

# Hamlet Analysis

Act 1, scene 2, lines 1-16



# I.ii.1-16

Though yet of Hamlet our 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.  
Therefore our sometime sister, now our queen,  
Th' imperial jointress to this warlike state,  
Have we—as 'twere with a defeated joy,  
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  
With this affair along. For all, our thanks.



“green:” metaphor for fresh

Ironic because he shows  
no sympathy towards  
his death; marries his  
wife right after he dies.

Though yet of Hamlet our 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,

means the entire kingdom should grieve in unison



Personification of  
sorrow- people who  
grieve most  
efficiently

Yet so far hath discretion fought with nature  
That we with wisest sorrow think on him  
Together with remembrance of ourselves.

It is natural to grieve

One must think of themselves while grieving



Was his sister, now queen  
and partial owner of  
Denmark

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Was their  
really sadness  
in his  
decision? Or  
was he just  
saying that?

Symbolism and  
personification  
meaning that his  
actions both  
brought him  
sadness and joy



Their input was  
thought of  
through the  
process



Nor have we herein barred  
Your better wisdoms, which have freely gone  
With this affair along. For all, our thanks.

Almost sarcastic; who  
would want to praise  
someone who married his  
dead brother's wife a  
month after his death?

