

Hamlet: Close reading

Act I Scene 5 Line#:99-112

Viet Le

Hamlet: background

- The part before his speech was the scene that hamlet met the ghost
- The ghost revealed to him that the king was killed by Claudius

Quotes 99-105

○ all you host of heaven! ○ earth! What else?

And shall I couple hell? Hold, hold, my heart!

And you, my sinews, grow not instant old,

But bear me stiffly up. Remember thee?

Ay, thou poor ghost, while memory holds a seat

In this distracted globe. Remember thee?

These 2 lines are dramatic! He seems like he's questioning why this is happening to him. Taking the news from the ghost very tragically. He's wondering who should he swear too

Starting to go mad because all of the grief. All of a sudden bad things start happening to hamlet. Suddenly things have taken a turn for the worst.

Distracted globe seems like it could be translated into this busy world. Or his mind that is running amuck

Hamlet hears the news and is confused. he feels overwhelmed. He's not really sure about how to proceed. Its a darker tone because the ghost just gave him grave news

Quotes 106-109

Yea, from the table of my memory
I'll wipe away all trivial fond records,
All saws of books, all forms, all pressures past
That youth and observation copied there,
And thy commandment all alone shall live

Table might refer to a book that he keeps to himself. The trivial records would be just random things that he has written down. It sounds like he wants to forget.

He wants to forget everything and start new. He doesn't want any burdens. He wants a new slate.

youth and observation are basically youthful observations

Quotes 110-112

Within the book and volume of my brain,
Unmix'd with baser matter. Yes, by heaven!
O most pernicious woman!

It looks like he is talking about how his mind is cluttered with other knowledge.

It seems that hamlet is mad at his mother.