

Jon on hamlet essay

[Life](#), [Friendship](#)



The act of taking revenge on someone for past wrong doings is known to never truly repair the damage that person has done. Seeking vengeance will consume one's life and as a result when the goal is achieved the avenger is often left feeling empty. To achieve revenge sacrifices must be made and casualties are an inevitable outcome. In Shakespeare's Hamlet there are many instances where revenge leads to sacrifice and death.

A journey for revenge will often lead to ones own death, both physically and otherwise. Vengeance will lead to the deterioration of past connections and relationships. An avenger's journey frequently results in the death of loved ones. To avenge one death will inevitably cause another to seek vengeance for it. Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves. The physical, emotional, and psychological death of oneself are all repercussions of revenge and reasons to dig an extra grave.

In Hamlet's case he sacrifices his mind state in order for him to get his revenge on King Claudius. After seeing Fortinbras' army go off to war Hamlet states, " O, from this time forth my thoughts be bloody or be nothing worth. (IV V 65-66) Through this statement one observes the death of Hamlet's old self, which is to be buried in the second grave, as he now has to move into action in order to avenge his father. In a physical sense Hamlet's quest to avenge his father comes at the price of his own death at the hands of Laertes. Through his physical death one observes that on his quest for revenge a grave was dug for Claudius and another for himself.

On a journey for revenge one must also be willing to sacrifice other goals and future plans. For Hamlet, his death results in the destruction of the royal

court that Hamlet was trying to restore to order. While on the verge of death Hamlet says to Horatio, “ But I do prophecy th’election lights on Fortinbras. He has my dying voice.

”(V II 348-349). Hamlet’s statement reveals that he sacrifices his chances of becoming King of Denmark in order to avenge his father. Hamlet’s revenge quest costs himself a lot of personal tragedy and much more to those around him.

In a quest for vengeance many old relationships must be buried in order for one to go about the task. In Hamlet’s case he discards many of his relationships to achieve his goal, which leads him to be very lonely by the end of the play. Guildenstern and Rosencrantz were once dear friends of Hamlet but their relationship deteriorates throughout the play. While telling Horatio of his situation on his way to England Hamlet states, “ Why, man, they did make love to this employment.

They are no t near my conscience, their defeat does by their own insinuation grow. ”(V II 57-59) Through Hamlet’s statement one observes that Hamlet feels no remorse for sending his childhood friends to their death revealing that their relationship no longer means anything to him. The Queen is also made to suffer on Hamlet’s revenge saga because of her relationship with King Claudius. While preparing to visit his mother Hamlet states, “ Let me be cruel, not unnatural. I will speak daggers to her, but use none. ”(III III 379-380) Hamlet’s statement reveals that his relationship with his mother is broken as he plans to purposely be cruel in order to spite her. Another relationship that Hamlet sacrifices in order to get revenge on Claudius is his

relationship with Ophelia. Hamlet, while putting on an insanity act, acts so cruel to Ophelia that their relationship could not continue on anymore.

The death of Hamlet and Ophelia's relationship gives reason for Hamlet to dig another grave on his journey for revenge. Another person who sacrifices relationships to achieve revenge is Ophelia's brother Laertes. Laertes learns that Hamlet kills Polonius and drove his sister into the insane state of mind that results in her death. In order for him to get his revenge on Hamlet Laertes must throw away their past relationship in the process.

Personal relationships are the most frequent casualties of revenge, often leaving the avenger lonely after he reaches his goal, and as such a grave must be dug to bury them. Along with the lost emotional attachments, the avengers loved ones often times meet their demise in the crossfire of vengeance. Hamlet's journey to get revenge on King Claudius costs him his life and also the lives of many of his loved ones. Ophelia, after witnessing Hamlet's insanity act as well as the fact that he was the one to kill her father, becomes mentally unstable. The death of her mental health provides Hamlet with more reason to dig multiple graves on his vengeance quest. In her insanity Ophelia unknowingly takes her own life while swimming in the river. After learning of her death Gertrude states, " But long it could not be till that her garments, heavy with their drink, pull'd the poor wretch from her melodious lay to muddy death. "(IV VII 180-183) Through Gertrude's statement one observes that that as an indirect result of Hamlet's actions Ophelia meets her demise.

King Claudius also seeks to get revenge on Hamlet for Polonius' death and his attempts results in the death of Gertrude. Claudius accidentally poisons and kills Gertrude when attempting to kill hamlet during his fight with Laertes. With his dying words Laertes states, " Thy mother's poison'd. I can no more.

The king's to blame. "(V II 313-314) Laertes statement reveals that in Hamlet's and Claudius' mutual attempt to get revenge on each other Gertrude was caught in the crossfire and that results in her death. Loved ones are often lost during ones journey for revenge and a grave must be provided to bury them in. Revenge is a cycle, so when one takes revenge it will inevitably create reason for another to avenge them and as such that person must now also dig two graves.

In Hamlet's attempt to avenge his father he indirectly forces others to seek revenge on him. Although Hamlet does not go after Ophelia for revenge, in his attempt to get revenge on Claudius, she ends up broken hearted, mentally unstable, and eventually she kills herself. Her death spurs on Laertes to avenge his father and sister who both meet their end either indirectly or directly through Hamlet. After learning that Hamlet is to blame for his family turmoil Laertes states, " And so have I a noble father lost, a sister driven into desp'rate terms, whose worth, if praises may go back again, stood challenger on mount of all the age for her perfections, But my revenge will come. (IV VII 25-29).

Through Laertes statement one observes that he is now also on a revenge quest because of Hamlet's actions and because of this he too must dig two

graves. King Claudius, who Hamlet is trying to take vengeance on, also seeks to take revenge on Hamlet for killing Polonius and threatening his grip on the throne. While speaking with Laertes Claudius states, “ you may choose a sword unbated, and in a pass of practice requite him for your father. ”(IV VII 137-139).

Through Claudius’ statement one observes that he is the one pushing for Laertes to seek revenge as he too wants Hamlet to die in order for him to maintain power. Claudius’ attempt to get revenge on Hamlet leads him to digging two graves, one for Hamlet and the other for himself. In both of these instances one observes how the cycle of revenge continues on once one achieves his revenge. On the subject of revenge the Philosopher Confucius states, “ Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves. In Shakespeare’s Hamlet one observes many reasons to dig multiple graves while on a quest of vengeance. The avenger will have to sacrifice his own physical and/or emotional well being to reach his goal.

Past relationships become burdens that must be buried in order to enact vengeance. Those close to ones heart are often caught in the crossfire of revenge. In addition a grave must be dug not only for the avenger’s target but also for those who will seek vengeance for it. Revenge comes at the cost of great sacrifice; therefore those who seek revenge must prepare for the repercussions.