

Hamlet Analysis

1.4 (Act 1, Scene 4)
Lines: 15-30

by: Henry Poeng

Sarcastic
Tone, Not
much
meaning
behind this
one.

He starts to question himself or second guess himself. "In my mind, even though I was raised here."

Ay, marry, is 't.
But to my mind, though I am native here
And to the manner born, it is a custom
More honored in the breach than the observance.

Again he starts to question his birth.
"Because I was born in this position, I have to act a certain way.

I do these things out of honor, not because I have too

Why is everyone so happy? We're trapped. Hamlet is stating these are trouble times.

Other nations are laughing at us. Hamlet has a certain honor that he adheres to. That honor is going down because he's the prince of Denmark.

This heavy-headed revel east and west
Makes us traduced and taxed of other nations.
They clepe us drunkards and with swinish phrase

This line restates the previous line but builds on it.
"They call us drunks."

This is a continuation of the last set of lines. It continues on the fact that other countries are laughing at Denmark and calling it a joke.

“Even though we tried our best,”
This is an even further continuation of the previous line.

Soil our addition. And indeed it takes
From our achievements, though performed at height,
The pith and marrow of our attribute.

“The very heart and soul of our country.”

“It often occurs in
certain men” It
moved from the
countries honor to
Hamlet’s honor

The evil within men are part of
their person.

So oft it chances in particular men
That for some vicious mole of nature in them—
As in their birth (wherein they are not guilty,
Since nature cannot choose his origin),

Some people, evil or good, are
born with it. They didn’t have a
choice in that matter.