

## Hamlet abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 2

### History

**Situation:** While at the castle at Elsinore, Hamlet lets Horatio know of the circumstances that led to his uncovering the king's plot to have him killed at sea and how he managed to escape. As a result of assisting the king with his nasty plan, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ended up losing their lives at sea.

HAMLET: You do remember all the circumstance?

HORATIO: Remember it, my lord!

HAMLET: Sir, in my heart there was a kind of fighting that would not let me sleep.

### Hamlet to Horatio, No. 3

Since impulsive acts sometimes serve us, we  
Should learn, dear friend, there's a divinity  
That shapes our ends. With my gown wrapped about  
Me, I groped to find them and fingered their  
Packet. As I withdrew I did find out  
An exact command that was writ with care  
To have my head struck off. I sat me down,  
Devised a new command and with a frown  
Took my father's seal and, sensing the row,  
Folded, sealed and placed it safely before  
The next day's sea fight; and what followed thou  
Knowest already. 'Tis dangerous for  
Baser nature's to get involved when it's  
Between the points of mighty opposites.

HAMLET: Without debatement further, more or less, he should those bearers put to sudden death.

HORATIO: So Guildenstern and Rosencrantz go to 't.

HAMLET: They are not near my conscience. Their defeat does by drawing themselves into the affair.