

CLOSE READING


ACT 3 SCENE I

BY BRANDEN HALL

To be or not to be-that is the question
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them. To die, to sleep--
No more--and by a sleep to say we end
The heartache, and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to. 'Tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To die, to sleep--
To sleep--perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub,
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,

To be or not to be-that is the
question:

He is wondering whether or not to kill his uncle/
father. To become a murderer or not.




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The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them.

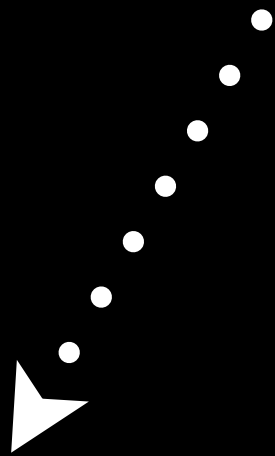
Should he just accept what life has given him? His uncle has killed his father and married his mother so should he live with it or try to fight an overwhelming enemy, his life.

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No more--and by a sleep to say we
end
The heartache, and the thousand
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That flesh is heir to.

Hamlet may be considering suicide. He is asking himself what death is, comparing it to sleep. He is also saying that death will the pain and emotions he is feeling currently.



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When we have shuffled off this mortal coil



Hamlet is wondering
what happens after
death? What will he see
when life ends?

Must give us pause. There's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life.
For who would bear the whips and scorns of
time,

Hamlet is saying that he respects the thought of living
threw the hard times because “YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE”