

HAMLET:CLOSE

READING

ACT:I SCENE:IV LINE#:

77-86

M E R R I K

S A U N D E R S

HORATIO

What if it tempt you toward the flood, my lord,
Or to the dreadful summit of the cliff
That beetles o'er his base into the sea,

-this is Horatio projecting his worry for Hamlet
first line: he is saying that he will drown him
2nd line:push/send off a cliff
3rd:being slammed into the sea
Horatio is imagining the worst possible scenario for Hamlet if he were to go

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HORATIO

And there assume some other horrible form,
Which might deprive your sovereignty of reason
And draw you into madness? Think of it.

this is Horatio desperately trying to get Hamlet to not go with the ghost
He is saying that the ghost will make hamlet go mad and the ghost will take over his mind
I feel that this part is foreshadowing what is to come
since the ghost in a way does "take over" hamlets mind and tells him to kill the new king
later on in the play Hamlet himself starts to question his actions and wonders if the ghost was just the devil trying to trick him

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HORATIO

The very place puts toys of desperation,
Without more motive, into every brain
That looks so many fathoms to the sea
And hears it roar beneath.

this whole section is basically saying that even the strongest of people can look over a cliff into the sea and they will be filled with despair

This can go the same with the ghost he is about to see
hamlet may be a strong mind but even looking/
talking with this entity he himself can lose it at
any moment
this is also foreshadowing
after seeing the ghost there is a question of
Hamlets mental state and how well he really is

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