

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

HAMLET

Act II, scene 2: *Library Scene*

Hamlet, Polonius

LORD POLONIUS

How does my good Lord Hamlet?

HAMLET

Well, God-a-mercy.

LORD POLONIUS

Do you know me, my lord?

HAMLET

Excellent well; you are a fishmonger.

LORD POLONIUS

Not I, my lord.

HAMLET

Then I would you were so honest a man.

LORD POLONIUS

Honest, my lord!?

HAMLET

Ay, sir; to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand.

LORD POLONIUS

That's very true, my lord.

HAMLET

Have you a daughter?

LORD POLONIUS

I have, my lord.

HAMLET

Let her not walk i' the sun: conception is a blessing:
but not as your daughter may conceive.
Friend, look to 't.

LORD POLONIUS

[Aside] How say you by that? Still harping on my daughter!
yet he knew me not at first; he said I was a fishmonger! he is far gone... far gone.
[Back to Hamlet] What do you read, my lord?

HAMLET

Words...words... words.

LORD POLONIUS

What is the *matter*, my lord?

HAMLET

Slanders, sir.

LORD POLONIUS

[Aside] Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't.
[Back to Hamlet] Will you walk out of the air, my lord?

HAMLET

Into my grave.

LORD POLONIUS

Indeed, that is out o' the air!
[Aside] I will leave him, and suddenly contrive the means of meeting between him
and my daughter.

[Back to Hamlet] My honourablelord, I will most humbly take my leave of you.

HAMLET

You cannot, sir, take from me any thing that I will more willingly part withal:
except my life...except my life...except my life!

LORD POLONIUS

Fare you well, my lord!

HAMLET

These tedious old fools!