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2

What is Prince Hamlet's real problem? Is it the death of his father, his inappropriate attraction to his mother, or does Hamlet have a little too much going on in his head. *Hamlet* is a tragic play that highlights the darkest moments of a man's life leading straight up to his death. But what was it that drove Prince Hamlet to his death?

I feel that Hamlet has many different aspects of his personality. He is scholarly, loyal, and moral.

Hamlet suffers from some depression which I feel makes him impulsive, acting upon emotions but also too indecisive to make a decision. Hamlet is in a very emotional state with the death of his father. He is angry yet sad, but all together confused because his mother married his father's brother. I think that Hamlet's first problem is his emotional state, and that he is somewhat depressed. According to James Cartreine, PhD "It can impair your attention and memory, as well as your information processing and decision-making skills." This would explain some of Hamlet's rash decisions such as killing Polonius, thinking he was Claudius.

While Hamlet is impulsive at times, he is also indecisive. He had a few chances to kill Claudius but did not take them. In Act III scene iii, Hamlet had every chance to murder Claudius

but did not, for he claims he does not want to kill him while he is praying because his soul is now pure and can go to heaven.

Now might I do it pat, now he is praying;
And now I'll do't. And so he goes to heaven;
And so I am revenged. That would be scann'd:
A villain kills my father, and for that,
I, his sole son, do this same villain send
To heaven.(3.3 89-94)

To send a man to heaven would be payment for his crime not revenge for Prince Hamlet. Instead Hamlet takes almost a twisted approach to it, waiting for Claudius' soul to be impure again.

O, this is hire and salary, not revenge
He took my father grossly, full of bread;
With all his crimes broad blown, as flush as May;
And now his audit stands who knows save heaven?
But in our circumstance and course of thought,
'Tis heavy with him: and am I then revenged,
To take him in the purging of his soul,
When he is fit and season'd for his passage? (3.3 95-102)

Scene iii closes and Hamlet exits to Queen Gertrude's closet where she is currently secretly speaking with Polonius, so he hides behind the tappestry. The Queen tells Prince Hamlet that he has offended his father, but Hamlet is quick to respond.

No, by the rood, not so.

You are the queen, your husband's brother's wife,

And—would it were not so!—you are my mother. (3.4 31-33)

I feel that Queen Gertrude has her own suspicion on what truly happened to King Hamlet but denies them. As the Queen she is to remain loyal to the current King. Hamlet is very upset with his mother and tells her he wishes she wasn't his mother. Is that because she has married her husband's brother and lies in their incestuous bed together? Or is it really because he is jealous that Claudius did what he truly wanted to do? Hamlet seeks for attention from his mother and seems to be very curious about her sex life. Throughout Act III Scene iiiii Hamlet ridicules his mother because of her relationship with Claudius.

And live the purer with the other half.

Good night—but go not to mine uncle's bed.

Assume a virtue if you have it not.

That monster, custom, who all sense doth eat,

Of habits devil, is angel yet in this:

That to the use of actions fair and good

He likewise gives a frock or livery

That aptly is put on. Refrain tonight,

And that shall lend a kind of easiness

To the next abstinence, the next more easy.(3.4160-169)

Is this Hamlet trying to persuade his mother from his uncle's bed to his? I feel that Hamlet has a very strong sexual attraction to his mother and that his mother's new marriage has him more distraught than his own father's death.

The Oedipus complex almost always goes hand in hand with Hamlet. The Oedipus Complex is a psychoanalytic theory discovered by Sigmund Freud. His theory refers to a child's unconscious sexual desire for the opposite-sex parent and hatred for the same-sex parent. He stated “children experience this between the ages of three and five”. Normally the child would repress these feelings when they identified with the parent of the same sex. Although this is very normal and usually children grow out of it sometimes they don't. In the presence of trauma during a child's childhood, this could lead to similar reactions in their adult life. Freud did state that adults can still overcome this and that it is one of the most important social achievements of the human mind.

So is this Hamlet's problem, does he suffer from the Oedipus complex as an adult? I would say he does. Almost all his relationships revolve around his mother. Hamlet despises Claudius' and Gertrude's marriage. In return Hamlet takes it out on Ophelia.

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