Your bait of falsehood takes this carp of truth:	2/1/63
And thus do we of wisdom and of reach,	2/1/64
With windlasses and with assays of bias,	2/1/65
By indirections find directions out:	2/1/66
So, by my former lecture and advice,	2/1/67
Shall you my son. You have me, have you not?	2/1/68
REYNALDO.	
My lord, I have.	2/1/69
POLONIUS.	
God be wi' ye! fare ye well.	
REYNALDO.	
Good my lord!	2/1/70
POLONIUS.	
Observe his inclination in yourself.	2/1/71
REYNALDO.	
I shall, my lord.	2/1/72
POLONIUS.	
And let him ply his music.	2/1/73
REYNALDO.	
Well, my lord.	
POLONIUS.	
Farewell! [Exit REYNALDO.]	2/1/74
[Enter OPHELIA.]	
How now, Ophelia! what's the matter?	2/1/75
OPHELIA.	
O, my lord, my lord, I have been so affrighted!	2/1/76
POLONIUS.	
With what, i' th'name of God?	2/1/77
OPHELIA.	
My lord, as I was sewing in my chamber,	2/1/78
Lord Hamlet,- with his doublet all unbraced;	2/1/79
No hat upon his head; his stockings foul'd,	2/1/80
Ungarter'd, and down-gyved to his ankle;	2/1/80
Pale as his shirt; his knees knocking each other;	2/1/81
And with a look so piteous in purport	2/1/82
As if he had been loosed out of hell	2/1/83

To speak of horrors- he comes before me.	2/1/84
POLONIUS.	
Mad for thy love?	2/1/85
OPHELIA.	
My lord, I do not know;	
But, truly, I do fear it.	2/1/86
POLONIUS.	
What said he?	
OPHELIA.	
He took me by the wrist, and held me hard;	2/1/87
Then goes he to the length of all his arm;	2/1/88
And, with his other hand thus o'er his brow,	2/1/89
He falls to such perusal of my face	2/1/90
As he would draw it. Long stay'd he so;	2/1/91
At last,- a little shaking of mine arm,	2/1/92
And thrice his head thus waving up and down,-	2/1/93
He raised a sigh so piteous and profound,	2/1/94
That it did seem to shatter all his bulk,	2/1/95
And end his being: that done, he lets me go;	2/1/96
And, with his head over his shoulder turn'd,	2/1/97
He seem'd to find his way without his eyes;	2/1/98
For out o' doors he went without their help,	2/1/99
And, to the last, bended their light on me.	2/1/100
POLONIUS.	
Come, go with me: I will go seek the king.	2/1/101
This is the very ecstasy of love;	2/1/102
Whose violent property fordoes itself,	2/1/103
And leads the will to desperate undertakings,	2/1/104
As oft as any passion under heaven	2/1/105
That does afflict our natures. I am sorry.-	2/1/106
What, have you given him any hard words of late?	2/1/107
OPHELIA.	
No, my good lord; but, as you did command,	2/1/108
I did repel his letters, and denied	2/1/109
His access to me.	2/1/110
POLONIUS.	
That hath made him mad.-	
I am sorry that with better heed and judgement	2/1/111
I had not quoted him: I fear'd he did but trifle,	2/1/112
And meant to wrack thee; but, beshrew my jealousy!	2/1/113
It seems it is as proper to our age	2/1/114
To cast beyond ourselves in our opinions,	2/1/115
As it is common for the younger sort	2/1/116

To lack discretion. Come, go we to the king: 2/1/117
 This must be known; which, being kept close, might move 2/1/118
 More grief to hide than hate to utter love. 2/1/119
 Come. [Exeunt.] 2/1/120

Play: *HAMLET*.

Act: ACT *II*.

Scen: SCENE *II*.

Text: [A room in the castle.]

[Enter KING, QUEEN, ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN,
 and ATTENDANTS.]

KING.

Welcome, dear Rosencrantz and Guildenstern! 2/2/1
 Moreover that we much did long to see you, 2/2/2
 The need we have to use you did provoke 2/2/3
 Our hasty sending. Something have you heard 2/2/4
 Of Hamlet's transformation; so call it, 2/2/5
 Since nor th'exterior nor the inward man 2/2/6
 Resembles that it was. What it should be, 2/2/7
 More than his father's death, that thus hath put him 2/2/8
 So much from th'understanding of himself, 2/2/9
 I cannot dream of: I entreat you both, 2/2/10
 That, being of so young days brought up with him, 2/2/11
 And sith so neighbour'd to his youth and haviour, 2/2/12
 That you vouchsafe your rest here in our court 2/2/13
 Some little time: so by your companies 2/2/14
 To draw him on to pleasures, and to gather, 2/2/15
 So much as from occasion you may glean, 2/2/16
 Whether aught, to us unknown, afflicts him thus, 2/2/17
 That, open'd, lies within our remedy. 2/2/18

QUEEN.

Good gentlemen, he hath much talk'd of you; 2/2/19
 And sure I am two men there are not living 2/2/20
 To whom he more adheres. If it will please you 2/2/21
 To show us so much gentry and good will 2/2/22
 As to expend your time with us awhile, 2/2/23
 For the supply and profit of our hope, 2/2/24
 Your visitation shall receive such thanks 2/2/25
 As fits a king's remembrance. 2/2/26

ROSENCRANTZ.

Both your majesties
 Might, by the sovereign power you have of us, 2/2/27

Put your dread pleasures more into command Than to entreaty.	2/2/29	2/2/28
GUILDENSTERN.		
But we both obey, And here give up ourselves, in the full bent, To lay our service freely at your feet, To be commanded.	2/2/30 2/2/31 2/2/32	
KING.		
Thanks, Rosencrantz and gentle Guildenstern.		2/2/33
QUEEN.		
Thanks, Guildenstern and gentle Rosencrantz: And I beseech you instantly to visit My too-much-changed son.- Go, some of you, And bring these gentlemen where Hamlet is.	2/2/34 2/2/35 2/2/36 2/2/37	
GUILDENSTERN.		
Heavens make our presence and our practices Pleasant and helpful to him!	2/2/39	2/2/38
QUEEN.		
Ay, amen! [Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN, and some ATTENDANTS.] [Enter POLONIUS.] POLONIUS.		
Th'ambassadors from Norway, my good lord, Are joyfully return'd.	2/2/41	2/2/40
KING.		
Thou still hast been the father of good news.		2/2/42
POLONIUS.		
Have I, my lord? Assure you, my good liege, I hold my duty, as I hold my soul, Both to my God and to my gracious king: And I do think- or else this brain of mine Hunts not the trail of policy so sure As it hath used to do- that I have found The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy.	2/2/43 2/2/44 2/2/45 2/2/46 2/2/47 2/2/48 2/2/49	
KING.		
O, speak of that; that do I long to hear.		2/2/50
POLONIUS.		
Give first admittance to th'ambassadors; My news shall be the fruit to that great feast.		2/2/51 2/2/52
KING.		
Thyself do grace to them, and bring them in.	[Exit	2/2/53
POLONIUS.]		
He tells me, my dear Gertrude, he hath found		2/2/54

The head and source of all your son's distemper. 2/2/55

QUEEN.

I doubt it is no other but the main,- 2/2/56

His father's death, and our o'erhasty marriage. 2/2/57

KING.

Well, we shall sift him. 2/2/58

[Enter POLONIUS, with VOLTIMAND and CORNELIUS.]

Welcome, my good friends!

Say, Voltimand, what from our brother Norway? 2/2/59

VOLTIMAND.

Most fair return of greetings and desires. 2/2/60

Upon our first, he sent out to suppress 2/2/61

His nephew's levies; which to him appear'd 2/2/62

To be a preparation 'gainst the Polack; 2/2/63

But, better look'd into, he truly found 2/2/64

It was against your highness: whereat grieved,- 2/2/65

That so his sickness, age, and impotence, 2/2/66

Was falsely borne in hand,- sends out arrests 2/2/67

On Fortinbras; which he, in brief, obeys; 2/2/68

Receives rebuke from Norway; and, in fine, 2/2/69

Makes vow before his uncle never more 2/2/70

To give th'assay of arms against your majesty. 2/2/71

Whereon old Norway, overcome with joy, 2/2/72

Gives him three thousand crowns in annual fee; 2/2/73

And his commission to employ these soldiers, 2/2/74

So levied as before, against the Polack: 2/2/75

With an entreaty, herein further shown, [Gives a paper.] 2/2/76

That it might please you to give quiet pass 2/2/77

Through your dominions for this enterprise, 2/2/78

On such regards of safety and allowance 2/2/79

As therein are set down. 2/2/80

KING.

It likes us well;

And at our more consider'd time we'll read, 2/2/81

Answer, and think upon this business. 2/2/82

Meantime we thank you for your well-took labour: 2/2/83

Go to your rest; at night we'll feast together: 2/2/84

Most welcome home! [Exeunt VOLTIMAND and CORNELIUS.]

2/2/85

POLONIUS.

This business is well ended.- 2/2/86

My liege, and madam,- to expostulate 2/2/87

What majesty should be, what duty is, 2/2/88

Why day is day, night night, and time is time. 2/2/89
 Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time. 2/2/90
 Therefore, since brevity is the soul of wit, 2/2/90
 And tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes, 2/2/91
 I will be brief:- your noble son is mad: 2/2/92
 Mad call I it; for, to define true madness, 2/2/93
 What is't but to be nothing else but mad? 2/2/94
 But let that go. 2/2/95
 QUEEN.
 More matter, with less art.
 POLONIUS.
 Madam, I swear I use no art at all. 2/2/96
 That he is mad, 'tis true: 'tis true,'tis pity, 2/2/97
 And pity 'tis 'tis true: a foolish figure; 2/2/98
 But farewell it, for I will use no art. 2/2/99
 Mad let us grant him, then: and now remains 2/2/100
 That we find out the cause of this effect,- 2/2/101
 Or rather say, the cause of this defect, 2/2/102
 For this effect defective comes by cause: 2/2/103
 Thus it remains, and the remainder thus. 2/2/104
 Perpend. 2/2/105
 I have a daughter,- have whilst she is mine,- 2/2/106
 Who, in her duty and obedience, mark, 2/2/107
 Hath given me this: now gather, and surmise. [Reads.] 2/2/108
 "To the celestial and my soul's idol, the most beautified 2/2/109
 Ophelia,-" That's an ill phrase, a vile phrase,- "beautified" 2/2/110
 is a vile phrase: but you shall hear. Thus: [Reads.] "In 2/2/111
 her excellent white bosom, these, etc.-" 2/2/112
 QUEEN.
 Came this from Hamlet to her? 2/2/113
 POLONIUS.
 Good madam, stay a while; I will be faithful. [Reads.] 2/2/114
 "Doubt thou the stars are fire; 2/2/115
 Doubt that the sun doth move; 2/2/116
 Doubt truth to be a liar; 2/2/117
 But never doubt I love. 2/2/118
 O dear Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers; I have not art 2/2/119
 to reckon my groans: but that I love thee best, O most best, 2/2/120
 believe it. Adieu. 2/2/121
 Thine evermore, most dear lady, whilst
 this machine is to him, Hamlet." 2/2/122
 This, in obedience, hath my daughter shown me: 2/2/123
 And more above, hath his solicitings, 2/2/124

As they fell out by time, by means, and place, 2/2/125
 All given to mine ear. 2/2/126
 KING.
 But how hath she
 Receiv'd his love? 2/2/127
 POLONIUS.
 What do you think of me?
 KING.
 As of a man faithful and honourable. 2/2/128
 POLONIUS.
 I would fain prove so. But what might you think, 2/2/129
 When I had seen this hot love on the wing,- 2/2/130
 As I perceived it, I must tell you that, 2/2/130
 Before my daughter told me,- what might you, 2/2/131
 Or my dear majesty your queen here, think, 2/2/132
 If I had play'd the desk or table-book; 2/2/133
 Or given my heart a winking, mute and dumb; 2/2/134
 Or look'd upon this love with idle sight;- 2/2/135
 What might you think? No, I went round to work, 2/2/136
 And my young mistress thus I did bespeak: 2/2/137
 "Lord Hamlet is a prince, out of thy star; 2/2/138
 This must not be:" and then I prescripts gave her, 2/2/139
 That she should lock herself from his resort, 2/2/140
 Admit no messengers, receive no tokens. 2/2/141
 Which done, she took the fruits of my advice; 2/2/142
 And he, repulsed,- a short tale to make,- 2/2/143
 Fell into a sadness; then into a fast; 2/2/144
 Thence to a watch; thence into a weakness; 2/2/145
 Thence to a lightness; and, by this declension, 2/2/146
 Into the madness wherein now he raves, 2/2/147
 And all we mourn for. 2/2/148
 KING.
 Do you think 'tis this?
 QUEEN.
 It may be, very like. 2/2/149
 POLONIUS.
 Hath there been such a time- I'd fain know that- 2/2/150
 That I have positively said "'Tis so," 2/2/151
 When it proved otherwise? 2/2/152
 KING.
 Not that I know.
 POLONIUS [pointing to his head and shoulder].
 Take this from this, if this be otherwise: 2/2/153

If circumstances lead me, I will find 2/2/154
 Where truth is hid, though it were hid indeed 2/2/155
 Within the centre. 2/2/156
 KING.
 How may we try it further?
 POLONIUS.
 You know, sometimes he walks four hours together 2/2/157
 Here in the lobby. 2/2/158
 QUEEN.
 So he does, indeed.
 POLONIUS.
 At such a time I'll loose my daughter to him: 2/2/159
 Be you and I behind an arras then; 2/2/160
 Mark the encounter: if he love her not, 2/2/161
 And be not from his reason fall'n thereon, 2/2/162
 Let me be no assistant for a state, 2/2/163
 But keep a farm and carters. 2/2/164
 KING.
 We will try it.
 QUEEN.
 But, look, where sadly the poor wretch comes reading. 2/2/165
 POLONIUS.
 Away, I do beseech you, both away: 2/2/166
 I'll board him presently:- O, give me leave. [Exeunt 2/2/167
 KING, QUEEN, and ATTENDANTS.]
 [Enter HAMLET, reading on a book.]
 How does my good Lord Hamlet? 2/2/168
 HAMLET.
 Well, God-a-mercy. 2/2/169
 POLONIUS.
 Do you know me, my lord? 2/2/170
 HAMLET.
 Excellent well; you are a fishmonger. 2/2/171
 POLONIUS.
 Not I, my lord. 2/2/172
 HAMLET.
 Then I would you were so honest a man. 2/2/173
 POLONIUS.
 Honest, my lord! 2/2/174
 HAMLET.
 Ay, sir; to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man 2/2/175
 pick'd out of ten thousand. 2/2/176
 POLONIUS.

That's very true, my lord. 2/2/177
 HAMLET.
 For if the sun breed maggots in a dead dog, being a god 2/2/178
 kissing carrion,- Have you a daughter? 2/2/179
 POLONIUS.
 I have, my lord. 2/2/180
 HAMLET.
 Let her not walk i' th'sun: conception is a blessing; but 2/2/181
 not as your daughter may conceive:- friend, look to't. 2/2/182
 POLONIUS [aside].
 How say you by that? Still harping on my daughter:- yet he 2/2/183
 knew me not at first; he said I was a fishmonger: he is far 2/2/184
 gone, far gone: and truly in my youth I suffer'd much 2/2/185
 extremity for love; very near this. I'll speak to him 2/2/186
 again.- What do you read, my lord? 2/2/187
 HAMLET.
 Words, words, words. 2/2/188
 POLONIUS.
 What is the matter, my lord? 2/2/189
 HAMLET.
 Between who? 2/2/190
 POLONIUS.
 I mean, the matter that you read, my lord. 2/2/191
 HAMLET.
 Slanders, sir: for the satirical rogue says here, that old 2/2/192
 men have gray beards; that their faces are wrinkled; their 2/2/193
 eyes purging thick amber and plum-tree gums; and that they 2/2/194
 have a plentiful lack of wit, together with most weak ham: 2/2/195
 all which, sir, though I most powerfully and potently 2/2/196
 believe, yet I hold it not honesty to have it thus set down; 2/2/197
 for yourself, sir, shall grow old as I am, if, like a crab, 2/2/198
 you could go backward. 2/2/199
 POLONIUS [aside].
 Though this be madness, yet there is method in't.- 2/2/200
 Will you walk out of the air, my lord? 2/2/201
 HAMLET.
 Into my grave? 2/2/202
 POLONIUS.
 Indeed that is out o' th'air.- 2/2/203
 [aside] How pregnant sometimes his replies are! a happiness 2/2/204
 that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity could 2/2/205
 not so prosperously be deliver'd of. I will leave him, and 2/2/206

suddenly contrive the means of meeting between him and my daughter.- My honourable lord, I will most humbly take my leave of you. 2/2/207
2/2/208
2/2/209

HAMLET.

You cannot, sir, take from me any thing that I will more willingly part withal,- except my life, except my life, except my life. 2/2/210
2/2/211
2/2/212

POLONIUS.

Fare you well, my lord. 2/2/213

HAMLET.

These tedious old fools! 2/2/214

[Enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.]

POLONIUS.

You go to seek the Lord Hamlet; there he is. 2/2/215

ROSENCRANTZ [to POLONIUS].

God save you, sir! [Exit POLONIUS.] 2/2/216

GUILDENSTERN.

My honour'd lord! 2/2/217

ROSENCRANTZ.

My most dear lord! 2/2/218

HAMLET.

My excellent good friends! How dost thou, Guildenstern? 2/2/219

Ah, Rosencrantz! Good lads, how do ye both? 2/2/220

ROSENCRANTZ.

As the indifferent children of the earth. 2/2/221

GUILDENSTERN.

Happy, in that we are not overhappy; 2/2/222

On Fortune's cap we are not the very button. 2/2/223

HAMLET.

Nor the soles of her shoe? 2/2/224

ROSENCRANTZ.

Neither, my lord. 2/2/225

HAMLET.

Then you live about her waist, or in the middle of her favours? 2/2/226

2/2/227

GUILDENSTERN.

Faith, her privates we. 2/2/228

HAMLET.

In the secret parts of Fortune? O, most true; she is a 2/2/229

strumpet. What's the news? 2/2/230

ROSENCRANTZ.

None, my lord, but that the world's grown honest. 2/2/231

HAMLET.

Then is doomsday near: but your news is not true. Let me question more in particular: what have you, my good friends, deserved at the hands of Fortune, that she sends you to prison hither? 2/2/232
2/2/233
2/2/234
2/2/235

GUILDENSTERN.

Prison, my lord! 2/2/236

HAMLET.

Denmark's a prison. 2/2/237

ROSENCRANTZ.

Then is the world one. 2/2/238

HAMLET.

A goodly one; in which there are many confines, wards, and dungeons, Denmark being one o'th'worst. 2/2/239
2/2/240

ROSENCRANTZ.

We think not so, my lord. 2/2/241

HAMLET.

Why, then, 'tis none to you: for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison. 2/2/242
2/2/243

ROSENCRANTZ.

Why, then, your ambition makes it one; 'tis too narrow for your mind. 2/2/244
2/2/245

HAMLET.

O God, I could be bounded in a nut-shell, and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams. 2/2/246
2/2/247

GUILDENSTERN.

Which dreams, indeed, are ambition; for the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream. 2/2/248
2/2/249

HAMLET.

A dream itself is but a shadow. 2/2/250

ROSENCRANTZ.

Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality, that it is but a shadow's shadow. 2/2/251
2/2/252

HAMLET.

Then are our beggars bodies, and our monarchs and outstretch'd heroes the beggars' shadows. Shall we to th'court? for, by my fay, I cannot reason. 2/2/253
2/2/254
2/2/255

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN.

We'll wait upon you. 2/2/256

HAMLET.

No such matter: I will not sort you with the rest of my servants; for, to speak to you like an honest man, I am most dreadfully attended. But, in the beaten way of friendship, 2/2/257
2/2/258
2/2/259

what make you at Elsinore? 2/2/260
 ROSENCRANTZ.
 To visit you, my lord; no other occasion. 2/2/261
 HAMLET.
 Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; but I thank you: 2/2/262
 and sure, dear friends, my thanks are too dear a halfpenny. 2/2/263
 Were you not sent for? Is it your own inclining? Is it a 2/2/264
 free visitation? Come, deal justly with me: come, come; nay, 2/2/265
 speak. 2/2/266
 GUILDENSTERN.
 What should we say, my lord? 2/2/267
 HAMLET.
 Why, any thing- but to the purpose. You were sent for; and 2/2/268
 there is a kind of confession in your looks, which your 2/2/269
 modesties have not craft enough to colour: I know the good 2/2/270
 king and queen have sent for you. 2/2/271
 ROSENCRANTZ.
 To what end, my lord? 2/2/272
 HAMLET.
 That you must teach me. But let me conjure you, by the 2/2/273
 rights of our fellowship, by the consonancy of our youth, by 2/2/274
 the obligation of our ever-preserved love, and by what more 2/2/275
 dear a better proposer could charge you withal, be even and 2/2/276
 direct with me, whether you were sent for, or no. 2/2/277
 ROSENCRANTZ [aside to GUILDENSTERN].
 What say you? 2/2/278
 HAMLET [aside].
 Nay, then, I have an eye of you.- If you love me, hold not 2/2/279
 off. 2/2/280
 GUILDENSTERN.
 My lord, we were sent for. 2/2/281
 HAMLET.
 I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation prevent your 2/2/282
 discovery, and your secrecy to the king and queen moult no 2/2/283
 feather. I have of late- but wherefore I know not- lost all 2/2/284
 my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises; and, indeed, it 2/2/285
 goes so heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, 2/2/286
 the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory; this most 2/2/287
 excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'erhanging 2/2/288
 firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire,- 2/2/289
 why, it appears no other thing to me than a foul and 2/2/290
 pestilent congregation of vapours. What a piece of work is 2/2/291
 man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form 2/2/292

and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an 2/2/293
 angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the 2/2/294
 world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this 2/2/295
 quintessence of dust? man delights not me; no, nor woman 2/2/296
 neither, though by your smiling you seem to say so. 2/2/297

ROSENCRANTZ.

My lord, there was no such stuff in my thoughts. 2/2/298

HAMLET.

Why did you laugh, then, when I said "man delights not me"? 2/2/299

ROSENCRANTZ.

To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what lenten 2/2/300
 entertainment the players shall receive from you: we coted 2/2/301
 them on the way; and hither are they coming, to offer you 2/2/302
 service. 2/2/303

HAMLET.

He that plays the king shall be welcome,- his majesty shall 2/2/304
 have tribute of me; the adventurous knight shall use his 2/2/305
 foil and target; the lover shall not sigh gratis; the 2/2/306
 humorous man shall end his part in peace; the clown shall 2/2/307
 make those laugh whose lungs are tickle o' th'sere; and the 2/2/308
 lady shall say her mind freely, or the blank verse shall 2/2/309
 halt for't.- What players are they? 2/2/310

ROSENCRANTZ.

Even those you were wont to take such delight in, the 2/2/311
 tragedians of the city. 2/2/312

HAMLET.

How chances it they travel? their residence, both in 2/2/313
 reputation and profit, was better both ways. 2/2/314

ROSENCRANTZ.

I think their inhibition comes by the means of the late 2/2/315
 innovation. 2/2/316

HAMLET.

Do they hold the same estimation they did when I was in the 2/2/317
 city? are they so follow'd? 2/2/318

ROSENCRANTZ.

No, indeed, they are not. 2/2/319

HAMLET.

How comes it? do they grow rusty? 2/2/320

ROSENCRANTZ.

Nay, their endeavour keeps in the wonted pace: but there is, 2/2/321
 sir, an aery of children, little eyases, that cry out on the 2/2/322
 top of question, and are most tyrannically clapp'd for't: 2/2/323

these are now the fashion; and so berattle the common 2/2/324
 stages,- so they call them,- that many wearing rapiers are 2/2/325
 afraid of goose-quills, and dare scarce come thither. 2/2/326

HAMLET.

What, are they children? who maintains 'em. how are they 2/2/327
 escoted? Will they pursue the quality no longer than they 2/2/328
 can sing? will they not say afterwards, if they should grow 2/2/329
 themselves to common players,- as it is most like, if their 2/2/330
 means are no better,- their writers do them wrong, to make 2/2/331
 them exclaim against their own succession? 2/2/332

ROSENCRANTZ.

Faith, there has been much to do on both sides; and the 2/2/333
 nation holds it no sin to tarre them to controversy; there 2/2/334
 was, for a while, no money bid for argument, unless the poet 2/2/335
 and the player went to cuffs in the question. 2/2/336

HAMLET.

Is't possible? 2/2/337

GUILDENSTERN.

O, there has been much throwing about of brains. 2/2/338

HAMLET.

Do the boys carry it away? 2/2/339

ROSENCRANTZ.

Ay, that they do, my lord; Hercules and his load too. 2/2/340

HAMLET.

It is not very strange; for my uncle is king of Denmark, and 2/2/341
 those that would make mows at him while my father lived, 2/2/342
 give twenty, forty, fifty, an hundred ducats a-piece for his 2/2/343
 picture in little. 'Sblood, there is something in this more 2/2/344
 than natural, if philosophy could find it out. [Flourish 2/2/345
 0 of trumpets within.]

GUILDENSTERN.

There are the players. 2/2/346

HAMLET.

Gentlemen, you are welcome to Elsinore. Your hands, come: 2/2/347
 the appurtenance of welcome is fashion and ceremony: let me 2/2/348
 comply with you in this garb; lest my extent to the players, 2/2/349
 which, I tell you, must show fairly outward, should more 2/2/350
 appear like entertainment than yours. You are welcome: but 2/2/351
 my uncle-father and aunt-mother are deceived. 2/2/352

GUILDENSTERN.

In what, my dear lord? 2/2/353

HAMLET.

I am but mad north-north-west: when the wind is southerly I know a hawk from a handsaw. 2/2/354
 [Enter POLONIUS.] 2/2/355
 POLONIUS.
 Well be with you, gentlemen! 2/2/356
 HAMLET.
 Hark you, Guildenstern;- and you too;- at each ear a hearer: 2/2/357
 that great baby you see there is not yet out of his 2/2/358
 swaddling-clouts. 2/2/359
 ROSENCRANTZ.
 Happily he's the second time come to them; for they say an old man is twice a child. 2/2/360
 2/2/361
 HAMLET.
 I will prophesy he comes to tell me of the players; mark it.- You say right, sir: o' Monday morning; 'twas then, 2/2/362
 indeed. 2/2/363
 2/2/364
 POLONIUS.
 My lord, I have news to tell you. 2/2/365
 HAMLET.
 My lord, I have news to tell you. When Roscius was an actor in Rome,- 2/2/366
 2/2/367
 POLONIUS.
 The actors are come hither, my lord. 2/2/368
 HAMLET.
 Buz, buz! 2/2/369
 POLONIUS.
 Upon mine honour,- 2/2/370
 HAMLET.
 Then came each actor on his ass,- 2/2/371
 POLONIUS.
 The best actors in the world, either for tragedy, comedy, 2/2/372
 history, pastoral, pastoral-comical, historical-pastoral, 2/2/373
 tragical-historical, tragical-comical-historical-pastoral, 2/2/374
 scene individable, or poem unlimited: Seneca cannot be too heavy, nor Plautus too light. For the law of writ and the liberty, these are the only men. 2/2/375
 2/2/376
 2/2/377
 HAMLET.
 O Jephthah, judge of Israel, what a treasure hadst thou! 2/2/378
 POLONIUS.
 What a treasure had he, my lord? 2/2/379
 HAMLET.
 Why, 2/2/380

"One fair daughter, and no more.
 The which he loved passing well." 2/2/381
 POLONIUS [aside].

Still on my daughter. 2/2/382
 HAMLET.

Am I not i' th'right, old Jephthah? 2/2/383
 POLONIUS.

If you call me Jephthah, my lord, I have a daughter that I 2/2/384
 love passing well. 2/2/385
 HAMLET.

Nay, that follows not. 2/2/386
 POLONIUS.

What follows, then, my lord? 2/2/387
 HAMLET.

Why, 2/2/388
 "As by lot, God wot."
 and then, you know, 2/2/390
 2/2/391
 "It came to pass, as most like it was,"- 2/2/392
 the first row of the pious chanson will show you more; for 2/2/393
 look, where my abridgement comes. 2/2/394
 [Enter four or five PLAYERS.]

You are welcome, masters; welcome, all; I am glad to see 2/2/395
 thee well; welcome, good friends.- O, my old friend! Why, 2/2/396
 thy face is valanced since I saw thee last; comest thou to 2/2/397
 beard me in Denmark?- What, my young lady and mistress! By'r 2/2/398
 lady, your ladyship is nearer to heaven than when I saw you 2/2/399
 last by the altitude of a chopine. Pray God, your voice, 2/2/400
 like a piece of uncurrent gold, be not crack'd within the 2/2/401
 ring.- Masters, you are all welcome. We'll e'en to't like 2/2/402
 French falconers, fly at any thing we see: we'll have a 2/2/403
 speech straight: come, give us a taste of your quality; 2/2/404
 come, a passionate speech. 2/2/405
 FIRST PLAYER.

What speech, my good lord? 2/2/406
 HAMLET.

I heard thee speak me a speech once,- but it was never 2/2/407
 acted; or, if it was, not above once; for the play, I 2/2/408
 remember, pleased not the million; 'twas caviare to the 2/2/409
 general: but it was- as I received it, and others, whose 2/2/410
 judgements in such matters cried in the top of mine- an 2/2/411
 excellent play, well digested in the scenes, set down with 2/2/412

as much modesty as cunning. I remember, one said there were 2/2/413
 no sallies in the lines to make the matter savoury, nor no 2/2/414
 matter in the phrase that might indict the author of 2/2/415
 affection: but call'd it an honest method, as wholesome as 2/2/416
 sweet, and by very much more handsome than fine. One speech
 2/2/417
 in it I chiefly loved: 'twas Aeneas' tale to Dido; and 2/2/418
 thereabout of it especially where he speaks of Priam's 2/2/419
 slaughter: if it live in your memory, begin at this line;- 2/2/420
 let me see, let me see; 2/2/421
 "The rugged Pyrrhus, like th'Hyrceanian beast," 2/2/422
 'tis not so:- it begins with Pyrrhus; 2/2/423
 "The rugged Pyrrhus,- he whose sable arms, 2/2/424
 Black as his purpose, did the night resemble 2/2/425
 When he lay couched in the ominous horse,- 2/2/426
 Hath now this dread and black complexion smear'd 2/2/427
 With heraldry more dismal; head to foot 2/2/428
 Now is he total gules; horridly trick'd 2/2/429
 With blood of fathers, mothers, daughters, sons, 2/2/430
 Baked and impasted with the parching streets, 2/2/431
 That lend a tyrannous and damned light 2/2/432
 To thus o'er-sized with coagulate gore, 2/2/433
 With eyes like carbuncles, the hellish Pyrrhus 2/2/434
 Old grandsire Priam seeks."- 2/2/435
 So, proceed you. 2/2/436
 POLONIUS.
 'Fore God, my lord, well spoken, with good accent and good 2/2/437
 discretion. 2/2/438
 FIRST PLAYER.
 "Anon he finds him
 Striking too short at Greeks; his antique sword, 2/2/439
 Rebellious to his arm, lies where it falls, 2/2/440
 Repugnant to command: unequal match'd, 2/2/441
 Pyrrhus at Priam drives; in rage strikes wide; 2/2/442
 But with the whiff and wind of his fell sword 2/2/443
 Th'unnerved father falls. Then senseless Ilium, 2/2/444
 Seeming to feel this blow, with flaming top 2/2/445
 Stoops to his base; and with a hideous crash 2/2/446
 Takes prisoner Pyrrhus' ear: for, lo! his sword, 2/2/447
 Which was declining on the milky head 2/2/448
 Of reverend Priam, seem'd i' th'air to stick: 2/2/449
 So, as a painted tyrant, Pyrrhus stood; 2/2/450

And, like a neutral to his will and matter, 2/2/451
 Did nothing. 2/2/452
 But, as we often see, against some storm, 2/2/453
 A silence in the heavens, the rack stand still, 2/2/454
 The bold winds speechless, and the orb below 2/2/455
 As hush as death, anon the dreadful thunder 2/2/456
 Doth rend the region; so, after Pyrrhus' pause, 2/2/457
 Aroused vengeance sets him new a-work; 2/2/458
 And never did the Cyclops' hammers fall 2/2/459
 On Mars his armour, forged for proof eterne, 2/2/460
 With less remorse than Pyrrhus' bleeding sword 2/2/461
 Now falls on Priam.- 2/2/462
 Out, out, thou strumpet, Fortune! All you gods, 2/2/463
 In general synod, take away her power; 2/2/464
 Break all the spokes and fellies from her wheel, 2/2/465
 And bowl the round nave down the hill of heaven, 2/2/466
 As low as to the fiends!" 2/2/467
 POLONIUS.
 This is too long. 2/2/468
 HAMLET.
 It shall to th'barber's, with your beard.- Prithee, say 2/2/469
 on:- he's for a jig or a tale of bawdry, or he sleeps:- say 2/2/470
 on: come to Hecuba. 2/2/471
 FIRST PLAYER.
 "But who, O, who had seen the mobled queen-" 2/2/472
 HAMLET.
 "The mobled queen"? 2/2/473
 POLONIUS.
 That's good; "mobled queen" is good. 2/2/474
 FIRST PLAYER.
 "Run barefoot up and down, threat'ning the flames 2/2/475
 With bisson rheum; a clout upon that head 2/2/476
 Where late the diadem stood; and for a robe, 2/2/477
 About her lank and all o'er-teemed loins, 2/2/478
 A blanket, in th'alarm of fear caught up;- 2/2/479
 Who this had seen, with tongue in venom steep'd, 2/2/480
 'Gainst Fortune's state would treason have pronounced: 2/2/481
 But if the gods themselves did see her then, 2/2/482
 When she saw Pyrrhus make malicious sport 2/2/483
 In mincing with his sword her husband's limbs, 2/2/484
 The instant burst of clamour that she made- 2/2/485
 Unless things mortal move them not at all- 2/2/486
 Would have made milch the burning eyes of heaven, 2/2/487

And passion in the gods." 2/2/488
 POLONIUS.
 Look, whe'r he has not turn'd his colour, and has tears in's 2/2/489
 eyes.- Pray you, no more. 2/2/490
 HAMLET.
 'Tis well; I'll have thee speak out the rest soon.- Good my 2/2/491
 lord, will you see the players well bestow'd? Do you hear, 2/2/492
 let them be well used; for they are the abstract and brief 2/2/480
 chronicles of the time: after your death you were better 2/2/481
 have a bad epitaph than their ill report while you live. 2/2/482
 POLONIUS.
 My lord, I will use them according to their desert. 2/2/483
 HAMLET.
 God's bodykins, man, better: use every man after his desert, 2/2/484
 and who should scape whipping? Use them after your own 2/2/485
 honour and dignity: the less they deserve, the more merit is 2/2/486
 in your bounty. Take them in. 2/2/487
 POLONIUS.
 Come, sirs. 2/2/488
 HAMLET.
 Follow him, friends: we'll hear a play to-morrow. [Exit 2/2/489
 POLONIUS with all the PLAYERS but the FIRST.]
 Dost thou hear me, old friend; can you play the Murder of 2/2/490
 Gonzago? 2/2/491
 FIRST PLAYER.
 Ay, my lord. 2/2/492
 HAMLET.
 We'll ha't to-morrow night. You could, for a need, study a 2/2/493
 speech of some dozen or sixteen lines, which I would set 2/2/494
 down and insert in't, could you not? 2/2/495
 FIRST PLAYER.
 Ay, my lord. 2/2/496
 HAMLET.
 Very well.- Follow that lord; and look you mock him not. 2/2/497
 [Exit FIRST PLAYER.] My good friends, I'll leave you till 2/2/498
 night: you are welcome to Elsinore. 2/2/499
 ROSENCRANTZ.
 Good my lord! 2/2/500
 HAMLET.
 Ay, so, God be wi' ye! [Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ and 2/2/501
 GUILDENSTERN.] Now I am alone. 2/2/502
 O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I! 2/2/503

Is it not monstrous, that this player here,	2/2/504
But in a fiction, in a dream of passion,	2/2/505
Could force his soul so to his own conceit,	2/2/506
That, from her working, all his visage wann'd;	2/2/507
Tears in his eyes, distraction in's aspect,	2/2/508
A broken voice, and his whole function suiting	2/2/509
With forms to his conceit? and all for nothing!	2/2/510
For Hecuba!	2/2/510
What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba,	2/2/511
That he should weep for her? What would he do,	2/2/512
Had he the motive and the cue for passion	2/2/513
That I have? He would drown the stage with tears,	2/2/514
And cleave the general ear with horrid speech;	2/2/515
Make mad the guilty, and appal the free,	2/2/516
Confound the ignorant; and amaze, indeed,	2/2/517
The very faculties of eyes and ears.	2/2/518
Yet I,	2/2/519
A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak,	2/2/520
Like John-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause,	2/2/521
And can say nothing; no, not for a king,	2/2/522
Upon whose property and most dear life	2/2/523
A damn'd defeat was made. Am I a coward?	2/2/524
Who calls me villain? breaks my pate across?	2/2/525
Plucks off my beard, and blows it in my face?	2/2/526
Tweaks me by th'nose? gives me the lie i' th'throat,	2/2/527
As deep as to the lungs? who does me this, ha?	2/2/528
'Swounds, I should take it: for it cannot be	2/2/529
But I am pigeon-liver'd, and lack gall	2/2/530
To make oppression bitter; or, ere this,	2/2/531
I should have fatted all the region kites	2/2/532
With this slave's offal:- bloody, bawdy villain!	2/2/533
Remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!	2/2/534
O, vengeance!	2/2/535
Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave,	2/2/536
That I, the son of a dear father murder'd,	2/2/537
Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell,	2/2/538
Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with words,	2/2/539
And fall a-cursing, like a very drab,	2/2/540
A scullion!	2/2/541
Fie upon't! foh!- About, my brain! I have heard	2/2/542
That guilty creatures sitting at a play	2/2/543
Have by the very cunning of the scene	2/2/544
Been struck so to the soul, that presently	2/2/545

They have proclaim'd their malefactions;	2/2/546
For murder, though it have no tongue, will speak	2/2/547
With most miraculous organ. I'll have these players	2/2/548
Play something like the murder of my father	2/2/549
Before mine uncle: I'll observe his looks;	2/2/550
I'll tent him to the quick: if he but blench,	2/2/551
I know my course. The spirit that I have seen	2/2/552
May be the devil: and the devil hath power	2/2/553
T'assume a pleasing shape; yea, and perhaps	2/2/554
Out of my weakness and my melancholy,	2/2/555
As he is very potent with such spirits,	2/2/556
Abuses me to damn me: I'll have grounds	2/2/557
More relative than this:- the play's the thing	2/2/558
Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king. [Exit.]	2/2/559
END.	2/2/560