

"Hamlet" at Brookfield Theatre

Sides: Older Man / Younger Man

CLAUDIUS

Now, Hamlet, where's Polonius?

HAMLET

At supper.

CLAUDIUS

At supper where?

HAMLET

Not where he eats, but where he is eaten.

A certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. That's the end.

CLAUDIUS

Alas, alas!

HAMLET

A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king
and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.

CLAUDIUS

What dost thou mean by this?

HAMLET

Nothing but to show you how a king may go a progress through the guts of a beggar.

CLAUDIUS

Where is Polonius?

HAMLET

In heaven. Send thither to see.

If your messenger find him not there, seek him i' th' other place yourself.

But if, indeed, you find him not within this month,
you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby.

CLAUDIUS

[to Attendant] Go seek him there.

HAMLET

He will stay till you come.

[Exit Attendant]

CLAUDIUS

Hamlet, this deed, for thine especial safety
Which we do tender, as we dearly grieve
For that which thou hast done must send thee hence
With fiery quickness. Therefore prepare thyself.
The bark is ready, and the wind at help,
Th' associates tend, and everything is bent for England.

HAMLET

For England?

CLAUDIUS

Ay, Hamlet.

HAMLET

Good.

CLAUDIUS

So is it, if thou knew'st our purposes.

HAMLET

Come, for England. Farewell, dear mother.

CLAUDIUS

Thy loving father, Hamlet.

HAMLET

My mother; father and mother is man and wife,
man and wife is one flesh, so my mother. Come, for England!
[He exits]

CLAUDIUS

Follow him at foot; tempt him with speed aboard.
Delay it not. I'll have him hence tonight. Away!

[ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN exit]

And England, if my love thou hold'st at aught
By letters congruing to that effect,
The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England,
For like the hectic in my blood he rages,
And thou must cure me. Till I know 'tis done, my joys will ne'er begin.