

## **ACT III**

### **SCENE I. A room in the castle.**

*Enter KING CLAUDIUS , QUEER GERTRUDE,  
POLONIUS, OPHELIA, ROSENCRANTZ, and  
GUILDENSTERN*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

And can you, by no drift of circume,  
Get from him why he puts on this confusion,

**ROSENCRANTZ**

But from what cause he will by no means speak.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Good gentlemen, give him a further edge,  
And drive his purpose on to these delights.

*Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Sweet Gertrude, leave us too;  
For we have closely sent for Hamlet hither,  
That he, as 'twere by accident, may here  
Affront Ophelia:

**QUEEN GERTRUDE**

Ophelia, I do wish  
That your good beauties be the happy cause  
Of Hamlet's wildness:

**LORD POLONIUS**

I hear him coming: let's withdraw, my lord.

*Exeunt KING CLAUDIUS and POLONIUS*

*Enter HAMLET*

**HAMLET**

To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep;

No more;--Soft you now!  
The fair Ophelia! Nymph, in thy orisons  
Be all my sins remember'd.

**OPHELIA**

Good my lord,  
How does your honour for this many a day?

**HAMLET**

I humbly thank you; well, well, well.

**OPHELIA**

I pray you, now receive them.

**HAMLET**

No, not I;  
I never gave you aught.

**OPHELIA**

My honour'd lord, you know right well you did;  
Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.  
There, my lord.

**HAMLET**

Ha, Ha! are you honest?

**OPHELIA**

My lord?

**HAMLET**

Are you fair?

**OPHELIA**

What means your lordship?

**HAMLET**

I did love you once.

**OPHELIA**

Indeed, my lord, you made me believe so.

**HAMLET**

You should not have believed me; I loved you not.

**OPHELIA**

I was the more deceived.

**HAMLET**

Get thee to a nunnery: why wouldst thou be a  
breeder of sinners? Go thy ways to a nunnery.

Where's your father?

**OPHELIA**

At home, my lord.

**HAMLET**

Let the doors be shut upon him, that he may play the fool no where but in's own house. Farewell.

**OPHELIA**

O, help him, you sweet heavens!

**HAMLET**

If thou dost marry, I'll give thee this plague for thy dowry: be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny. Get thee to a nunnery, go: farewell. Or, if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool; for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them. To a nunnery, go, and quickly too. Farewell.

**OPHELIA**

*O heavenly powers, restore him!*

**HAMLET**

I have heard of your paintings too, well enough; God has given you one face, and you make yourselves another: you jig, you amble, and you lisp, and nick-name God's creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance. Go to, I'llhath made me mad. I say, we will have no more marriages: those that are married already, all but one, shall live; the rest shall keep as they are. To a nunnery, go.

*Exit*

**OPHELIA**

That unmatch'd form and feature of blown youth  
Blasted with ecstasy: O, woe is me,  
To have seen what I have seen, see what I see!

*Re-enter KING CLAUDIUS and POLONIUS*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Love! his affections do not that way tend;

Nor what he spake, though it lack'd form a little,  
Was not like madness. There's something in his soul,  
O'er which his melancholy sits on brood;  
And I do doubt the hatch and the disclose  
Will be some danger: which for to prevent,  
I have in quick determination  
Thus set it down: he shall with speed to England,  
For the demand of our neglected tribute  
Haply the seas and countries different  
With variable objects shall expel  
This something-settled matter in his heart,  
Whereon his brains still beating puts him thus  
From fashion of himself. What think you on't?

**LORD POLONIUS**

It shall do well: but yet do I believe  
The origin and commencement of his grief  
Sprung from neglected love. How now, Ophelia!  
You need not tell us what Lord Hamlet said;  
We heard it all. My lord, do as you please;  
But, if you hold it fit, after the play  
Let his queen mother all alone entreat him  
To show his grief: let her be round with him;  
And I'll be placed, so [please you, in the ear!!](#) :)  
Of all their conference. If she find him not,  
To England send him, or confine him where  
Your wisdom best shall think.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

It shall be so:  
Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go.  
*Exeunt*