

# **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!