

**Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (Hamlet/Queen Gertrude/Lord Polonius), 3.4 | Tragedy**

*Enter HAMLET*

**HAMLET**

Now mother, what's the matter?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.

**HAMLET**

Mother, you have my father much offended.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue.

**HAMLET**

Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Why, how now, Hamlet?

**HAMLET**

What's the matter now?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Have you forgot me?

**HAMLET**

No, by the rood, not so.

You are the queen, your husband's brother's wife,

And, would it were not so, you are my mother.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

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

**HAMLET**

Come, come, and sit you down; you shall not budge.

You go not till I set you up a glass

Where you may see the inmost part of you.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

What wilt thou do? Thou wilt not murder me?

Help, ho!

**LORD POLONIUS**

[Behind the arras] What, ho! Help!

**HAMLET**

[Drawing] How now? A rat! Dead, for a ducat, dead.

Makes a pass through the arras

**LORD POLONIUS**

[Behind] O, I am slain.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

O me, what hast thou done?

**HAMLET**

Nay, I know not.  
Is it the king?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

O, what a rash and bloody deed is this!

**HAMLET**

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

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

As kill a king?

**HAMLET**

Ay, lady, 'twas my word.  
*[Lifts up the arras and discovers Polonius, dead]*  
Thou wretched, rash, intruding fool, farewell.  
I took thee for thy better. Peace, sit you down,  
And let me wring your heart; for so I shall  
If it be made of penetrable stuff.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

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

**HAMLET**

Such an act  
That blurs the grace and blush of modesty,  
Calls virtue hypocrite.

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Ay me, what act,  
That roars so loud?

**HAMLET**

Look here, upon this picture, and on this,  
This was your husband. Look you now what follows:  
Here is your husband, like a mildew'd ear  
Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you eyes?  
Would step from this to this?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

O, speak to me no more.  
These words like daggers enter in mine ears;  
No more, sweet Hamlet!

**HAMLET**

A murderer and a villain—

*Enter Ghost*

Save me, and hover o'er me with your wings,  
You heavenly guards! What would your gracious figure?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Alas, he's mad!

**HAMLET**

Do you not come your tardy son to chide,

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Alas, how is't with you,  
That you do bend your eye on vacancy  
And with the incorporal air do hold discourse?  
Whereon do you look?

**HAMLET**

On him, on him!

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

To whom do you speak this?

**HAMLET**

Do you see nothing there?

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Nothing at all; yet all that is I see.

**HAMLET**

Why, look you there, look how it steals away.  
My father, in his habit as he liv'd!  
Look, where he goes, even now, out at the portal!

*Exit Ghost*

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

This the very coinage of your brain.  
This bodiless creation ecstasy  
Is very cunning in.