

Shakespeare | Hamlet

Fremdsprachentexte | Englisch

William Shakespeare

Hamlet

Herausgegeben von Holger Klein

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The Tragedy of Hamlet,
Prince of Denmark

Dramatis Personae

CLAUDIUS, <i>King of Denmark</i>		
GERTRUDE, <i>Queen of Denmark, Hamlet's mother</i>		
THE GHOST <i>of Hamlet's father</i>		
HAMLET, <i>Prince of Denmark, son to the former and nephew to the present king</i>		5
POLONIUS, <i>chief councillor and Lord Chamberlain</i>		
OPHELIA, <i>daughter to Polonius</i>		
LAERTES, <i>son to Polonius</i>		
REYNALDO, <i>servant to Polonius</i>		10
VOLTEMAND	}	<i>Courtiers</i>
CORNELIUS		
OSRIC		
FRANCISCO	}	<i>Sentinels</i>
BERNARDO		
MARCELLUS		
HORATIO	}	<i>Danish gentlemen</i>
ROSENCRANTZ		
GUILDENSTERN		
<i>A company of Players</i>		20
<i>A group of Sailors</i>		
<i>Two Clowns, gravediggers</i>		
<i>A Priest</i>		
<i>English Ambassadors</i>		
<i>A Norwegian Captain</i>		25

7 **Lord Chamberlain:** Hofmarschall. | 15 **sentinel:** Wache, Wachtposten. | 22 **clown:** Dorfbewohner, Dörfler; bäurischer Tölpel.

FORTINBRAS, *Prince of Norway*
Councillors, Lords and Ladies of the Court, Attendants,
Soldiers, Crowd

The Scene: the royal Castle at Elsinore and the Danish Coast

2 **attendants** (pl.): Bedienstete, Diener, Gefolge. | 4 **Elsinore:**
Helsingør (dänische Stadt auf der Insel Seeland mit der auf einer
Halbinsel gelegenen Festung Kronborg).

Act I

Scene 1

[Midnight; a platform upon the fortifications of the castle at Elsinore.]

Francisco stands guard; enter Bernardo.

BERNARDO. Who's there?

FRANCISCO. Nay, answer me:¹ Stand and unfold yourself.

BERNARDO. Long live the King!

FRANCISCO. Bernardo?

BERNARDO. He.

FRANCISCO. You come most carefully upon your hour.

BERNARDO.

'Tis now struck twelve, get thee to bed, Francisco.²

FRANCISCO. For this relief much thanks, 'tis bitter cold,
And I am sick at heart.

BERNARDO. Have you had quiet guard?

FRANCISCO. Not a mouse stirring. 10

BERNARDO. Well, good night;

If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus,
The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste.

[Turns away.]

Enter Horatio and Marcellus.

[BA] **platform:** Terrasse, Aussichtswarte. | **fortifications** (pl.): Befestigung, Festungsanlage. | 2 **to unfold o.s.:** kundtun, wer man ist, sich identifizieren (*to unfold:* enthüllen, offenbaren). | 8 **relief:** (Wach-)Ablösung. | **much thanks:** *many thanks* (*thanks* wird hier als Sammelbegriff und daher als Singular verstanden). | 13 **rival:** Gefährte.

FRANCISCO.

I think I hear them. – Stand, ho! Who is there?

HORATIO. Friends to this ground.

MARCELLUS. And liegemen to the Dane. 15

FRANCISCO. Give you good night.

MARCELLUS. O, farewell, honest soldier;

Who hath relieved you?

FRANCISCO. Bernardo hath my place;

Give you good night.

Exit.

MARCELLO. Holla, Bernardo!

BERNARDO. Say –

What, is Horatio there?

HORATIO. [*Gives his hand.*] A piece of him.

BERNARDO.

Welcome, Horatio, welcome, good Marcellus. 20

HORATIO. What, has this thing appeared again to-night?³

BERNARDO. I have seen nothing.

MARCELLUS. Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy,

And will not let belief take hold of him

Touching this dreaded sight twice seen of us; 25

Therefore I have entreated him along

With us to watch the minutes of this night,

14 **ho**: he, heda! | 15 **liegeman**: Lehnsmann, Vasall. | **Dane**: (oberster) Däne, Dänenherrscher, dänischer König. | 16 **Give you good night**: *God give you good night*. | 17 **to relieve s.o.**: jdn. ablösen. | [BA] **exit** (Lat.): er, sie geht ab. | 19 **what**: einleitender Ausruf; wie, nun. | 23 **fantasy**: Einbildung. | 25 **touching**: bezüglich, hinsichtlich. | **dreaded**: furchterregend. | **seen of us**: *seen by us*. | 26 **to entreat**: eindringlich bitten.

That, if again this apparition come,
He may approve our eyes and speak to it.⁴

HORATIO. Tush, tush, 'twill not appear.

BERNARDO. Sit down awhile, 30

And let us once again assail your ears,
That are so fortified against our story,
What we have two nights seen.

HORATIO. Well, sit we down,
And let us hear Bernardo speak of this.

BERNARDO. Last night of all, 35

When yond same star that's westward from the pole
Had made his⁵ course t'illumine that part of heaven
Where now it burns, Marcellus and myself,
The bell then beating one ...

*Enter Ghost, in armour and bearing a marshal's
truncheon.*

MARCELLUS.

Peace, break thee off, look where it comes again! 40
[*They start up.*]

BERNARDO. In the same figure like the King that's dead.

MARCELLUS. Thou art a scholar, speak to it, Horatio.

BERNARDO. Looks 'a not like the King? Mark it, Horatio.

29 **to approve**: Recht geben. | 30 **tush**: Ausruf der Ungeduld oder Geringschätzung; pah! | 31 **to assail**: bedrängen, bestürmen. | 32 **fortified**: verschanzt, gewappnet. | 35 **last night of all**: *only last night, just last night*. | 36 **yond** (auch: *yon, yonder*): jene(r, -s) dort. | **pole**: *pole star*. | 37 **his**: *its* (vgl. Anm. 5). | **t'illumine** (poet.): *to illumine*. | [BA] **truncheon**: (Feldherrn-)Stab. | 40 **peace**: still! | **break thee off**: *break off*. | 43 **'a** (coll.): *he*. | **to mark s.th.**: auf etwas achtgeben.

HORATIO. Most like, it harrows me with fear and wonder.

BERNARDO. It would be spoke to.

MARCELLUS. Speak to it, Horatio. 45

HORATIO. What art thou that usurp'st this time of night,
Together with that fair and warlike form
In which the majesty of buried Denmark
Did sometimes march? By heaven, I charge thee,
speak.

MARCELLUS. It is offended.

BERNARDO. See, it stalks away. 50

HORATIO. Stay, speak, speak, I charge thee, speak!

Exit Ghost.

MARCELLUS. 'Tis gone and will not answer.

BERNARDO.

How now, Horatio, you tremble and look pale,
Is not this something more than fantasy?
What think you on't? 55

HORATIO. Before my God, I might not this believe
Without the sensible and true avouch
Of mine own eyes.

MARCELLUS. Is it not like the King?

HORATIO. As thou art to thyself.

44 **to harrow** (auch: *to harrow up*): (fig.) aufwühlen, ergreifen, quälen. | 45 **It would be spoke to**: *It wants to be spoken to*. | 46 **to usurp s.th.**: sich etwas unrechtmäßig aneignen, sich einer Sache bemächtigen. | 48 **the majesty of buried Denmark**: *the buried majesty of Denmark*. | 49 **sometimes** (auch: *sometime*): früher, vormals, einst. | 50 **to stalk**: schreiten. | 55 **on't**: *of it*. | 56 **might**: *could*. | 57 **sensible**: sinnenhaft, fühlbar. | **avouch**: Zeugnis, Gewähr.

Such was the very armour he had on⁶

60

When he the ambitious Norway combated,
So frowned he once, when, in an angry parle,
He smote the sledded Polacks on the ice.
'Tis strange.

MARCELLUS.

Thus twice before, and jump at this dead hour,
With martial stalk hath he gone by our watch.

65

HORATIO. In what particular thought⁷ to work I know not,
But in the gross and scope of mine opinion
This bodes some strange eruption to our state.

MARCELLUS.

Good now, sit down, and tell me he that knows,
Why this same strict and most observant watch
So nightly toils the subject of the land,

70

61 **the ambitious Norway**: der ehrgeizige König von Norwegen (die Verwendung des Landesnamens zur Bezeichnung der Person des Herrschers war geläufig; vgl. etwa 1,2,69); gemeint ist hier der ältere Fortinbras, Vater des Prinzen und Bruder des regierenden Königs. | **to combat s.o.**: einen Zweikampf mit jdm. führen. | 62 **parle**: Unterhandlung, Verhandlungsgespräch. | 63 **to smite**: (vernichtend) schlagen. | **sledded**: schlittenfahrend (*sled*: Schlitten). | **Polack**: Pole. | 65 **jump** (adv.): genau, pünktlich. | 66 **martial**: 1. militärisch, soldatisch; 2. kriegerisch, kriegsgewohnt. | **stalk**: Einherschreiten, stolzer Schritt. | 67 **thought**: hier etwa: Lehre, Theorie (vgl. Anm. 7). | 68 **in the gross and scope**: im Großen und Ganzen. | 69 **to bode**: ankündigen, anzeigen. | **eruption**: Aufruhr, Unheil. | 70 **good now**: Ausruf des Bittens oder Drängens; etwa: bitte, sei(d) so gut und ... | 71 **observant**: aufmerksam. | 72 **to toil s.o.**: jdn. plagen. jdm. zusetzen. | **subject** (collect.): Untertanen, Volk, Leute.

And why such daily cast of brazen cannon
 And foreign mart for implements of war,
 Why such impress of shipwrights whose sore task 75
 Does not divide the Sunday from the week –
 What might be toward that this sweaty haste
 Doth make the night joint-labourer with the day:
 Who is't that can inform me?

HORATIO. That can I,
 At least the whisper goes so: Our last King, 80
 Whose image even but now appeared to us,
 Was, as you know, by Fortinbras of Norway,
 Thereto pricked on by a most emulate pride,
 Dared to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet
 (For so this side of our known world esteemed him)
 Did slay this Fortinbras, who by a sealed compact, 86
 Well ratified by law and heraldy,
 Did forfeit (with his life) all those his lands⁸

73 **cast:** *casting*: Gießen (Metall). | **brazen:** Messing-. | 74 **foreign mart:** Handel, (Kauf-)Verhandlungen im Ausland. | **implements** (pl.): Werkzeug, Gerät. | 75 **impress:** Einberufung, zwangsweises Einsetzen. | **shipwright:** Schiffsbauer. | **sore:** mühevoll, hart, schwer. | 77 **to be toward:** bevorstehen. | **sweaty:** schweißtriefend, -treibend. | 78 **joint-labourer:** Arbeitsgeselle, -gehilfe. | 80 **whisper:** Gerücht. | 81 **even but now:** *only just now*. | 83 **to prick s.o. on:** jdn. anstacheln. | **emulate:** eifersüchtig, ruhsüchtig. | 84 **to dare s.o.:** jdn. herausfordern. | **combat:** Zweikampf. | **Hamlet:** Gemeint ist der verstorbene König Hamlet. | 85 **to esteem:** (für etwas) erachten, betrachten, halten. | 86 **to seal:** besiegeln. | **compact:** Vertrag. | 87 **to ratify:** bekräftigen, bestätigen. | **heraldy:** eigtl.: Heraldik; hier etwa: Sitten und Bräuche des Rittertums. | 88 **to forfeit:** verlieren, einbüßen.

Which he stood seized of, to the conqueror,
 Against the which a moiety competent 90
 Was gaged by our King, which had returned
 To the inheritance of Fortinbras,
 Had he been vanquisher, as by the same co-mart,
 And carriage of the article designed,
 His fell to Hamlet. Now, sir, young Fortinbras, 95
 Of unimprovèd mettle hot and full,
 Hath in the skirts of Norway here and there
 Sharked up a list of lawless resolute,
 For food and diet,⁹ to some enterprise
 That hath a stomach in't, which is no other – 100
 As it doth well appear unto our state –
 But to recover of us by strong hand
 And terms compulsory, those foresaid lands
 So by his father lost; and this, I take it,

89 (*to be*) **seized of s.th.:** rechtmäßiger Besitzer von etwas sein. | **conqueror:** Sieger. | 90 **moiety:** hier: (Landes-)Teil. | **competent:** angemessen, entsprechend (groß). | 91 **to gage:** aufs Spiel setzen, einsetzen; verpfänden. | 91f. **which had returned / To the inheritance of Fortinbras:** der ins Eigentum des Fortinbras übergegangen wäre. | 93 **vanquisher:** Sieger. | **co-mart:** etwa: gemeinsame Abmachung, Vereinbarung. | 94 **carriage:** Inhalt, Sinn. | **article:** Vertragspunkt, Klausel, Passus. | **designed:** hier: zuvor erwähnt, vorbenannt. | 96 **unimproved:** hier vermutl.: unbeherrscht, ungezähmt. | **mettle:** Gesinnung, Mut; Eifer, Feuer, Kampflust. | 97 **skirts:** entlegene Gegenden, Randgebiete. | 98 **to shark up:** (wahllos) sammeln, aufreiben, ›aufschnappen‹, ›aufgabeln‹ (*shark:* Hai). | **list:** Truppe, Bande, Horde, Schar. | **resolute:** hier etwa: Abenteurer, Draufgänger, Desperado. | 99 **diet:** Verpflegung. | 100 **stomach** (fig.): Neigung, Lust, Mut. | 102 **but:** *than.* | **of:** *from.* | 103 **compulsatory:** zwingend.

Is the main motive of our preparations,
The source of this our watch, and the chief head
Of this post-haste and rummage in the land.

105

BERNARDO. I think it be no other but e'en so;
Well may it sort that this portentous figure
Comes armed through our watch so like the King
That was and is the question of these wars.

110

HORATIO. A mote it is to trouble the mind's eye.¹⁰
In the most high and palmy state of Rome,
A little ere the mightiest Julius fell,¹¹
The graves stood tenantless, and the sheeted dead
Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets ...
As¹² stars with trains of fire, and dews of blood,
Disasters in the sun; and the moist star
Upon whose influence Neptune's empire stands,

115

105 **preparations:** (Kriegs-)Vorbereitungen, Aufrüstung. |
106 **head** (fig.): Quelle, Ursprung, Grund. | 107 **post-haste:** ver-
mutl. aus der alten Briefaufschrift »Haste, post, haste« (*post*: Kurier)
entstandener Ausdruck; etwa: höchste Eile. | **rummage:** Betrieb-
samkeit, Aufruhr, Unruhe. | 109 **to sort:** übereinstimmen, passen. |
portentous: unheilvoll. | 111 **question:** Anlass, Grund. | 112 **mote:**
Staubkorn. | 113 **palmy:** siegreich, blühend (von *palm* »Palme«, im Al-
tertum Sinnbild der Schönheit und des Sieges). | 114 **ere:** ehe, bevor. |
Julius: Gemeint ist Gaius Julius Caesar (vgl. Anm. 11). |
115 **tenantless:** unbewohnt, leer (*tenant*: Bewohner). | **sheeted:** in
Leichentücher gehüllt. | 116 **to squeak:** hier: kreischen. | **to gibber:**
wirres Zeug reden, plappern, schnattern. | 117 **train:** (Kometen-)
Schweif. | 118 **disasters** (pl.): hier wörtl.: Unstern, Unheil (von lat.
astrum »Stern«); gemeint sind Sonnenfinsternisse. | **the moist star:**
Gemeint ist der Mond, der angeblich den Weltmeeren die Feuchtig-
keit entzieht. | 119 **Neptune:** römischer Meeresgott.

Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse.¹³ 120
 And even the like precursor of fierce events,
 As harbingers preceding still the fates
 And prologue to the omen coming on,
 Have heaven and earth together demonstrated
 Unto our climatures and countrymen. 125
Re-enter Ghost.
 But soft, behold, lo where it comes again!
 [*They start up.*]
 I'll cross it though it blast me.
He spreads his arms.
 – Stay, illusion!
 If thou hast any sound or use of voice,
 Speak to me.
 If there be any good thing to be done 130
 That may to thee do ease,¹⁴ and grace to me,
 Speak to me.
 If thou art privy to thy country's fate
 Which, happily, foreknowing may avoid,
 O, speak! 135
 Or if thou hast uphoarded in thy life

120 **almost to doomsday:** *almost as if it were doomsday* (*doomsday*: Tag des Jüngsten Gerichts, Jüngster Tag). | **eclipse:** Verfinsterung, Finsternis. | 121 **precursor:** Vorankündigung. | 122 **harbinger:** Vorbote. | **still:** immer, stets. | 123 **omen:** hier: unheilvolles Ereignis, Unheil. | 125 **climature:** (Klima-)Zone, Region. | 126 **soft:** (Ausruf:) still!, leise! | 127 **to cross s.o.:** sich jdm. in den Weg stellen, jdm. entgegenreten. | **to blast:** versengen, vernichten. | **illusion:** Trugbild, Phantom. | 133 **privy:** eingeweiht. | 134 **happily** (auch: *haply*) (adv.): vielleicht. | 136 **to uphoard:** an-, aufhäufen, horten.

Extorted treasure in the womb of earth,
For which, they say, you spirits oft walk in death,
Speak of it –

The cock crows

stay and speak – stop it, Marcellus!

MARCELLUS. Shall I strike at it with my partisan?

140

HORATIO. Do, if it will not stand.

BERNARDO. 'Tis here!

HORATIO. 'Tis here!

Exit Ghost.

MARCELLUS. 'Tis gone ...

We do it wrong, being so majestic,

To offer it the show of violence,

For it is, as the air, invulnerable,

145

And our vain blows malicious mockery.

BERNARDO. It was about to speak when the cock crew.

HORATIO. And then it started like a guilty thing

Upon a fearful summons. I have heard,

The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn,

150

Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat

Awake the god of day, and at his warning,

Whether in sea or fire, in earth or air,¹⁵

137 **to extort**: illegal beschaffen. | **womb**: Schoß, (Mutter-)Leib. |

140 **partisan**: Partisane (eine Art Hellebarde). | 145 **invulnerable**:

unverwundbar, unverletzlich. | 146 **malicious**: böswillig. | **mock-**

ery: Nachahmung, Nachäffen. | 147 **crew**: *crowed*. | 148 **to start**: zu-

sammenzucken. | 150 **trumpet**: *trumpeter*. | **morn** (poet.): Morgen;

Morgengrauen. | 151 **lofty**: 1. hoch aufragend, nach oben gestreckt;

2. erhaben, stolz. | 152 **the god of day**: Gemeint ist vermutl. der Son-
nengott Hyperion/Apollon.

Th' extravagant and erring spirit hies
To his confine; and of the truth herein 155
This present object made probation.

MARCELLUS. It faded on the crowing of the cock.
Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long; 160
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,¹⁶
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is that time.

HORATIO. So have I heard and do in part believe it. – 165
But look, the morn in russet mantle clad
Walks o'er the dew of yon high eastward hill.
Break we our watch up; and by my advice
Let us impart what we have seen to-night
Unto young Hamlet, for upon my life, 170
This spirit, dumb to us, will speak to him.

154 **extravagant:** umherschweifend, wandernd. | **erring:** umherirrend. | **to hie:** eilen. | 155 **confine:** (eingegrenzter) Bereich, Gefängnis. | 156 **object:** Anblick, Erscheinung. | **probation:** Beweis. | 158 **'gainst:** bevor. | 159 **Saviour:** Erlöser, Heiland. | 162 **whole-some:** zuträglich, heilsam. | **to strike:** niederstrecken (vgl. Anm. 16). | 163 **fairy:** hier: Kobold, Gnom. | **to take:** lähmen, verhexen. | 164 **hallowed:** heilig. | **gracious:** von göttlicher Gnade erfüllt, gnadenvoll. | 166 **russet:** 1. rotbraun, rötlich; 2. grau (von *russet*, einem groben, rotbraunen, grauen oder naturfarbenen Wollstoff, aus dem die Kleidung der Landbevölkerung gefertigt wurde). | **clad:** Part. Perf. von *to clothe*: kleiden. | 167 **eastward:** *eastern*. | 169 **to impart:** eröffnen, kundtun; mitteilen, anvertrauen.

Do you consent we shall acquaint him with it,
 As needful in our loves, fitting our duty?
 MARCELLUS. Let's do't, I pray, and I this morning know
 Where we shall find him most convenient.
Exeunt.

175

Scene 2

[*The hall of the castle.*]

Flourish; enter Claudius, King of Denmark, Gertrude the Queen, Council: as Polonius and his son Laertes, Hamlet, [clad in black,] and others, among them Voltemand and Cornelius; Attendants.

KING. Though yet of Hamlet our¹⁷ dear brother's death
 The memory be green, and that it us befitted
 To bear our hearts in grief, and our whole kingdom
 To be contracted in one brow of woe,
 Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature
 That we with wisest sorrow think on him,
 Together with remembrance of ourselves:

5

173 **as needful in our loves, fitting our duty**: wie es unsere Liebe zu ihm fordert und unserer Pflicht entspricht. | 175 **convenient**: *conveniently*. | [BA] **exeunt** (Lat.): sie gehen ab.

[BA] **flourish**: (Trompeten-)Fanfare, Tusch. | 2 **green** (fig.): frisch. |

that it us befitted: *though yet it us befitted (to befit: geziemen)*. |

4 **to contract**: 1. (sich) zusammenziehen, (Stirn) runzeln; 2. (fig.)

zusammenziehen, vereinen; auch: Wortspiel mit *to contract* ›(Ehe)

schließen. | 5 **discretion**: Besonnenheit, Bedacht. | **nature**: natürliches Empfinden, Gefühl.

Therefore our sometime sister⁸, now our queen,
 Th' imperial jointress to this warlike state,
 Have we, as 'twere with a defeated joy, 10
 With an auspicious and a dropping eye,
 With mirth in funeral and with dirge in marriage,
 In equal scale weighing delight and dole,
 Taken to wife; nor have we herein barred
 Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone 15
 With this affair along¹⁹ – for all, our thanks.
 Now follows that you know young Fortinbras,
 Holding a weak supposal of our worth,
 Or thinking by our late dear brother's death
 Our state to be disjoint and out of frame, 20
 Co-leaguèd with this dream of his advantage,
 He hath not failed to pester us with message
 Importing the surrender of those lands
 Lost by his father, with all bands of law,

8 **sometime**: vormalig, einstig. | **sister**: Schwägerin (vgl. Anm. 18). |
 9 **jointress**: Witwe, Erbin. | 10 **as 'twere**: sozusagen. | **defeated**:
 zerstört, verdorben. | 11 **auspicious**: freudig, heiter. | **dropping**:
 feucht, nass. | 12 **dirge**: Klage(lich). | 13 **dole**: Kummer, Wehmut,
 Leid. | 14 **to bar s.th.**: etwas unberücksichtigt lassen, etwas aus-
 schließen; sich gegen etwas sperren. | 15 **better wisdom**: etwa:
 Einsicht in das Bessere, weiser Rat, was besser zu tun ist. | **freely**
 (adv.): freiwillig, aus freien Stücken. | 15 f. **to go along with s.th.**:
 etwas zustimmen, beipflichten. | 18 **supposal**: Meinung, Ein-
 schätzung. | **worth**: (hohes) Ansehen. | 19 **by**: infolge, aufgrund. |
 20 **disjoint**: *disjointed*: verrenkt; ohne Zusammenhalt. | **out of**
frame: aus den Fugen. | 21 **co-leaguèd**: verbunden, vereint. |
 22 **to pester**: belästigen. | 23 **to import**: besagen, bedeuten, zum
 Inhalt haben. | 24 **bands**: Bindungen, Vereinbarungen.

To our most valiant brother – so much for him. 25
 Now for ourself, and for this time of meeting,
 Thus much the business is: We have here writ
 To Norway, uncle of young Fortinbras –
 Who, impotent and bedrid, scarcely hears
 Of this his nephew's purpose – to suppress 30
 His further gait herein, in that the levies,
 The lists, and full proportions are all made
 Out of his subject. And we here dispatch
 You, good Cornelius, and you, Voltemand,
 For bearers of this greeting to old Norway, 35
 Giving to you no further personal power
 To business with the King, more than the scope
 Of these dilated articles allow.

[*Hands over papers.*]

Farewell, and let your haste commend your duty.

CORNELIUS. } In that, and all things,
 VOLTEMAND. } will we show our duty. 40
 KING. We doubt it nothing, heartily farewell.

Exeunt Voltemand and Cornelius.

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

You told us of some suit, what is't, Laertes?

25 **for:** was ... betrifft. | 27 **writ:** *written*. | 29 **impotent:** kraftlos, schwach. | **bedrid:** ans Bett gefesselt. | 30 **to suppress:** unterbinden. | 31 **gait:** hier: Vorgehen(sweise). | **levy:** Truppenaushebung. | 32 **proportion:** hier: Truppenzahl, -stärke. | 35 **for:** *as*. | 38 **dilated:** ausführlich. | **allow:** *allows*; die Nähe eines Substantivs im Plural führt häufig zur Pluralbildung bei einem Verb, das eigtl. im Singular stehen müsste. | 39 **to commend s.th.:** eine Empfehlung für etwas sein. | **duty:** Ergebenheit. | 41 **nothing:** *not at all*. | 43 **suit:** Gesuch, Bitte, Anliegen.

You cannot speak of reason to the Dane
And lose your voice; what wouldst thou²⁰ beg,

Laertes,

45

That shall not be my offer, not thy asking?
The head is not more native to the heart,
The hand more instrumental to the mouth,
Than is the throne of Denmark to thy father.
What wouldst thou have, Laertes?

LAERTES.

My dread lord,

50

Your leave and favour to return to France,
From whence though willingly I came to Denmark
To show my duty in your coronation,
Yet now, I must confess, that duty done,
My thoughts and wishes bend again toward France
And bow them to your gracious leave and pardon.

55

KING. Have you your father's leave? What says Polonius?

POLONIUS.

'A hath, my lord, wrung from me my slow leave
By laboursome petition, and at last
Upon his will I sealed my hard consent;
I do beseech you, give him leave to go.

60

44 **of reason:** *reasonable, reasonably.* | 45 **to lose one's voice:** hier: vergeblich sprechen. | **wouldst:** *couldst.* | 47 **native:** eng verwandt. | 48 **instrumental:** dienlich, nützlich. | 50 **dread:** verehrt; erhaben. | 51 **leave:** Erlaubnis. | 53 **coronation:** Krönung. | 59 **laboursome:** mühselig. | **petition:** Bitten. | 59 f. **at last / Upon his will I sealed my hard consent:** 1. Schließlich drückte ich seinem Willen widerstrebend das Siegel meiner Zustimmung auf; 2. Schließlich drückte ich seinem Willen das harte Siegel meiner Zustimmung auf. | 61 **to beseech:** bitten, ersuchen, anflehen.

KING. Take thy fair hour, Laertes, time be thine,
And thy best graces spend it at thy will. –
But now, my cousin Hamlet, and my son ...

HAMLET. [*Aside.*]

A little more than kin, and less than kind.²¹ 65

KING. How is it that the clouds still hang on you?

HAMLET. Not so, my lord, I am too much in the “son”.

QUEEN. Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off,
And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark;
Do not for ever with thy vailèd lids 70

Seek for thy noble father in the dust,
Thou know’st ’tis common, all that lives must die,
Passing through nature to eternity.²²

HAMLET. Ay, madam, it is common.

QUEEN. If it be,
Why seems it so particular with thee? 75

HAMLET. Seems, madam! Nay, it is, I know not “seems”.

’Tis not alone my inky cloak, good mother,
Nor customary suits of solemn black,
Nor windy suspiration of forced breath,
No, nor the fruitful river in the eye, 80

62 **take thy fair hour**: ergreife die Gunst der Stunde. | 63 **graces**: (besondere) Eigenschaften, Gaben, Talente. | 64 **cousin**: allgemeine Bezeichnung für einen Verwandten (mit Ausnahme von Eltern, Kindern und Geschwistern). | 65 **kin**: verwandt. | **kind**: 1. freundlich; 2. naturgemäß; 3. viell. auch: rechtmäßig. | 67 **son**: Wortspiel mit *sun* und *son*. | 68 **nighted**: nächtig, düster. | 70 **to vail**: (Augen) senken. | 72 **common**: 1. allgemein; 2. gewöhnlich, alltäglich; 3. (pej.) gewöhnlich, gemein. | 77 **inky**: tintenschwarz. | 79 **windy**: 1. stürmisch, pfeifend; 2. (fig.) hohl, leer. | **suspiration**: Seufzer, Seufzen. | 80 **fruitful**: reich, ausgiebig.

Nor the dejected haviour of the visage,
 Together with all forms, modes, shapes of grief,
 That can denote me truly. These indeed seem,
 For they are actions that a man might play,
 But I have that within which passes show – 85
 These but the trappings and the suits of woe.

KING.

'Tis sweet and commendable in your nature, Hamlet,
 To give these mourning duties to your father,
 But you must know your father lost a father,
 That father lost, lost his, and the survivor bound 90
 In filial obligation for some term
 To do obsequious sorrow. But to persever
 In obstinate condolement is a course
 Of impious stubbornness, 'tis unmanly grief,
 It shows a will most incorrect to heaven, 95
 A heart unfortified, a mind impatient,
 An understanding simple and unschooled.

81 **dejected**: niedergeschlagen, bedrückt. | **haviour**: Haltung, Gebaren, Ausdruck. | **visage**: Gesicht. | 82 **shape**: Verkleidung, Kostümierung. | 83 **to denote**: bezeichnen, anzeigen. | 84 **action**: Gebärde, Geste. | 85 **to pass s.th.**: (fig.) über etwas hinausgehen, etwas überschreiten, übersteigen. | 86 **trappings** (pl.): Putz, Zierde, (schmückendes) Beiwerk. | 87 **commendable**: löblich, lobenswert. | 90 **survivor**: Überlebender. | (*to be*) **bound to do s.th.**: gehalten sein, etwas zu tun, etwas tun müssen. | 91 **filial**: Sohnes-, Kindes-. | **term**: Zeit(spanne), Weile. | 92 **obsequious**: etwa: trauervoll (*obsequies*: Beisetzungsfeierlichkeiten). | **to persever**: aus-, verharren. | 93 **condolement**: Kummer, Betrübnis, Trübsal. | 94 **impious**: unförmlich. | **stubbornness**: Halsstarrigkeit, Starrsinn. | 95 **incorrect**: ungehörig, unziemlich. | 96 **unfortified**: unverschanzt, ungewappnet, ungestählt. | 97 **unschooled**: ungeschult.

For what we know must be and is as common
 As any the most vulgar thing to sense,
 Why should we in our peevish opposition 100
 Take it to heart? Fie, 'tis a fault to heaven,
 A fault against the dead, a fault to nature,
 To reason most absurd, whose common theme
 Is death of fathers, and who still hath cried,
 From the first corse²³ till he that died to-day, 105
 "This must be so" ... We pray you, throw to earth
 This unprevailing woe, and think of us
 As of a father – for let the world take note,
 You are the most immediate to our throne,²⁴
 And with no less nobility of love 110
 Than that which dearest father bears his son,
 Do I impart toward you ... For your intent
 In going back to school in Wittenberg,²⁵
 It is most retrograde to our desire,
 And we beseech you, bend you to remain 115
 Here in the cheer and comfort of our eye,
 Our chiefest courtier, cousin, and our son.
 QUEEN. Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet:
 I pray thee, stay with us, go not to Wittenberg.

99 **vulgar**: gewöhnlich. | 100 **peevish**: töricht; bockig; mürrisch, verdrießlich. | 101 **fie**: pfui! | **fault**: Vergehen, Unrecht. | 105 **corse**: *corpse*. | **he**: *him*. | 107 **unprevailing**: unwirksam, nutzlos. | 110 **nobility**: (fig.) Adel; Edelmüt, Großmut. | 112 **to impart**: hier etwa: (sich) widmen, zuwenden. | **intent**: Absicht, Vorhaben. | 113 **school**: Hochschule, Universität. | 114 **retrograde**: gegenläufig, entgegengesetzt, zuwider. | 116 **eye**: (königliche) Gegenwart. | 118 **to lose one's prayers**: vergeblich flehen.