

Hamlet Soliloquy Act I Scene II Lines 128-159

Summaries:

What Hamlet is saying:

"I am too confined by my body! If only God had not outlawed suicide! Life is boring and worthless, like the Garden of Eden gone to seed! Especially since my mother has gone and married even though my father was so great and loved her so much! And she hangs on Claudius with new hunger! She is frail and weak! She cried so much, like Niobe, but her tears quickly dried, and then married my uncle, no more like dad than I am to Hercules, and went off to incestuous sheets!"

What Hamlet is feeling:

Hamlet is angry. Mad about not being able to die and mad about his mother marrying so quickly, and to his uncle! He thinks she is being frail and her hunger for sexual satisfaction disgusts him. He accuses her of being disrespectful and unloving/unfaithful to his father. In this soliloquy Hamlet reveals his depression and want of control of something, anything in his life! This want may have sown the seeds of his "madness" if you believe he goes mad.

SIFT:

Symbolism:

Everlasting is God. All the uses of the world is life. The unweeded garden is the Garden of Eden. Gertrude's appetite is her lust. Niobe is like Gertrude right after the King's death. Hamlet feels inadequate and weak, as shown by his reference to Hercules. Hamlet is upset with both himself and his mother. He is tired of life, feels like he doesn't have any control, and is depressed.

Imagery:

Darkness, despair, and anger. I see Hamlet in both rage and a break down, both violent and meek. He is alone and is expressing his depression and anger, therefore I see him expressing it physically somehow.

Figures of Speech:

Simile, metaphor, conceit, and apostrophe.

Tone and Theme:

Tone- Angry, depressed, and dark. Vulgar and almost vengeful as well as disgusted and despairing.

Theme- Life has become droll, and women are frail. Everything is weak and decaying now.

SQUID:

1. "Frailty, thy name is woman!" Line 146-147