

Osric-Hamlet

OSRIC

Your lordship is right welcome back to Denmark.

HAMLET

I humbly thank you, sir.

OSRIC

Sweet lord, if your lordship were at leisure, I should impart a thing to you from his majesty.

HAMLET

I will receive it, sir, with all diligence of spirit. Put your bonnet to his right use; 'tis for the head.

OSRIC

I thank your lordship, it is very hot.

HAMLET

No, believe me, 'tis very cold; the wind is northerly.

OSRIC

It is indifferent cold, my lord, indeed.

HAMLET

But yet methinks it is very sultry and hot for my complexion.

OSRIC

Exceedingly, my lord; it is very sultry,--as 'twere,--I cannot tell how. But, my lord, his majesty bade me signify to you that he has laid a great wager on your head: sir, this is the matter,--

HAMLET

I beseech you, remember--

HAMLET moves him to put on his hat

OSRIC

Nay, good my lord; for mine ease, in good faith. Sir, here is newly come to court Laertes; believe me, an absolute gentleman, full of most excellent differences,

HAMLET

Sir, his definement suffers no perdition in you; though, I know, to divide him inventorially would dizzy the arithmetic of memory,

OSRIC

Your lordship speaks most infallibly of him.

HAMLET

The concernancy, sir?

OSRIC

Sir?

HAMLET

What imports the nomination of this gentleman?

OSRIC

Of Laertes?

HAMLET

Of him, sir.

OSRIC

I know you are not ignorant--

You are not ignorant of what excellence Laertes is--

I mean, sir, for his weapon;

HAMLET

What's his weapon?

OSRIC

Rapier and dagger.

HAMLET

That's two of his weapons: but, well.

OSRIC

The king, sir, hath wagered with him six Barbary horses: against the which he has imponed, as I take it, six French rapiers and poniards, with their assigns, as girdle, hangers, and so **on**

HAMLET

Why is this 'imponed,' as you call it?

OSRIC

The king, sir, hath **wagered**, that in a dozen passes between yourself and **Laertes**, he shall not exceed you three hits: **the King** hath laid on twelve for nine; and it would come to immediate trial, if your lordship would vouchsafe the answer.

HAMLET

How if I answer 'no'?

OSRIC

I mean, my lord, the opposition of your person in trial.

HAMLET

Sir, I will walk here in the hall: if it please his majesty,

Let the foils be brought, the gentleman willing, and the
King hold his purpose, I will win for him an I can;
If not, I will gain nothing but my shame and the odd hits.

OSRIC

Shall I re-deliver you e'en so?

HAMLET

To this effect, sir; after what flourish your nature will.

OSRIC

I commend my duty to your lordship.

HAMLET

Yours, yours.