

HAMILET

Act 1, Scene 5

Lines 14 - 29 (Ghost)



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Introduction

Hamlet Background Info

- ❖ Author: William Shakespeare
- ❖ Written: Mid/Late 1500s
- ❖ Performed: Late 1500s / Early 1600s
- ❖ 4,402 Lines, 29,551 Word = Longest Shakespearean Play... ever.

Hamlet: Lines 14-18

I am thy father's spirit,

Hamlet first sees the ghost, the ghost comes out to be his father.

Doomed for a certain term to walk the night

15

And for the day confined to fast in fires

Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature

Are burnt and purged away...—

He wants the thing that killed him to be gone forever.

Hamlet: Lines 18-23

—...but that I am forbid

This ghost that is supposedly Hamlet's dead father is saying that he has seen things no one living should ever see.

To tell the secrets of my prison house,

I could a tale unfold whose lightest word

He then goes on to explain that if does begin to share the stories, Hamlet might become too scared to bare listening to it.

20

Would hallow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,

Make the two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres...—

Hamlet: Lines 24-29

—...Thy knotted and combinéd locks to part
And each particular hair to stand an end,
Like quills upon the fearful porpentine.

This is Hamlet's dead father's ghost continue to explicitly explain that if he told Hamlet about the things of being "dead".

But this eternal blazon must not be
To ears of flesh and blood. List, list, O list!
If though didst ever thy dear father love—

The ghost (Hamlet's Father) is afraid that Hamlet may never look at him or dead people the same.