

Dispensa 5-7 marzo 2009

Letteratura Inglese (III anno LLEM, II anno specialistiche) Modulo B

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*

Act 1, Scene 1

[*Elsinore. A platform before the castle. FRANCISCO at his post. Enter to him BERNARDO*]

BERNARDO Who's there?

FRANCISCO Nay, answer me: stand, and unfold yourself.

BERNARDO Long live the king!

FRANCISCO Bernardo?

BERNARDO He.

FRANCISCO You come most carefully upon your hour.

BERNARDO 'Tis now struck twelve; get thee to bed, Francisco.

FRANCISCO For this relief much thanks: 'tis bitter cold,
And I am sick at heart.

BERNARDO Have you had quiet guard?

FRANCISCO Not a mouse stirring.

BERNARDO Well, good night.

If you do meet Horatio and Marcellus,

The rivals of my watch, bid them make haste.

FRANCISCO I think I hear them. Stand, ho! Who's there?

[*Enter HORATIO and MARCELLUS*]

HORATIO Friends to this ground.

MARCELLUS And liegemen to the Dane.

FRANCISCO Give you good night.

MARCELLUS O, farewell, honest soldier:

Who hath relieved you?

FRANCISCO Bernardo has my place.

Give you good night.

[*Exit*]

MARCELLUS Holla! Bernardo!

BERNARDO Say,

What, is Horatio there?

HORATIO A piece of him.

BERNARDO Welcome, Horatio: welcome, good Marcellus.

MARCELLUS What, has this thing appear'd again to-night?

BERNARDO I have seen nothing.

MARCELLUS Horatio says 'tis but our fantasy,

And will not let belief take hold of him

Touching this dreaded sight, twice seen of us:

Therefore I have entreated him along

With us to watch the minutes of this night;

That if again this apparition come,

He may approve our eyes and speak to it.

Tragedy in five acts by William Shakespeare, written about 1599–1601 and published in a quarto edition in 1603 from an unauthorized text, with reference to an earlier play. The First Folio version was taken from a second quarto of 1604 that was based on Shakespeare's own papers with some annotations by the bookkeeper.

Shakespeare's telling of the story of Prince Hamlet was derived from several sources. The play was evidently preceded by another play of Hamlet (now lost), usually referred to as the *Ur-Hamlet*, of which Thomas Kyd is a conjectured author.