**Hamlet Quotes**

HAMLET: “Oh that this too too solid flesh would melt. “ (I.ii.129)

HAMLET: “Frailty, thy name is woman!—“ (I.ii.146)

HAMLET: “My father’s spirit, in arms! All is not well. I doubt some foul play.” (I.ii.254)

LAERTES: “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.” (I.iii.33-37)

LAERTES: “Be wary than; best safety lives in fear.” (I.iii.43)

OPHELIA: “Do not as some ungracious pasters do,

 Show me the steep and thorny waya to heaven;

 Whilst, like a puff’d and reckless libertine,

 Himself the primrose path of dalliance treads

 And recks not his own read.” (I.iii.47-51)

POLONIUS : “This above all, -- to thine own self be true;

 And it must follow, as the night the day,

 Thou canst not then be false to any man.” (I.iii.78-80)

POLONIUS: “I do know, when the blood boils, how prodigal the soul

 Lends the tongue to vows.” (I.iii.115)

MARCELLUS: “Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.” (I.iv.90)

GHOST: “If thou didst ever thy dear father love –

 Revenge his foul and most unnatural murder.

 Murder most foul, as in the best it is;

 But this most foul, strange and unnatural.” (I.v. 24-29)

GHOST: “The serpent that did sting thy father’s life

 Now wears his crown.” (I.v.38-39)

HAMLET: “My tables – meet it is I set it down

 That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;

 At least I’m sure it may be so in Denmark.” (I.v.107-110)

HAMLET: “As perchance hereafter shall think meet

 To put an antic disposition on –“ (I.v.171-172)

HAMLET: “The time is out of joint: O cursed spite,

 That ever I was born to set it right.-“ (I.v.189-190)

OPHELIA: “And with a look so piteous in purport

 As if he had been loosed out of hell

 To speak horrors, -- he comes before me.” (II.i.80-83)

POLONIUS: “This is the very ecstasy of love;

 Whose violent property for does itself,

 And leads the will to desperate undertakings.” (II.i.100-103)

CLAUDIUS: “Something have you heard

 Of Hamlet’s transformation; so I call it,

 Since nor the exterior nor the inward man

 Resembles that it was.” (II.ii.5-7)

POLONIUS: “Since brevity is the soul of wit…

 I will be brief: -- your noble son mad:

 Mad call I it; for to define true madness,

 What is’t but to be nothing else but mad?” (II.ii.92-95)

POLONIUS: (reading Hamlet’s letter) “Doubt thou the stars are fire;

 Doubt that the sun doth move;

 Doubt truth to be a liar;

 But never doubt I love.” (II.ii.115-119)

POLONIUS: “Though this be madness, yet there is method in’t.” (II.ii.200)

HAMLET: “Denmark’s a prison … A goodly one in which there are many confines, wards, and dungeons; Denmark being one o’th’worst … for there is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. To me it is a prison.” (II.ii.234-240)

HAMLET: “… Oh God, I could be bounded in a nutshell, and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams.” (II.ii.243)

HAMLET: “I have of late, but wherefore I know not, lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises; and indeed it goes so heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory; this most excellent canopy the air, look you, this brave o’erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire – why, it appeareth no other thing to me but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god! The beauty of the world, the paragon of animals – and yet to me, what is this quintessence of dust?” (II.ii. 280-290)

HAMLET: “I am but mad north-north-west. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw.” (II.ii.347)

HAMLET: “After your death you were better have a bad epitaph than their ill report while you live.” (II.ii.482)

HAMLET: “O what a rogue and peasant slave am I! Is it not monstrous that this player here, But in a fiction, in a dream of passion, could force his soul so to his own conceit That from her working all his visage wanned, tears in his eyes, distraction in’s aspect, a broken voice, and his whole function suiting with forms to his conceit? And all for nothing?” (II.ii.503-509)

HAMLET: “What would he do, had he the motive and the cue for passion that I have? He would drown the stage with tears, and cleave the general ear with horrid speech, make mad the guilty and appal the free, confound the ignorant, and amaze indeed the very faculties of eyes and ears. Yet I, A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak like a John-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause, and can say nothing – no, not for a king upon whose property and most dear life a damned defeat was made. Am I a coward?” (II.ii.512-523)

HAMLET: “”Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave, That I, the son of the dear murdered, prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell, Must like a whore unpack my heart with words, and fall a-cursing like a very drab, A scullion!” (II.ii.535-540)

HAMLET: “I’ll have these players play something like the murder of my father before mine uncle. I’ll observe his looks, I’ll tent him to the quick… The play’s the thing wherein I’ll catch the conscience of the king.” (II.ii.548-558)

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; and by a sleep to say we end the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to – ‘tis a consummation devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep – to sleep, perchance to dream. Ay, there’s the rub, For in that sleep of death what dreams may come, when we have shuffled off this mortal coil, must give us pause.” (III.i.56-68)

HAMLET: “But that dread of something after death, the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns, puzzles the will, and makes us rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of? Thus conscience does make cowards of us all, and thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o’er with the pale cast of thought.” (III.i.79-85)

OPHELIA: “Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.” (III.i.101)

HAMLET: “The power of beauty will sooner transform honesty from what it is to a bawd, than the force of honesty can translate beauty into his likeness. This was sometime a paradox, but now the time gives it proof. I did love you once. (III.i.111-113)

HAMLET: “You should not have believed me… I loved you not.” (III.i.117)

HAMLET: “Get thee to a nunnery – why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners? … We are arrant knaves all, believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery.” (III.i.119-126)

HAMLET: “Get thee to a nunnery, and quickly too. Farewell. Or if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool, for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them.” (III.i.133-135)

HAMLET: “I have heard of your paintings too, well enough. God hath given you one face and you make yourselves another. You jig, you amble, and you lisp, you nickname God’s creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance. … I say we shall have no more marriages.” (III.i.137-141)

CLAUDIUS: “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; for which to prevent, I have in quick determination thus set it down: he shall with speed to England.” (III.i.158-163)

CLAUDIUS: “Madness in great ones must not unwatched go.” (III.i.183)

HAMLET: (to Horatio) “Observe my uncle. If his occulted guilt do not itself unkennel in one speech, it is a damned ghost that we have seen and my imaginations are as foul as Vulcan’s stithy.” (III.ii.70-73)

HAMLET: “O heavens! Die two months ago, and not forgotten yet? Then there’s hope a great man’s memory may outlive his life half a year.” (III.ii.116)

PLAYER QUEEN: “Oh confound the rest! Such love must needs be treason in my breast. In second husband let me be accurst: None wed the second but who killed the first.” (III.ii.158-162)

GERTRUDE: “The lady doth protest too much methinks.” (III.ii.211)

HAMLET: “So you mistake your husbands. Begin, murderer. Pox, leave thy damnable faces and begin. Come, the croaking raven doth bellow for revenge.” (III.ii.228-230)

HAMLET: “A poisons him I’th’garden for’s estate. His name’s Gonzago. The story is extant, and written in very choice Italian. You shall see anon how the murderer gets the love of Gonzago’s wife.” (III.ii.237-238)

HAMLET: “Why, let the stricken deer do weep, the hart ungalled play, for some must watch while some must sleep, thus runs the world away.” (III.ii.246-249)

HAMLET: “Why look you now how unworthy a thing you make of me. You would play upon me, you would seem to know my stops, you would pluck out the heart of my mystery, you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass … Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me.” (III.ii.329-336)

HAMLET: “’Tis now the very witching time of night, when churchyards yawn, and hell itself breathes out contagion to this world … Now to my mother. O heart, lose not thy nature … let me be cruel, not unnatural: I will speak daggers to her but use none. My tongue and soul in this be hypocrites.” (III.ii.349-358)

CLAUDIUS: “Oh my offence is rank, it smells to heaven; it hath the primal eldest curse upon’t , a brother’s murder. Pray I can not, Though inclination be as sharp as will. My stronger guilt defeats my strong intent… What if this cursed hand were thicker than itself with brother’s blood, is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens to wash it white as snow?” (III.iii.36-46)

CLAUDIUS: “But oh, what form of prayer can serve my turn? ‘Forgive me my foul murder’? That cannot be, since I am still possessed of those effects for which I did the murder, My crown, mine own ambition, and my queen. May one be pardon’d and retain the offence? … Bow stubborn knees, and heart with strings of steel be soft as sinews of the new-born babe. All may be well. “(III.iii.51-72)

HAMLET: “Now might I do it pat, now is a praying, and now I’ll do ‘t – and so goes to heaven, and so am I revenged… Why, this is hire and salary, not revenge.” (III.iii.73-79)

CLAUDIUS: “My words fly up, my thoughts remain below. Words without thoughts never to heaven go.” (III.iii.97-98)

GERTRUDE: “Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended.” (III.iv.9)

HAMLET: “Mother, you have my father much offended.” (III.iv.10)

HAMLET: “Come, come and sit you down, you shall not budge. You go not till I set you up a glass where you may see the inmost part of you.” (III.iv.19-21)

HAMLET: “A bloody deed? Almost as bad, good mother, as kill a king and marry with his brother.” (III.iv.28)

HAMLET: “Such an act that blurs the grace and blush of modesty, calls virtue hypocrite, takes off the rose from the fair forehead of an innocent love and sets blisters there, makes marriage vows as false as dicers’ oaths.” (III.iv.40-45)

HAMLET: “O shame, where is thy blush? Rebellious hell, if thou can mutine in a matron’s bones, to flaming youth let virtue be as wax and melt in her own fire.” (III.iv.82-85)

GERTRUDE: “O speak to me no more. These words like daggers in my ears. No more sweet Hamlet.” (III.iv.94-96)

HAMLET: “It is not madness that I have uttered…Mother … confess yourself to heaven, repent what’s past, avoid what is to come, and do not spread the compost on the weeds to make them ranker.” (III.iv.142-154)

HAMLET: “I must be cruel only to be kind; thus bad begins, and worse remains behind.” (III.iv.179)

GERTRUDE: “Be thou assured, if words be made of breath, and breath of life, I have no life to breathe what thou hast said to me.” (III.iv.198-200)

HAMLET: “Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we fat all creatures else to fat us, and we fat ourselves for maggots. Your fat king and your lean beggar is but variable service, two dishes, but to one table; that’s the end… A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of that worm.” (IV.iii.20-26)

HAMLET: “How all occasions do inform against me, and spur my dull revenge! What is a man if his chief good and market of his time be but to sleep and feed? … How stand I then, that have a father killed, a mother stained, excitements of my reason and blood, and let all sleep … Oh from this time forth, my thoughts be bloody or be nothing worth.”(IV.iv.32-66)

OPHELIA: “I hope all will be well. We must be patient, but I cannot choose but weep to think they would lay him I’th’ cold ground. My brother shall know of it.” (IV.v.68-70)

LAERTES: “How come he dead? I’ll not be juggled with. To hell allegiance, vows to the blackest devil, conscience and grace to the profoundest pit! I dare damnation. To this point I stand, that both the worlds I give to negligence, let come what comes, only I’ll be revenged most thoroughly for my father.” (IV.x.130-134)

LAERTES: “And so I have a noble father lost, a sister driven into desperate terms… but my revenge will come.” (IV.vii.25-27)

CLAUDIUS: “Laertes, was your father dear to you? Or are you like the painting of a sorrow, a face without a heart? … Hamlet comes back; what would you undertake to show yourself in deed your father’s son more than in words?” (IV.vii.106-124)

CLAUDIUS: “Revenge should have no bounds.” (IV.vii.127)

LAERTES: “Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia, and therefore I forbid my tears.” (IV.vii.185)

HAMLET: “ To what base uses we may return, Horatio! (V.i.171)

HAMLET: “I loved Ophelia; forty thousand brothers could not with all their quantity of love make up my sum… The cat will mew, and dog will have his day.” (V.i.255-260)

HAMLET: “Our indiscretions sometime serves us well when our deep plots do pall, and that should learn us there’s a divinity that shapes our ends.” (V.ii.8-10)

HAMLET: (about Rozencrantz & Guildenstern) They are not near my conscience. Their defeat does by their own insinuation grow. ‘Tis dangerous when the baser nature comes between the pass and fell incensed points of mighty opposites.” (V.ii.57-60)

HAMLET: (about Claudius) He that hath killed my king, and whored my mother, popped in between th’election and my hopes” (V.ii.64-65)

HAMLET: “Not a whit, we defy augery. There is special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, ‘tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come – the readiness is all.” (V.ii.192-195)

HAMLET: (to Laertes) “Give me your pardon sir, I’ve done you wrong; but pardon’t as you are a gentleman…What I have done … I here proclaim was madness.” (V.ii.199-205)

LAERTES: “I do receive your offered love like love, and will not wrong it.” (V.ii.223)

HORATIO: “They bleed on both sides.” (V.ii.283)

LAERTES: “I am justly killed with mine own treachery.” (V.ii.287)

GERTRUDE: “O my dear Hamlet – the drink, the drink – I am poisoned.” (V.ii.290)

LAERTES: “Hamlet, thou art slain … The fould practice hath turned itself on me; lo, here I lie, never to rise again. Thy mother’s poisoned – I can no more – the king, the king’s to blame.” (V.ii.293-301)

HAMLET: “Here, thou incestuous, murderous, damned Dane, drink of this potion. Is thy union here? Follow my mother.” (V.ii.303-304)

LAERTES: “Exchange forgiveness with me, noble Hamlet. Mine and my father’s death come not upon thee, nor thine on me.” (V.ii.308-310)

HAMLET: “Heaven make thee free of it! I follow thee. I am dead, Horatio. … Thou livest; report me and my cause aright to the unsatisfied.” (V.ii.311-319)

HORATIO: “Now cracks a noble heart. Good night sweet prince, and flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.” (V.ii.338-340)

HORATIO: “And let me speak to th’yet unknowing world how these things came about. So shall you hear of carnal, bloody, and unnatural acts, of accidental judgements, casual slaughters, of deaths put on by cunning and forced cause, and in this upshot, purposes mistook fallen on th’ inventors’ heads.” (V.ii.358-364)