

# The tragedy of hamlet, prince of denmark by william shakespeare



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

It is understood that in *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* by William Shakespeare; Hamlet, in his famous soliloquy in scene one of act three (“ To be or not to be..

. “), is considering suicide. Hamlet in actuality is only questioning the thoughts of death and in turn has no real intent on actually committing suicide, this can be inferred by the observations made in the soliloquy. Many of the statements that Hamlet say through the text, draws people to the conclusion that Hamlet is suicidal. The reason why Hamlet is not contemplating suicide, is that he makes the overall decision that it is not gods will and he would not go to heaven and that death is not a proper way out of the hardships in life. Hamlet is also in truth thinking whether or not to act on the ghosts’ directions to get revenge on Claudius or not.

It seems as though Hamlet is considering suicide when he uses the words in the expression, “ To be or not to be” (3. 1. 6) inferred by several as whether to live or not to live. This in turn creates the tone for the rest of the soliloquy to be all about Hamlets existence and meaning to life.

Hamlet also speaks of death in which he relates to sleep, “ To die, to sleep,” (3. 1. 64), he then contemplates what really happens during sleep and what might occur in ‘ eternal sleep’, “... To sleep, perchance to dream” (3, 1, 60-65).

When Hamlet says this he is really questioning what really happens when we die? And if he did choose death than he wouldn’t have to put up with all the pain and heartache, it would all just be able to end. This act of questioning just further explains that Hamlet is thinking of death as just an easy way out

<https://assignbuster.com/the-tragedy-of-hamlet-prince-of-denmark-by-william-shakespeare/>

of this mess. Although these are two possible explanations to some of Hamlet's madness, they're just scratches on the surface to the real Hamlet. On the other hand, a fact that takes us away from the fact that Hamlet might have committed suicide, is when Hamlet begins to talk about the unknown and death. Hamlet seems to be a bit apprehensive about death and what will happen after he dies. A direct example of this is when Hamlet states, " But that the dread of something after death, The undiscovered country from whose bourn, No traveler returns, puzzles the will" (3.

1. 78-80). Hamlet's " puzzled will" (3. 1.

80) in return makes Hamlet too afraid to take his own life, because he is too worried about the life after death. The quote, " Thus conscience does make cowards of us all" (3. 1. 3) simply summarizes up the fact that Hamlet is a coward when it comes to death like most of us, and would not be brave enough to just take his own life. Hamlet's " To be, or not to be: that is the question" (2.

1. 56) has much deeper significance than the words just portray from a glance, Hamlet is really debating on whether or not he should go through with the revenge on Claudius for poisoning his father or if he should let him live. When Hamlet is saying, " to be or not to be", he is referring to acting on revenge or just to do nothing about it. At this point in the play Hamlet is internally confused and perhaps that's why suicidal thoughts linger in his head, because he has little to no direction on where he is going with his overall plan. Ophelia is then mentioned towards the end of the soliloquy, " The fair Ophelia" (3. 1.

97) and from that we are detoured from the fact that Hamlet wants to commit suicide. Even though “ To be or not to be” may be considered a matter of life or death to most, we must look at it as just a figure of speech and that Hamlet is not really contemplating suicide, death in this situation is just simply described as an option. From the first line in this legendary soliloquy it can be predicted that a suicidal thought is happening, but in reality Hamlet is just trying to find any type of direction in his confused, unsure yet brilliant mind of his. Hamlet is able to move on and gain knowledge from all the contemplation of life and death in the end, and comes to the final conclusion that he would much rather live and avenge his fathers’ death, than die. Not only because life after death terrifies him, but because the revenge is too great for Hamlet to pass up, which in the end is Hamlets weakness.