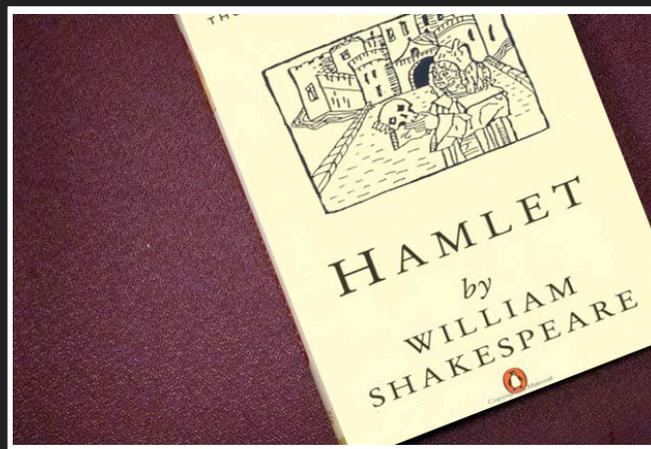


SCENE BREAK DOWN

Act I Scene III

Pgs 40-41



By Jalen Smith

~Laertes Full Speech~

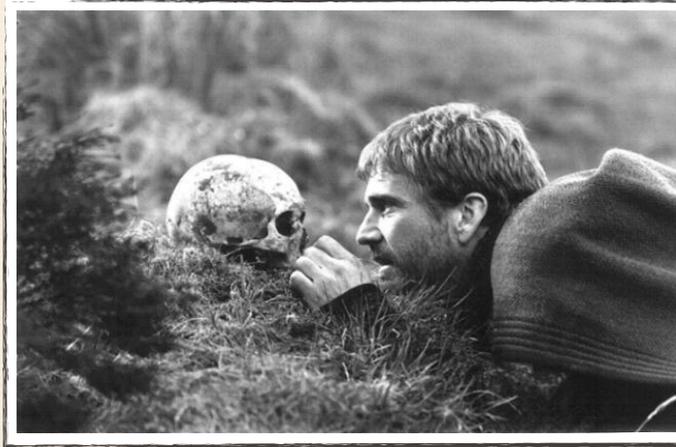


*Think it no more.
For nature, crescent, does not grow alone
In thews and (bulk) but, as this temple waxes,
The inward service of the mind and soul
Grows wide withal. Perhaps he loves you now,
And now no soil nor cautel doth demerch
The virtue of his will; but you must fear,
His greatness weigh'd, his will is not his own,
(For he himself is subject to his birth.)
He may not, as unvalued persons do,
Carve for himself, for on his choice depends
The safety and the health of this whole state.
And therefore must his choice be circumscrib'd
Unto the voice and yielding of that body
Whereof he is the head. Then, if he says he loves you,*

*It fits your wisdom so far to believe it
As he in his particular act and place
May give his saying deed, which is no further
Than the main voice of Denmark goes withal.
Then weigh what loss your honor may sustain
If with too credent ear you list his songs
Or lose your heart or your chaste treasure open
To his unmastered importunity.
Fear it, Ophelia; fear it, my dear sister,
And keep you in the rear of your affection,
Out of the shot and danger of desire.
The chariest maid is prodigal enough
If she unmask her beauty to the moon.
Virtue itself 'scapes not calumnious strokes.
The canker galls the infants of the spring
Too oft before their buttons be disclosed,
And, in the morn and liquid dew of youth,
Contagious blastments are most imminent.
Be wary, the; best safety lies in fear.
Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.*

Bit By Bit Analysis Of Speech

- ❖ The next few slide shows will touch upon the bits and pieces of the speech itself in a modernized form.



Lines: 15-20

Pg 41

"Think it no more.

*For nature, crescent, does not grow alone
In thews and (bulk) but, as this temple waxes,
The inward service of the mind and soul
Grows wide withal. Perhaps he loves you now,
And now no soil nor cautel doth demirch
The virtue of his will; but you must fear,
His greatness weighed, his will is not his own,
(For he himself is subject to his birth.)"*

In this sentence Laertes is talking about Hamlet to Ophelia and is saying that he doesn't just get bigger his body but the responsibilities that he has grow too.

In this sentence Laertes is saying that Hamlet may love Ophelia now however she has to be cautious of his actions. He says that she must remember that he belongs to a family of high authority and his intentions don't really matter that much at all.

Lines: 21- 27

Pg 41

*He may not, as unvalued persons do,
Carve for himself, for on his choice depends
The safety and the health of this whole state.
And therefore must his choice be circumscribed
Unto the voice and yielding of that body
Whereof he is the head. Then, if he says he
loves you,*

From this sentence it seems as though Laertes is saying to Ophelia that Hamlet doesn't have the same advantages other people have knowing that he belongs to a family of high authority.

In these sentences Laertes is saying to Ophelia that Hamlet can't really make personal choices for himself because the country depends on what he does. The choices that he makes for himself have to agree with the whole nation of Denmark.

Lines: 28-36

Pg 41

*It fits your wisdom so far to believe it
As he in his particular act and place
May give his saying deed, which is no further
Than the main voice of Denmark goes withal.
Then weigh what loss your honor may sustain
If with too credent ear you list his songs
Or lose your heart or your chaste treasure open
To his unmastered importunity.*

In these sentences Laertes is saying that if Hamlet really loves Ophelia he should have better wisdom to see his words just like the State of Denmark allows them to.

Ophelia should think about how shameful it would be for her to fall for his flirtatious conversations and should surrender her treasure to his importunity.

Lines: 37-48

Pg 41

*Fear it, Ophelia; fear it, my dear sister,
And keep you in the rear of your affection,
Out of the shot and danger of desire.*

*The chariest maid is prodigal enough
If she unmask her beauty to the moon.
Virtue itself 'scapes not calumnious strokes.*

*The canker galls the infants of the spring
Too oft before their buttons be disclosed,
And, in the morn and liquid dew of youth,
Contagious blastments are most imminent.*

*Be wary, the; best safety lies in fear.
Youth to itself rebels, though none else near.*

In these sentences Laertes is warning Ophelia about Hamlet's ways and that she should keep her love under control for him. Laertes says that she shouldn't become apart of his own desire.

Laertes compares his sisters beauty to the moon and tells her that she shouldn't have to expose herself to Hamlet.

Laertes goes on and talks about the spring time flowers and also mentions that they are more prone to getting a type of illness. Laertes says that if you have fear then it will keep you safe from all of the bad things that will happen to her.