

Hamlet kills Polonius (Act 3, Scene 4)

ACT 3 Scene

Hamlet

Gertrude

Polonius

QUEEN

Withdraw, I hear him coming.

POLONIUS *hides behind the arras*Enter HAMLET (*Wait until she turns around, tissue in hand. Hamlet has a mirror behind back.*)HAMLET Now, mother, what's the matter?

QUEEN Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

HAMLET Mother, you have my father much offended.

10 QUEEN Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

HAMLET Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

QUEEN Why, how now, Hamlet?

HAMLET What's the matter now?

QUEEN Have you forgot me?

HAMLET No, by the rood, not so.15 *bow* You are the queen, your husband's brother's wife.And, would it were not so, you are my mother.

QUEEN Nay, then I'll set those to you that can speak.

HAMLET Come, come, and sit you down, you shall not budge.20 You go not till I set you up a glassWhere you may see the inmost part of you.

QUEEN What wilt thou do? Thou wilt not murder me?

Help, ho!

POLONIUS [*Behind the arras*] What ho! Help!HAMLET How now? A rat! Dead for a ducat, dead.*Thrusts his rapier through the arras* → *how many times?*POLONIUS [*Behind*] O, I am slain.

25 QUEEN O me, what hast thou done?

HAMLET Nay, I know not. (*pause*)Is it the king?

Remember: Hamlet despises his mother for what she has done.

Queen is worried - and gets more worried as the scene goes along

really emphasize "wicked"

(*impatient*)

→ say these 4 words really slowly - count them off on your fingers

shoves the mirror in her face - really hard

- takes time to draw sword

1 straight right away

2 broad offensive

5 be round be blunt

18 glass mirror

1 lay home to deal firmly with

4 silence me hide myself

13 by the rood by the holy cross

23 Dead for a ducat, dead. I bet I've killed him (ducat: gold coin)

Lifts up the arras and discovers POLONIUS, dead

QUEEN O what a rash and bloody deed is this! (pulls arras aside, back to Hamlet)

HAMLET A bloody deed. Almost as bad, good mother,
As kill a king and marry with his brother.

30 QUEEN As kill a king? (turns and faces Hamlet)

HAMLET Ay, lady, it was my word—
Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell. ← poke Polonius with foot
I took thee for thy better. Take thy fortune:
Thou find'st to be too busy is some danger.— ← rips blanket out of Gertrude's hands
Gertrude wants to cover Polonius with a blanket → Leave wringing of your hands. Peace, sit you down,
35 And let me wring your heart; for so I shall
If it be made of penetrable stuff,
If damned custom have not braz'd it so,
That it be proof and bulwark against sense.

QUEEN What have I done, that thou dar'st wag thy tongue
40 In noise so rude against me?

HAMLET Such an act
That blurs the grace and blush of modesty,
Call virtue hypocrite, takes off the rose (scornful)
From the fair forehead of an innocent love
And sets a blister there, makes marriage vows
45 As false as dicers' oaths—O, such a deed
As from the body of contraction plucks
The very soul, and sweet religion makes
A rhapsody of words. Heaven's face does glow CUT
50 O'er this solidity and compound mass
With tristful visage, as against the doom,
Is thought-sick at the act.

QUEEN Ay me, what act
That roars so loud and thunders in the index?

HAMLET Look here upon this picture, and on this,
The counterfeit presentment of two brothers.
55 See what a grace was seated on this brow,
Hyperion's curls, the front of Jove himself,
An eye like Mars to threaten and command,
A station like the herald Mercury
New-lighted on a heaven-kissing hill,
60 A combination and a form indeed
Where every god did seem to set his seal
To give the world assurance of a man. → throw her down

32 thy better the king

33 too busy meddlesome

37 damned custom wicked lifestyle

37 braz'd hardened

38 proof and bulwark impenetrable
and armoured

42 rose bloom

45 dicers' gambler's

46 contraction the marriage
contract

48 glow blush

49 solidity and ... mass entire world

50 tristful visage sorrowful face

50 as against the doom as if it were
watching the approach of doomsday

52 index list, i.e., of sins

56 Hyperion Mythological sun god.

56 front of Jove Jupiter's forehead

57 Mars The god of war.

58 station bearing

58 Mercury Messenger of the gods.

59 New-lighted recently landed