

## Class 7 Hamlet

### CHAPTER 9: NOT MAD FOR LOVE

#### **Summary:**

As Hamlet discloses his philosophical nature to the readers, he notices Ophelia reading a book. Hamlet thinks that she is reading prayers and asks her to pray for him. Ophelia, having received her orders from Polonius, tells Hamlet that she wishes to return the tokens of love that he has given her. On becoming angry, Hamlet denies having given anything to her and laments the dishonesty of beauty, and claims both to have loved Ophelia once and never to have loved her at all. Angrily, he urges Ophelia to enter a nunnery. He criticizes women for making men behave like monsters and for contributing the world's dishonesty by painting their faces to appear more beautiful than they actually are.

The scene now shifts to the king and Polonius who were hiding. Claudius says that Hamlet's strange behavior has not been caused by the love for Ophelia and that his words do not appear as the words of a mad person. He says that he will send him to England, in the hope that a change of environment might lead to an end of his troubles. But Polonius still believes that his madness comes from loving Ophelia and he convinces Claudius that after the play he should be sent to his mother so that she could diagnose his problem. To this idea of his Claudius agrees.

#### **Reference to the context:**

"My lord, I have remembrances of yours that I have longed long to re-deliver."

1. Who is the speaker in the above lines?

**Ans)** Ophelia is the speaker in the

2. Whom does Ophelia refer to "my lord"?

**Ans)** She refers it to Hamlet.

3. What does the word 'remembrances' mean here?

**Ans)** The word remembrances means gifts.

4. Explain the context of the above lines.

**Ans)** In the above lines Ophelia meets Hamlet and she is willing to give back all the gifts which she had once received from Hamlet.

#### **Answer the following questions briefly:**

1. Why does Hamlet become angry?

**Ans)** Hamlet becomes angry on the words of Ophelia, who wishes to return the token of love in the form of gifts which she has once received from Prince Hamlet.

2. Why were Polonius and Claudius spying on Hamlet? Was Ophelia's presence in the castle a part of their plan?

**Ans)** Polonius and Claudius were spying on Hamlet in order to find out the cause of his maddened behavior. Yes Ophelia's presence in the castle was a part of their plan.

3. Where was Claudius planning to send Hamlet and why?

**Ans)** Claudius, the king was planning to send Hamlet to England as he thought that a change in environment might lead to his changed behavior and would end up all troubles.