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honour than his



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The relationship Hamlet has with his parents is better than Polonius's relationship with his children though. Polonius acts like he is the boss of Ophelia, while Ophelia feels like she is obligated to submit to her father out of fear.

Polonius uses his daughter as a tool for his own benefit and is more obsessed with his family's honour than his daughter's feelings. In the first act, Polonius tells Ophelia she cannot get too close to Hamlet, as he does not want her to jeopardise their position in the court by her being a helpless 'woodcock' to Hamlet's allegedly insincere 'vows' (Act 1, Scene 3, ll. 114-116). He orders Ophelia to: Tender yourself more dearly, Or (not to crack the wind of the poor phrase, Running it thus) you'll tender me a fool (Act 1, Scene 3, ll. 107-109).

This demonstrates that Polonius is acting in his own interest and that he is more worried about his place in the kingdom than his daughter's happiness. Ophelia meekly follows his orders, saying 'I shall obey, my lord' (Act 1, Scene 3, l. 136).

This shows how Polonius forces Ophelia to depend on him and how Ophelia blindly follows his commands. Hamlet calls Polonius a 'fishmonger' (Act 2, Scene 2, l. 172) when referring to how Polonius controls Ophelia. This was Elizabethan slang for "brothel keeper", and therefore would have been considered a major insult by the original audience. Moreover, this demonstrates that Hamlet is conscious that Polonius and Ophelia have a bad relationship.

Moreover, Polonius uses his daughter to spy on Hamlet's actions so that he can report back to Claudius. Because of her loyalties towards her father

Ophelia complies with her father's wishes. Polonius's intention is to make himself appear to be a great father, but Ophelia's dependency on Polonius is what eventually causes her to go mad and commit suicide after his death. Therefore, this shows that she loved her father, even though he treated her so badly, and it also demonstrates how much she depended on him.