

# Hamlet: Close Reading

Act I, Scene 3, Lines line 14-25  
Daniel Tuveson

# Guide

- Characterization
- Tone
- Rhyme
- Symbolism
- Metaphors
- Similes
- Descriptive phrases

# 14-17

Hamlet's mind  
and desires  
grow as he  
grows

For nature, crescent, does not grow alone

In thews and bulk, but, as this temple waxes,

The inward service of the mind and soul

Grows wide withal. Perhaps he loves you now,

Him saying  
“don't be with  
Hamlet”

Is he trying to help his  
daughter, or is he not  
prepared for her to  
grow up?

Analyze this to  
death

# 18-21

He tries to not show his dislike for Hamlet and doesn't say that he's a bad guy or anything, he just says that because he's royal he won't have enough time for Ophelia.

Doesn't this conflict with what he said about Hamlet not loving her?

And now no soil nor cautel doth besmirch

The virtue of his will, but you must fear.

His greatness weighed, **his will is not his own,**  
**For he himself is subject to his birth.**

Analyze this to death  
Is this a valid claim?

His argument for why Ophelia shouldn't be with Hamlet

# 22-25

This seems kind of like he is saying that his daughter isn't valued

He may not, as unvalued persons do,

Carve for himself, for on his choice depends

The safety and health of this whole state.

And therefore must his choice be circumscribed

Is this a lie?

He seems like he is getting desperate with his argument. He's starting to repeat himself.

Explanation for his argument