

Hamlet abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 5

Father to Son

Situation: The ghost of the late king does appear to Hamlet and Horatio at Elsinore, but refuses to speak to them. The ghost leaves. Hamlet, having chased down the ghost, challenges the ghost on a one-to-one basis. The ghost of King Hamlet then speaks to his son.

HAMLET: Whither wilt thou lead me? Speak. I'll go no further.

GHOST: Pay attention to me.

HAMLET: I will.

GHOST: Pity me not, but lend thy serious hearing to what I shall unfold.

HAMLET: Speak. I am bound to hear.

GHOST: So art thou to revenge, when thou shalt hear.

HAMLET: What?

Ghost to Hamlet

I am thy father's spirit doomed to walk
The night for a time, determined to stalk
The truth. Listen, if thou didst ever thy
Dear father love. Now, Hamlet, hear me. It
Has been give out that, sleeping in my
Orchard, a serpent stung me, but what bit
Thy father's life now wears his crown, takes my
Wife as his queen, and sent my soul to fly
With my defects still on my head. If thou
Hast a spirit in thee, keep it alive.
However thou pursue this act, allow
Not thy mind be stained nor thy soul contrive
'Gainst thy mother. As each day comes to be,
As the sun flares its fire, remember me.