

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

HAMLET

Act 4, scene 5: *A Document in Madness*

Ophelia, Laertes

OPHELIA

They bore him barefaced on the bier; And in his grave rain'd many a tear:-- Fare you well, my dove!

LAERTES

Hadst thou thy wits, and didst persuade revenge,
It could not move thus.

OPHELIA

I hope all will be well. We must be patient: but I cannot choose but weep, to think they should lay him i' the cold ground. My brother shall know of it: and so I thank you for your good counsel. Come, my coach! Good night, ladies; good night, sweet ladies; good night, good night.

LAERTES

This nothing's more than matter.

OPHELIA

There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember: and there is pansies. That's for thoughts.

LAERTES

A document in madness, thoughts and remembrance fitted.

OPHELIA

There's fennel for you, and columbines: there's rue for you; and here's some for me: O you must wear your rue with a difference.

I would give you some violets, but they withered all when my father died: they say he made a good end,--

LAERTES

Thought and affliction, passion, hell itself,
She turns to favour and to prettiness.

OPHELIA

And will he not come again?
He never will come again.
His beard was as white as snow,
All flaxen was his poll:
He is gone, he is gone,
And we cast away moan:
God ha' mercy on his soul!
[Exit]

LAERTES

O heat, dry up my brains! tears seven times salt,
Burn out the sense and virtue of mine eye!
O rose of May!
Dear maid, kind sister, sweet Ophelia!
O heavens! is't possible, a young maid's wits
Should be as moral as an old man's life?

Do you see this, O God?