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AP Lit

17 November 2008

Act III Scene III Hamlet Soliloquy Explanation

SUMMARY: Prior to Hamlet's soliloquy Hamlet sets up the play to prove the guilt of Claudius. After the play is over, based on Claudius's reaction, Hamlet decides that Claudius is indeed guilty. During Hamlet's soliloquy Hamlet is watching Claudius as he is praying to God. In the soliloquy Hamlet starts off by saying that by killing Claudius he would be avenging his father's death because Claudius is indeed guilty. Then Hamlet realizes that Claudius is praying to God. Hamlet decides that because Claudius is praying to God that if Hamlet killed Claudius then Claudius would be going to Heaven in which Hamlet believes Claudius does not deserve. Hamlet then decides that he will delay his action of killing Claudius even further because he wants to kill Claudius when he is committing sin, thus he will go to hell and suffer.

SIFT AND SQUID:

Symbol:

- Praying: This is a symbol for holiness. Because Claudius is praying he will thus go to heaven.
- Incestuous Pleasure of bed: This is a symbol for sleeping with his sister.

Imagery:

- Praying: We see Claudius praying.
- Spying: We see Hamlet spying.