

HAMLET

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

CHAPTER: 7 THE ACTORS

Summary

The chapter 'The Actors', starts with Polonius announcing the actors who would be performing a stage play. Hamlet meets the actors and instructs them to act on their given parts in a proper manner. He instructs them not to overact and not to use large gestures and to be realistic on their parts of acting. Hamlet asks one of the actors whether they could perform the play 'Murder Of Gonzago'. Then he thinks that the actors could stage his father's death scene and he could see the reaction of Claudius. And by watching him he could find whether he was guilty or not and Hamlet could know the possible step he could take ahead.

Answer the following questions:

1. Whom does Hamlet tease? Why?

Ans) Hamlet teases one of the actors who is a boy and would play the part of a woman in the play.

2. What orders does Hamlet give to Polonius?

Ans) Hamlet orders Polonius to take good care of the actors and also reminds him that these actors also deserve respect from others.

CHAPTER:8 A TRAP IS SET

SUMMARY

Claudius and Gertrude discusses Hamlet's behaviour with Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, who say that they have been unable to learn the cause of Hamlet's melancholy. They tell the king and the queen about

Hamlet's enthusiasm for the players. They leave and Claudius orders Gertrude to leave as well, saying that he and Polonius intends to spy on Hamlet where Ophelia would also appear. Polonius directs Ophelia to walk around the lobby. They hear Hamlet coming, and both Polonius and Claudius hide themselves.

Hamlet enters speaking thoughtfully about the question of whether to commit suicide or not to end the pain of experience. He says that the miseries of life are such that no one would willingly bear them. Here Hamlet compares death to a little sleep, which he thinks wouldn't be so bad. He questions as to whether it is nobler to put up with all nasty things that luck throws your way, or to fight against all those troubles by simply putting an end to them once and for all. He is being philosophical in his thoughts.

Reference to the context:

" Sweet Gertrude, leave us too, for we have closely, sent for Hamlet hither, that he, as t'were by accident, may here affront Ophelia."

1. Who is the speaker in the above lines?

Ans) Claudius is the speaker in the above lines.

2. Whom is he talking to?

Ans) He is talking to Gertrude.

3. What does the phrase 'leave us too', mean?

Ans) The phrase means that Claudius wanted Gertrude to leave him and Polonius alone.

Identify the speaker in the following lines:

1. "They have already order this night to play before him."

Ans) Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

2. "I hear him coming. Let's withdraw, my lord."

Ans) Polonius.

3. "To be or not to be! That is the question."

Ans) Hamlet.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Claudius and Gertrude call Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to the castle?

Ans) King Claudius and Gertrude called Hamlet's friends to the castle in order to diagnose the problem of Hamlet. Through them they wanted to find out the problems associated with Hamlet and the reason why he behaved in such a strange manner.

2. What directions does Polonius give to Ophelia? Why does he do so?

Ans) Polonius directs Ophelia to walk around the lobby. He did so in order to find out the problem associated with Hamlet where he and the king would secretly spy on the prince and to his actions.