

Side 15: Hamlet, Rosencrantz & Guildenstern – Will you play upon this pipe?

Re-enter ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN		
	GUILDENSTERN	Good my lord, vouchsafe me a word with you.
	HAMLET	Sir, a whole history.
	GUILDENSTERN	The king, sir, is in his retirement marvelous distempered.
	HAMLET	With drink, sir?
	GUILDENSTERN	No, my lord, rather with choler.
	HAMLET	Your wisdom should show itself more richer to signify this to his doctor; for, for me to put him to his purgation would perhaps plunge him into far more choler.
	GUILDENSTERN	Good my lord, put your discourse into some frame and start not so wildly from my affair.
	HAMLET	I am tame, sir: pronounce.
	GUILDENSTERN	The queen, your mother, in most great affliction of spirit, hath sent me to you. If it shall please you to make me a wholesome answer, I will do your mother's commandment: if not, your pardon and my return shall be the end of my business.
	HAMLET	Sir, I cannot make you a wholesome answer; (mock-sobbing) my wit's diseased: but, sir, such answer as I can make, you shall command; or, rather, as you say, my mother: therefore no more, but to the matter: my mother, you say,--
A moment's pause while Guildenstern goes stubbornly silent; Rosencrantz picks up the thread	ROZENCRAINTZ	Then thus she says; your behavior hath struck her into amazement and admiration.
	HAMLET	O wonderful son, that can so astonish a mother! But is there no sequel at the heels of this mother's admiration? Impart.
	ROZENCRAINTZ	She desires to speak with you in her closet, ere you go to bed.
	HAMLET	We shall obey, were she ten times our mother. Have you any further trade with us?
	ROZENCRAINTZ	Good my lord, what is your cause of distemper? you do, surely, bar the door upon your own liberty, if you deny your griefs to your friend.
	HAMLET	Sir, I lack advancement.
	ROZENCRAINTZ	How can that be, when you have the voice of the king himself for your succession in Denmark?
Notices the PLAYERS, who've just finished breaking down the stage and are getting ready to start a jam session, and borrows a recorder from one of them.	HAMLET	O, the recorders! let me see one. Will you play upon this pipe?
	GUILDENSTERN	My lord, I cannot.
	HAMLET	I pray you.
	GUILDENSTERN	Believe me, I cannot. I know no touch of it, my lord.
	HAMLET	'Tis as easy as lying: govern these ventages with your fingers and thumb, give it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most eloquent music. Look you, these are the stops.
	GUILDENSTERN	But these cannot I command to any utterance of harmony; I have not the skill.

	HAMLET	Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; you would sound me from my lowest note to the top of my compass: and there is much music, excellent voice, in this little organ; yet cannot you make it speak. 'Sblood, do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot play upon me. Leave me, friends.
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