

**Claudius.**

What, Gertrude? How does Hamlet?

**Gertrude.**

Mad as the sea and wind when both contend  
Which is the mightier. In his lawless fit  
Behind the curtain hearing something stir,  
Whips out his rapier, cries 'A rat, a rat!'  
And in this brainish apprehension kills  
The unseen good old man.

**Claudius.**

O heavy deed!

It had been so with us, had we been there.

His liberty is full of threats to all-

Alas, how shall this bloody deed be answer'd?

It will be laid to us, whose providence

Should have kept short, restrain'd, and out of haunt

This mad young man. But so much was our love

Like the owner of a foul disease,

To keep it from divulging, let it feed

Even on the pith of life. Where is he gone?

**Gertrude.**

To draw apart the body he hath kill'd;

O'er whom his very madness, like some ore

Among a mineral of metals base,

Shows itself pure. He weeps for what is done.

**Claudius.**

O Gertrude, come away!

The sun no sooner shall the mountains touch  
But we will ship him hence; and this vile deed

We must with all our majesty and skill

Both countenance and excuse. Ho, Guildenstern!

[Enter Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.]

Friends both, go join you with some further aid.

Hamlet in madness hath Polonius slain,

Go seek him out; speak fair, and bring the body

Into the chapel. I pray you haste in this.

[Exeunt [Rosencrantz and Guildenstern].]

Come, Gertrude, we'll call up our wisest friends

And let them know both what we mean to do

And what's untimely done. O, come away!

My soul is full of discord and dismay.