

Hamlet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Grief

Situation: Hamlet, the anointed successor to Denmark's crown, has a difficult time coming to terms with the death of his father and with his mother's hasty marriage to his Uncle Claudius, now Denmark's king.

QUEEN: Good Hamlet, cast thy knighted color off, and let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark. Thou know'st 'tis common; all that lives must die, passing through nature to eternity.

HAMLET: Ay, madam, it is common.

QUEEN: If it be, why seems it so particular with thee?

HAMLET: "Seems," madam? Nay, it is. I know not "seems." These but the trappings and suits of woe.

Claudius to Hamlet

Your nature is most commended, Hamlet,
To give this mourning to your father, yet
You must know your father lost a father,
And that father, lost his. Each survivor
Is bound to family grief, but to endure
Obstinately is as if your heart bore
A stubborn, openly defiant care
For what must be. The world will note you're heir
To this throne, and as the dearest father
Bears to his son, I to you. It doth seem
Strong grief for nature's fault; we can't defer
This fault against the dead whose common theme
Is death of fathers. Think of us as one
Family, the comfort of our eye, our son.

QUEEN: Let not thy mother lose her prayers, Hamlet. I pray thee, stay with us. Go not to Wittenberg.

HAMLET: I shall in all my best obey you, madam.