

Hamlet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 3

Father to Son

Situation: As Laertes begins to exit, having offered some thoughts to his sister about her relationship with Hamlet, Polonius enters and offers some valuable life lessons to his son.

POLONIUS: Yet here, Laertes? Aboard. The wind sits in the shoulder of your sail, and you are stayed for. My blessing with thee.

Polonius to Laertes

Hold tight these precepts. Give thy thoughts no tongue,
Nor act too swiftly. Grapple friends when young,
My son. Tie them to thy soul with hoops of
Steel; then draw in new-hatched, unfledged comrades
With care. Beware of letting a course shove
Lead to a fight, but if there, let the lads
Know you're in. Give every man they ear, but
Few thy voice. Reserve judgment, but take what
Others say. Neither a borrower nor
Lender be. Borrowing, the devil's due;
Loans oft lose themselves and can make friends sore.
This above all: to thine own self be true.
And it must follow as the night the day
Thou canst not then be false in any way.

POLONIUS: The time invests you. Go, your servants tend.

LAERTES: Farewell, Ophelia, and remember well what I have said to you.

OPHELIA: 'Tis in my memory locked, and you yourself shall keep the key to it.

Laertes exits.

POLONIUS: What is 't, Ophelia, he hath said to you?

OPHELIA: So please you, something touching the Lord Hamlet.