

## SCENE III.

*Another room in the castle*

*[Enter KING CLAUDIUS with some attendants]*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

How dangerous is man when his mind it warps.  
They search for him and for the corpse.  
He's clearly not right mentally,  
But we have to treat him gently.  
The public like their precious Prince.  
They'll no doubt claim his innocence.  
They judge with their hearts and not with their brains.  
We'll send him away untied, not in chains.  
A diplomatic trip it will seem,  
But his final cure . . . will be extreme.

*[Enter ROSENCRANTZ]*

What's happened?

**ROSENCRANTZ**

I'm sorry. We can't find the body.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

And where is the prince?

**ROSENCRANTZ**

Outside in the lobby.

*[Enter HAMLET and GUILDENSTERN]*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Where did you leave Polonius?

**HAMLET**

Don't be acrimonious!

He's at lunch.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Where?

**HAMLET**

Under the ground,

Being eaten by insects and worms, I'll be bound.

You can fish with a worm that has fed on a king,

Then eat fish that has fed on that very same thing.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Could you explain that to me, by any chance?

**HAMLET**

A king may ascend via a poor beggar's pants.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Just tell me where's Polonius?

**HAMLET**

It's all rather harmonious.

He's in heaven, with God, any angel will tell.

But if you don't find him there, you can go straight to hell.  
And if he's not there, in just three weeks or four,  
Just follow his smell up to your second floor.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

You two go and find him there.

*[To some Attendants]*

**HAMLET**

Don't rush, he's not going anywhere.

*[Exeunt Attendants]*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Your actions with Polonius  
Were definitely felonious,  
So we've brought forward your leaving date.  
Your boat is ready, don't make it wait.

**HAMLET**

For England!

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Yes

**HAMLET**

That's good!

**KING CLAUDIUS**

It is?

We have the finest purposes.

**HAMLET**

Your purposes I know what kind.  
I have an angel who reads your mind.  
Goodbye. Mama, we'll beat the swell.

**KING CLAUDIUS**

I am your dad.

**HAMLET**

My mum as well:  
Husband and wife, one body, one flesh;  
And so you're my mother. I'll go where it's fresh.

*[Exit]*

**KING CLAUDIUS**

Get him on that boat today  
And make darn sure it sails away.  
Everything else is already in place.  
Don't stand there gawping; go on, make haste!

*[Hands ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN a letter.]*

*[Aside]* Now, King of England, I hope it's true  
You'll obey the instructions I'm sending to you  
Asking you to kill the prince.  
You do not want the consequence  
Of letting him live. So don't delay;  
Make sure he's gone within the day.  
He ruins my plans and plagues my brain.  
I will get no peace until he is slain.

*[Exuent]*