

Analysis of act i scene iii from hamlet

[Literature](#), [British Literature](#)



" Give thy thoughts no tongue... Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice... For the apparel oft proclaims the man... Neither a borrower nor a lender be... This above all, to thine own self be true" These famous lines of Shakespeare's Hamlet are one of the most quoted lines of all Shakespeare's work. They ring true for us even today, and are still in our minds. These lines are important to the character development of Polonius. To Polonius, his public image is the most important thing. By giving Laertes the guidance and wise words, he appears to be a loving, caring father, who looks out for his children. But in reality, however, Polonius is just working for his own interests – he wants to control his public image. By saying these things to Laertes, he is trying to control Laertes, who, being his son, affects his image.

Furthermore, in Act two, Polonius sends Reynaldo, a spy, to gather information about Laertes. This is another image of Polonius trying to control his son. This also portrays the lack of trust that Polonius has for people, as well as the fact that he doesn't respect others – he doesn't respect Laertes' privacy. Another character trait that these lines bring out in Polonius is that he is a hypocrite. He tells his son how to behave, but then doesn't even behave that way himself. For example, on line 80 of scene three, Polonius tells Laertes, " Thou canst be false to any man". This proves that Polonius is a hypocrite because Polonius is false to many men numerous times in the play. One example of this is in Act III Scene IV where he was listening in to Hamlet's conversation with Gertrude prior to being stabbed by Hamlet. The wise words of Polonius relate to life in our time too. Almost all of the sayings should be practiced are still practiced today. The " apparel oft proclaims the man" is in the back of people's minds every day. Fathers today still tell their

children not to lie and cheat and steal just as Polonius did to Laertes when he said, "Thou canst be false to any man." It is wise to "give every man thine ear, but few thy voice." This passage contains much poetic beauty.

Personification is displayed in line 56, "the wind sits in the shoulder of your sail," and in line 59, "give thy thoughts no tongue." There is also a lot of imagery in these few lines. Line 34 paints a picture of one who is grappling his friends close with hoops of steel. Line 64 shows that entertainment can 'dull thy palm'. Line 79 talks about the beautiful system of how night follows day. There is much imagery and poetic beauty in these lines. As for truth – these lines are full of wisdom and truth. Wise kings such as King Solomon of Israel wrote about the same ideas. In Proverbs 22: 7, he states, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender." Polonius gave Laertes this beautiful advice in line 75, where he says, "Neither a borrower nor a lender be." And people still quote these famous lines today.