

Hamlet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 2

Introspection

Situation: Hamlet has a heavy talk with himself, doing his best to come to grips with this turn of events in his family, determined to keep his views to himself. His major concern seems to be his mother's quick marriage to his father's brother, now Denmark's king.

KING: Why, 'tis a loving and a fair reply. Be as ourself in Denmark. Madam, come. Come away.
All exit but Hamlet.

Hamlet to himself, No. 1

O, that this too, too sullied flesh would pale
Into a dew. This world's uses seem stale,
O God, possessed by all things gross and rank.
That it should come to this. So loving this
Kind king to my mother that he might bank
The winds of heaven from her face. I miss
Him, but must I remember? Why, she would
Hang on him; yet within a month? How could
She, before those shoes were old with which she
Followed my father's poor body, marry
My uncle, my father's brother, when he
No more like my father than he to me.
Ere an unweeded garden grows to seed,
Ere tears in her flushed eyes dried, she married.

HAMLET: It is not, nor it cannot come to good. But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue.