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Literature

16 April 2014

Hamlet's Struggle for Revenge

William Shakespeare, the greatest writer in the English language, wrote many plays including the great tragedy of Hamlet the Prince of Denmark. Throughout the play we see different themes and ideas that William Shakespeare uses to make his plays unique. Hamlet the protagonist in the play struggles to get revenge against his uncle Claudius for not only murdering his father, but also marrying Gertrude, the wife of Old King Hamlet. Hamlet changed his view on woman in general because of Gertrude's actions. Hamlet says that "Within a month, Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears. Had left the flushing in her galled eyes, She married. O most wicked speed, to post. With such dexterity to incestuous sheets! It is not it cannot come to good, but break, my heart, for i must hold my tongue"(I.ii.155-159). Hamlet says that her mother marries in less than a month after his father's death, he also says that the relation between a woman and his husbands brother is considered incest. Hamlet is upset over his mother and new Father, he shows us his sadness in his soliloquys. Through the themes of roleplay, action vs. non action, and revenge it is evident that Hamlet will struggle with his plan for revenge against Claudius.

Hamlet uses roleplay throughout the play. Hamlet's intelligence helped him because he says "Never to speak if this that you have seen. Swear by my sword"(I.v.156-157). Hamlet said

these lines to Horatio; he made him swear not to talk about him acting weird after he saw the ghost. Hamlet acted crazy so he could set up the play of his revenge against Claudius, but when hamlet acted crazy it severely damaged Ophelia. Ophelia loved Hamlet, but Polonius, Ophelia's father told her to stop talking to Hamlet because he is crazy. Hamlet also loved Ophelia, but as we stated in the beginning, Hamlet changes his view about woman. Hamlet feels all the woman are the same because of Gertrude's action. Hamlet is messy because Ophelia says to Polonius "My lord, as I was sewing in my closet, Lord Hamlet, with his doublet all unbraced; No hat upon his head; his stockings fouled, Ungartered, and down-gyved to his ankle; Pale as his shirt; his knees knocking each other; and with a look so piteous in purport as if he had been loosed out of hell to speak of horrors—he comes before me"(II.i.77-84). Ophelia's description of Hamlet made Polonius think if he was crazy with love for Ophelia, but Polonius and Ophelia didn't know Hamlet was just roleplaying. Hamlet goal of this event was for Polonius to tell Claudius that he is acting crazy, so Claudius doesn't suspect of Hamlets plan. With the theme of roleplay, Hamlet will act crazy so he has the chance to set up the play for his revenge against king Claudius

In the tragedy of Hamlet, Hamlet the protagonist has many personalities. Hamlet is depressed for many reasons, the main one is because of his father's death. Hamlet says "O! That this too too solid flesh would melt, Thaw and resolve itself into a dew! Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd, His canon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God! God!"(I.ii.129-132). We see that hamlet is depressed, because he wants to commit suicide, but he can't; It is against God's law. This line reflects the theme of action vs. non action because he wants to suicide but he doesn't. Another personality that hamlet shows is intelligence. Hamlet shows his intelligence in the way he plans his revenge. Hamlet says that "the play's the thing, Where in I'll catch the conscience of the king"(II.ii.603-605). Hamlet sets up a play that reenacts the murder of the Old King Hamlet.

This plan is smart because with Claudius expression, the truth will reveal his conscience. This is mirroring Polonius's actions when he sends Reynaldo to go to France and spy on his son Laertes; the objective was to ask Laertes friends a small lie and if they agree then they know that's the truth. Later after the play Hamlet sees Claudius praying and he is about to take his revenge, but he says "That would be scanned. A villain kills my father, and, for that, I, his sole son, do this same villain send To heaven"(III.iii.76-79). Hamlet does not kill Claudius because he will send him straight to heaven and that is not revenge for him. The fact that Hamlet does not kill Claudius reflects the theme of action vs. non action.

Many people can relate to Hamlet because everyone struggles in life with either internal or external conflicts. Hamlet's purpose in the play is to be the tragic hero, but his flaw is the inability to do what he says. Hamlet thought about what will happen to him in the after life by comparing death to sleep. When he states, "to be or not to be", Hamlet says that if he were dead, then he wouldn't have to worry about taking revenge against Claudius (III.i.58). Revenge is the main theme throughout the entire play because it is made Hamlet struggle and many other characters. Hamlet finally takes action by setting up the play for his revenge against Claudius. Hamlet's plan for revenge was good, but he is struggling internally because of many events like the death of his father. The theme of revenge affected Ophelia because she was struggling for Hamlet's love. Ophelia's suffering mirrors Hamlet struggle, even though Hamlet is struggling by many events while Ophelia only struggles for love. After Hamlet compares death to sleep, Hamlet discusses with Ophelia their relationship. Ophelia was convinced that Hamlet loved her but he said "You should not have believed me, for virtue cannot so inoculate our old stock but we shall relish of it. I loved you not"(III.i.117-119). Hamlet loses his love toward Ophelia because of Gertrude's actions. Hamlet also tells Ophelia "we will have no more marriages.

Those that are married already, all but one, shall live. The rest shall keep as they are”, we can infer that the one marriage that will die is the marriage of Claudius and Gertrude(III.i.149-153). The marriage of Claudius and Gertrude will die because Hamlet will get his revenge against Claudius by killing him.

Hamlet struggles by many events related to the themes of roleplay, action vs. non action, and revenge. Hamlet uses roleplay to act crazy so he can set up a great plan. Hamlet acts crazy for Ophelia so she tells his father Polonius. By Polonius telling king Claudius that Hamlet was acting crazy the king wouldn't suspect of Hamlets plan. Hamlet sets up a play called the mouse trap that reenacts the murder of Old King Hamlet. The play is Hamlet's plan for revenge in which he will reveal the conscience of the king. After the play Hamlet goes and sees king Claudius praying. Hamlet is about to take his revenge by killing Claudius, but he doesn't because he realized that he would send him straight to heaven. Hamlet thinks that if he sends Claudius to heaven it will be like making him a favor. By Hamlet not killing king Claudius it reflects the theme of action vs. non action. The theme of revenge was the most important because it affected many characters like Ophelia. Ophelia suffered because of Hamlet's struggle and going crazy. Ophelia thought Hamlet loved her, but Hamlet told her that he didn't love her. Hamlet did love Ophelia, but Gertrude's actions changed Hamlet's view in woman. Many people struggle because of conflicts within their life, but there is always a struggle within a conflict.