

Isaac Adlowitz

Hamlet: Close Reading

Act 2, Scene 2

Lines: 204 - 209

Polonius:

(aside) How say you by that?

Still harping on my daughter.

Yet 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.

I'll speak to him again.

—(to HAMLET) What do you read, my
lord?

In this passage Polonius is vexed by Hamlet pretending not to know who exactly he is. He is even more annoyed that Hamlet has been bothering Ophelia,

Polonius during his soliloquy has composed himself and has decided to make an even better effort to connect to Hamlet, even though he wishes Hamlet would have treated him with more respect.

Polonius is trying to connect or empathize with Hamlet by seeing if they have any similar interests.

Lines: 226-232

POLONIUS

Indeed, that is out of the air. _____

(aside) How pregnant sometimes his replies are.

A happiness that often madness hits on, which
reason and sanity could not so prosperously be
delivered of. _____

I will leave him and suddenly contrive the means of
meeting between him and my daughter.

—(to HAMLET) My honorable lord, I will most
humbly take my leave of you. _____

Polonius is speaking directly to Hamlet and is frustrated that he is not cooperating with him on all cylinders.

Polonius believes that because Hamlet talks so much and acts like his time is so precious that it is reason to believe that Hamlet is insane. But he somehow was impressed by Hamlet and wants for him to see his daughter again.

Polonius is remaining polite to Hamlet even though Hamlet has acted rude to him. He also is proclaiming that he has nothing further to say.