Hamlet Journals - Act One

That it should come to this!
But two months dead: nay, not so much, not two:
So excellent a king; that was, to this,
Hyperion to a satyr; so loving to my mother
That he might not beteem the winds of heaven
Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth!
Must I remember? why, she would hang on him,
As if increase of appetite had grown
By what it fed on: and yet, within a month–
Let me not think on’ – Frailty, thy name is woman!

Hamlet isn’t really on the best terms with his mother. She’s basically moved on extremely fast after her husband was killed. Hamlet doesn’t really accept the fact that she has a sex life already. All of the want that she desired towards her old husband, that attraction transferred over to her old husband and that’s something Hamlet didn’t like to see. This not only shows that Hamlet gains even more hatred towards the women population, but it’s also a description on how easy his mother is.

She married. O, most wicked speed, to post
With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!
It is not nor it cannot come to good:
But break, my heart; for I must hold my tongue. (Act 1 Scene 2).

Hamlet once again has issues with his mother that leads back to his father’s death. He finds it being “incest” but I don’t really understand how that can be considering Gertrude and Claudius aren’t related through blood...

O, horrible! O, horrible! most horrible!
If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not;
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be
A couch for luxury and damned incest.
But, howsoever thou pursuest this act,
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive
Against thy mother aught: leave her to heaven
And to those thorns that in her bosom lodge,
To pricking and sting her. (Act 1 Scene 5).

When the Ghost of Hamlet senior approaches Hamlet, he let’s him know of his concerns towards Gertrude, his wife before dying. He told him to leave Gertrude alone and “leave her to heaven”. This makes it difficult on Hamlet because he wants to keep his word to his dad but he also becomes incapable of doing so because he turns obsessive over his mother’s relationship with Claudius.

O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!
My tables,—meet it is I set it down,
That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;
At least I’m sure it may be so in Denmark: (Act 1 Scene 5).

After Hamlet found out from the ghost that Claudius is the killer of his father, he went into hysterics. He realized everything in Denmark is a huge lie and cannot be believed or trusted.

Hamlet Journals - Act 2

Your party in converse, him you would sound,
Having ever seen in the prenominate crimes
The youth you breathe of guilty, be assured
He closes with you in this consequence;
'Good sir,' or so, or 'friend,' or 'gentleman,'
According to the phrase or the addition
Of man and country. (Act 2 Scene 1).

Polonius tells his housekeeper/servant thing to lie about Laertes to see how he really acts. He feels like setting someone up, or putting them on the spot, only makes it impossible for the other person to lie. Such a little brown noser.

At such a time I'll loose my daughter to him:
Be you and I behind an arras then;
Mark the encounter: (Act 2 Scene 2).

Polonius sets it up for him and Claudius to hide and see what happens when his daughter is alone with Hamlet. Basically, to catch him.. once again being deceitful.

He knew me not at first; he said I
was a fishmonger: he is far gone, far gone: and
truly in my youth I suffered much extremity for
love; very near this. (Act 2 Scene 2).

Polonius starts going mad. Hamlet convinces Polonius that he really has no idea who he is, and only had a possibility of recognizing him as a fishmonger.. (whatever that is).

Hamlet Journals - Act 3

Now might I do it pat, now he is praying;
And now I'll do't. And so he goes to heaven;
And so am I revenged. That would be scann'd:
A villain kills my father; and for that,
I, his sole son, do this same villain send
To heaven. (Act 3 Scene 3)
Hamlet finds Claudius kneeling bedside praying to God and releasing all of his sins in which Hamlet hears it all. He prays that in the end everything will be okay. As Hamlet enters the room, he draws out his sword to kill Claudius. This is when he realizes that killing him while he is praying would leave Claudius with a chance to go to heaven which is not what Hamlet wants.

O, my offence is rank it smells to heaven;
It hath the primal eldest curse upon't,
A brother's murder. (Act 3 Scene 3).

I feel like this could ultimately describe the guilt Claudius has upon killing Hamlet. So much that you can smell his sin all the way up to heaven, to the point where praying won’t get him anywhere for killing his own brother.

Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you, trippingly on the tongue: but if you mouth it, as many of your players do, I had as lief the town-crier spoke my lines.

Hamlet pulls out his bossy side when it comes to acting out his play. He only wants the players to act out the play as it is. To speak the way they usually would and not be fake about it because he could virtually get or hire anyone to do so and it wouldn’t be as effective that way.

Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; (Act 3 Scene 2).
Hamlet gets soooo pissed here because he realizes that Rosencrantz and Guilenstern tries to manipulate Hamlet into telling them everything he knows.

Hamlet Journals Act 4

Mad as the sea and wind, when both contend
Which is the mightier: in his lawless fit,
Behind the arras hearing something stir,
Whips out his rapier, cries, 'A rat, a rat!'
And, in this brainish apprehension, kills
The unseen good old man. (Act 4 Scene 1).

Hamlet begs for Gertrude to tell everyone that he is crazy even though he states that he is not. To have someone close to you lie about your madness to actually be seen as mad, seems pretty crazy. I almost feel like there’s a huge possibility that Gertrude is starting to believe it herself, too.

You promised me to wed.
So would I ha' done, by yonder sun,
An thou hadst not come to my bed. (Act 4 Scene 4).

Ophelia fell in love with Hamlet hard, to the point where she went against her belief and had sex with Hamlet if he promised to marry her, but he turned around and said he would’ve married her if she hadn’t slept with him first. So Hamlet has a little player side to him it seems.

How came he dead? I'll not be juggled with:
To hell, allegiance! vows, to the blackest devil!
Conscience and grace, to the profoundest pit! (Act 4 Scene 5).
Much like Hamlet’s discovery of his father’s death, Laertes deals with the same reaction and wants to take immediate revenge on whoever did so.

Hamlet Journal Act 5

Lay her i’ the earth:
And from her fair and unpolluted flesh
May violets spring! I tell thee, churlish priest,
A ministering angel shall my sister be,
When thou liest howling.

Religious side of Laertes is brought out when it comes to seeing his sister dead. Especially dealing with the fact that she committed suicide.

And with such cozenage—is't not perfect conscience,
To quit him with this arm? and is't not to be damn'd,
To let this canker of our nature come
In further evil? (Act 5 Scene 2).

Hamlet finally discovers his motive for killing Claudius. He’s never really wanted to take his father’s place on the throne until he is finally seen as the king which puts him into a position that makes him feel okay about seeking revenge for his father.

The potent poison quite o'er-crows my spirit:
I cannot live to hear the news from England;
But I do prophesy the election lights
On Fortinbras: he has my dying voice;
So tell him, with the occurrents, more and less,
Which have solicited. The rest is silence. (Act 5 Scene 2).
Throughout this whole thing, Hamlet finally becomes “saint like” or even comparison of God. Through his suffering, the people of Denmark were saved.

Not a whit, we defy augury: there's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come: (Act 5 Scene 2).

Hamlet reaches a huge turning point in his life and sort of accepts the fact that he is going to die. Basically coming to terms with the fact that whatever happens, it will happen - a destiny type of thing.