

Dusting off the Classics: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Richard Sacks – Handout #1 (for class of 9/04/24)



Enrichment Program

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

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A. Horatio on the ghost after seeing it for the first time (1.1.60-63)

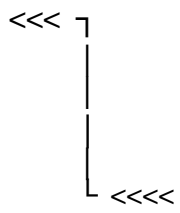
- 1.1.60 Such was the very armor he had on
1.1.61 When he th'ambitious Norway combated.
1.1.62 So frowned he once, when in an angry parle
1.1.63 He smote the sledded Polacks on the ice.

B. Horatio on the context of the watch in the opening scene: (1.1.80-107)

- 1.1.80 At least the whisper goes so. Our last King,
1.1.81 Whose image even but now appeared to us,
1.1.82 Was as you know by **Fortinbras** of Norway,
1.1.83 Thereto pricked on by a most **emulate** pride,
1.1.84 Dared to the combat; in which our valiant Hamlet –
1.1.85 For so this side of our known world esteemed him –
1.1.86 Did slay this **Fortinbras**; who by a sealed compact,
1.1.87 Well ratified by law and heraldry,
1.1.88 Did forfeit (with his life) all those his lands
1.1.89 Which he stood seized of, to the conqueror;
1.1.90 Against the which a moiety competent
1.1.91 Was gagèd by our King, which had **returned**
1.1.92 To the inheritance of **Fortinbras**
1.1.93 Had he been vanquisher; as by the same **comart**
1.1.94 And carriage of the article design,
1.1.95 His fell to Hamlet. Now sir, **young Fortinbras**,
1.1.96 **Of unimprovèd** mettle hot and full,
1.1.97 Hath in the skirts of Norway here and there
1.1.98 Sharked up a list of **landless resolutés**
1.1.99 For food and diet to some enterprise
1.1.100 That hath a stomach in't; which is no other,
1.1.101 As it doth well appear unto our state,
1.1.102 But to recover of us by strong hand
1.1.103 And terms compulsory those foresaid lands
1.1.104 So by his father lost. And this, I take it,
1.1.105 Is the main motive of our preparations,
1.1.106 The source of this our watch, and the chief head
1.1.107 Of this post-haste and romage in the land.

B3. The root of line 98 "resolutés" elsewhere in *Hamlet*

- 1.2.129ff. O that this too too solid flesh would melt,
Thaw and **resolve** itself into a dew...
3.1.83ff. 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...



A1. "Polack(s)/Poland/Pole" in *Hamlet*

- 1x in 1.1 (line 63), in Horatio's speech after seeing the ghost for the first time
2x in 2.2 (lines 63, 75) in Voltemand's report on returning from the embassy to Norway
4x in 4.4 (lines 12, 15, 21, 23), all of which appear in long section missing from F1
2x in 5.2 (lines 329, 355), one a few lines before, the other a few lines after, Hamlet's final speech as he dies

Note also 1.1.36 "When yond same star that's westward from the **pole**"

A2. Horatio's knowledge of King Hamlet

- 1.1.60-3: Horatio says he saw King Hamlet in combat vs. Norway **AND** "**frown[ing]**" as "He smote the sledded Polacks"
1.2.186: Horatio tells Hamlet "I saw him [your father] **once**"
1.2.211-2: Horatio tells Hamlet "I knew your father, / These hands are not more like"
1.2.230-1: Hamlet asks Horatio "What, looked he **frowningly**?" to which Horatio replies "A countenance more in sorrow than in anger"
1.2.240-41: Horatio on ghost's beard: "as I have seen it in his life, / A sable silvered"
5.1.120ff.: the clown telling Hamlet how long he's been a "grave-maker":
I came to't that day that our last King Hamlet o'ercame Fortinbras...
It was the very day that young Hamlet was born...

B1. "Fortinbras" in *Hamlet*

- 4x in 1.1 (lines 82, 86, 92, 95), all in Horatio's speech about the context of the watch
2x in 1.2 (lines 17, 28), both in Claudius' speech explaining the embassy to Norway
1x in 2.2 (line 68), in Voltemand's report on returning from the embassy to Norway
2x in 4.4 (lines 2, 14), the 2nd of which appears in long section missing from F1
[his name also appears in stage direction when entering at 4.4.1]
1x in 5.1 (line 121) in Clown's speech about when old Hamlet defeated old Fortinbras
2x in 5.2 (lines 329, 335), the 2nd of which appears in Hamlet's final speech as he dies
[F's name also appears in stage direction when entering at 5.2.341]

B2. Misc. words in 1.1.80ff. not found elsewhere in Shakespeare

emulate (83): Hirschfeld notes in our edition that "'emulate' as an adjective is not recorded elsewhere

comart (93): Q2 reading ('cou'nant' in F1) – word not recorded elsewhere; note *OED* (among its entries for *mart*) includes: entry #3 "letter (also script, writ) of *mart*, noun, a government licence authorizing the holder to take reprisals on citizens of a hostile state; and entry #5 "Mars, the ancient Roman god of war" and thus more generally "war, battle." Cf. 1.1.74: "And foreign mart for implements of war"

unimprovèd (96): Hirschfeld notes "Shakespeare's only use of 'unimproved'

<<< B3. The root of line 98 "resolutés" elsewhere in *Hamlet*

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C. Act 1 passages not in F1 just before entrances of the Ghost

C1 Passage in 1.1, but not in F1, immediately before Ghost enters again

Horatio [beginning at line 79]

1.1.106 ... The source of this our watch, and the chief head

1.1.107 Of this post-haste and romage in the land.

Barnardo

1.1.108 I think it be no other but e'en so.

1.1.109 Well may it sort that this portentous figure

1.1.110 Comes armèd through our watch so like the King

1.1.111 That was and is the question of these wars.

Horatio

1.1.112 A mote it is to trouble the mind's eye.

1.1.113 In the most high and palmy state of Rome,

1.1.114 A little ere the mightiest Julius fell,

1.1.115 The graves stood tenantless and the sheeted dead

1.1.116 Did squeak and gibber in the Roman streets;

1.1.117 As stars with trains of fire, and dews of blood,

1.1.118 Disasters in the sun; and the moist star,

1.1.119 Upon whose influence Neptune's empire stands,

1.1.120 Was sick almost to doomsday with eclipse.

1.1.121 And even the like precurse of feared events,

1.1.122 As harbingers preceding still the fates

1.1.123 And prologue to the omen coming on,

1.1.124 Have heaven and earth together demonstrated

1.1.125 Unto our climatures and countrymen.

Enter GHOST

1.1.126 But soft, behold, lo where it comes again!

1.1.127 I'll cross it though it blast me. Stay, illusion.

C2. Passage in 1.4, but not in F1, immediately before Ghost enters

Hamlet

1.4.8 The King doth wake tonight and takes his rouse,

1.4.9 Keeps wassail, and the swaggering up-spring reels,

1.4.10 And as he drains his draughts of Rhenish down,

1.4.11 The kettle-drum and trumpet thus bray out

1.4.12a The triumph of his pledge.

Horatio

1.4.12b Is it a custom?

Hamlet

1.4.13 Ay, marry, is't,

1.4.14 But to my mind, though I am native here

1.4.15 And to the manner born, it is a custom

1.4.16 More honored in the breach than the observance.

1.4.17 This heavy-headed revel east and west

1.4.18 Makes us traduced and taxed of other nations.

1.4.19 They clepe us drunkards, and with swinish phrase

1.4.20 Soil our addition; and indeed it takes

1.4.21 From our achievements, though performed at height,

1.4.22 The pith and marrow of our attribute.

1.4.23 So, oft it chances in particular men,

1.4.24 That for some vicious mole of nature in them,

1.4.25 As in their birth, wherein they are not guilty,

1.4.26 Since nature cannot choose his origin,

1.4.27 By the o'ergrowth of some complexion,

1.4.28 Oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason,

1.4.29 Or by some habit that too much o'erleavens

1.4.30 The form of plausible manners – that these men,

1.4.31 Carrying I say, the stamp of one defect,

1.4.32 Being Nature's livery, or Fortune's star,

1.4.33 His virtues else be they as pure as grace,

1.4.34 As infinite as man may undergo,

1.4.35 Shall in the general censure take corruption

1.4.36 From that particular fault. The dram of eale

1.4.37 Doth all the noble substance of a doubt

1.4.38a To his own scandal.

Enter GHOST

Horatio

1.4.38b

Look, my lord, it comes!

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D. Hamlet's first two lines (1.2.65 and 67)

1.2.65 A little more than kin, and less than kind.

1.2.67 Not so my lord, I am too much i'th'sun.

E. Hamlet's first soliloquy (1.2.129-159)

1.2.129 O that this too **solid** flesh would melt,
 1.2.130 Thaw and **resolve** itself into a **dew**,
 1.2.131 Or that the Everlasting had not fixed
 1.2.132 His canon 'gainst self-slaughter. O God, God,
 1.2.133 How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable
 1.2.134 Seem to me all the uses of this world!
 1.2.135 Fie on't, ah, fie, 'tis an unweeded garden
 1.2.136 That grows to seed, things rank and gross in nature
 1.2.137 Possess it merely. That it should come to this!
 1.2.138 But two months dead – nay not so much, not two –
 1.2.139 So excellent a king, that was to this
 1.2.140 **Hyperion to a satyr**, so loving to my mother
 1.2.141 That he might not beteem the winds of heaven
 1.2.142 Visit her face too roughly – **heaven and earth**,
 1.2.143 Must I remember? why, she would hang on him
 1.2.144 As if increase of appetite had grown
 1.2.145 By what it fed on, and yet within a month –
 1.2.146 Let me not think on't; frailty, thy name is woman –
 1.2.147 A little month, or ere those shoes were old
 1.2.148 With which she followed my poor father's body
 1.2.149 **Like Niobe, all tears**, why she, even she –
 1.2.150 O God, **a beast that wants discourse of reason**
 1.2.151 Would have mourned longer – married with my uncle,
 1.2.152 My father's brother, but no more like my father
 1.2.153 **Than I to Hercules** – within a month,
 1.2.154 Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears
 1.2.155 Had left the flushing in her gallèd eyes,
 1.2.156 She married. Oh most wicked speed, to post
 1.2.157 With such dexterity to incestuous sheets.
 1.2.158 It is not, nor it cannot come to good.
 1.2.159 But break, my heart, for I must hold my tongue.

D1A. 1.2.128-30: in First Folio (F1) in 2nd Quarto (Q2)

<p>Respeaking earthly Thunder. Come away. <i>Exeunt</i> <i>Manes Hamlet.</i> <i>Ham.</i> Oh that this too too solid flesh, would melt, Thaw, and resolve it selfe into a Dew:</p>	<p>Respeaking earthly thunder, come away. <i>Florish.</i> <i>Exeunt all,</i> <i>but Hamlet.</i> <i>Ham.</i> O that this too too sallied flesh would melt, Thaw and resolve it selfe into a dewe,</p>	<p>The rowle the King shall drinke vnto Prince Hamlets. <i>Exeunt all but Hamlet.</i> <i>Ham.</i> O that this too much grieu'd and sallied flesh Would melt to nothing, or that the vniuersall</p>
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D1. kĭn ~ kĭnd vs. reversal to kĭn ~ kĭnd

kine: "archaic plural of 'cow' (*OED*);

note *1H4.2.4.448-50* (Falstaff speaking):

If to be old and merry be a sin, then many an old host that I know is damned.

If to be fat be to be hated, then Pharaoh's lean **kine** are to be loved.

kind/kynded: past participle of archaic verb "kĭnd" ('to beget' – cf. *OED*);

note from 1596, Spenser, *Fairy Queen*, 5.5.40:

Not borne of Beares and Tygres, nor so sauage mynded, As that...She yet forgets, that she of men was **kynded**.

>>> "a little more than a beast (cf. 140 'satyr' & 150 'beast') and less than your son"

D2. "I am too much i'th'sun"

1st instance of "son" – 1.2.64 (only 3 lines earlier) "my cousin Hamlet and my **son**"

note next instance is 1.2.111 "dearest father bears his **son**"

1st instance of "sun" – 1.1.117-8 "**dews** of blood / Disasters in the **sun**"

note this is from the 1st extended passage absent from F1

note 1.2.140 "Hyperion" in Hamlet's 1st soliloquy (cf. item D on this handout):

Hyperion in classical mythology is the son of Ouranos (Sky) and Gaia (Earth) – cf. line 142 "Heaven and Earth!" – and is most frequently used as **a name of the sun-god**; but there is also a tradition that Hyperion is the father of Helios (another name for the sun-god).

E1. 1.2.129: **solid** (F1) ~ **sallied** (Q2, Q1) ~ **sullied** (many, many editors)

sallied (from *OED*): past participle from verb *sally*, "Of a warlike force: To issue suddenly from a place of defence or retreat in order to make an attack; **spec. of a besieged force**"

sullied: "tarnished, soiled" – oft-proposed reading "via" 2.1.39 "You laying these slight sullies on my son" with F1 reading "sulleyes" and Q2 "sallies"

E2. Classical myth in 1.2.129-159

Hyperion (140): cf. my note on Hyperion in C2 above

satyr (140): cf., e.g., Hirschfeld's note in our edition: "Grotesque mythological creature, half-human half-goat,...and associated with lechery and hedonism"

Niobe (149): again, cf. Hirschfeld's note; note especially that Niobe is weeping for her dead children (not her husband) and that she weeps forever

Hercules (153): "Hercules" also at 2.2.333 and 5.1.258; the 1st of his 12 seemingly impossible labors was killing the invulnerable Nemean lion (cf. "Nemean lion" at 1.4.83)



A Structural Outline of *Hamlet* – Richard Sacks, Columbia University

