

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Hamlet Scenes

Act II, scene 2: Hamlet, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern

GUILDENSTERN

My honoured lord!

ROSENCRANTZ

My most dear lord!

HAMLET

My excellent good friends! Good lads, how do ye both?

ROSENCRANTZ

As the indifferent children of the earth.

GUILDENSTERN

Happy, in that we are not over-happy!

HAM

LET

What's the news?

ROSENCRANTZ

None, my lord, but that the world's grown honest.

HAMLET

But your news is not true! What have you, my good friends, deserved at the hands of fortune, that she sends you to prison hither?

GUILDENSTERN

Prison, my lord!

HAMLET

Denmark's a prison.

ROSENCRANTZ

[to Guildenstern] Then is the world one?

HAMLET

A goodly one; in which there are many wards and dungeons, Denmark being one o' the worst.

ROSENCRANTZ

We think not so, my lord!

HAMLET

To me it is a prison.

GUILDENSTERN

Why then, your ambition makes it one; 'tis too narrow for your mind.

HAMLET

But, in the beaten way of friendship, what make you at Elsinore?

ROSENCRANTZ

To visit you, my lord; no other occasion!

HAMLET

Were you not sent for? Is it a free visitation? Come, deal justly with me: come, come; nay, speak.

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

What should we say, my lord?

HAMLET

You were sent for; and there is a kind of confession in your looks. I know the good king and queen have sent for you.

ROSENCRANTZ

To what end, my lord?

HAMLET

Be even and direct with me, whether you were sent for, or no?

GUILDENSTERN

My lord, we were sent for!!

HAMLET

I will tell you why; man delights not me, no, nor woman neither, though by your smiling you seem to say so.

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN

My lord, there was no such stuff in our thoughts.

HAMLET

Why did you laugh then, when I said 'man delights not me'?

ROSENCRANTZ

To think, my lord, if you delight not in man, what entertainment the players shall receive from you:

GUILDENSTERN

We coted them on the way and hither are they coming, to offer you service.

HAMLET

I am but mad north-northwest. When the wind is southerly, I know a hawk from a handsaw!