

Out with the old: A personal retrospective on the life of Prince Hamlet.

By Horatio (close friend)



Prince Hamlet

Prince Hamlet was a loyal friend and a loving son. He failed to take the death of his father for an accident and he was right. Even before he claimed that his father's ghost had told him the truth about the circumstances surrounding his murder he refused to accept Claudius as rightful King and father in law. From their very first public announcement together, Prince Hamlet denounced them. He was right to.

For the following months he struggled to come to terms with his task of revenge though he would admit that it was something he had to do. His journey towards revenge put great strain

upon him.

He had little time for Polonius even in happier years. Yet his death saddened him, he had not meant to kill him. His relationship with Ophelia ended in tatters, something that had promised so much left him shaken and bitter to-

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wards women. The mousetrap play was a great triumph of Hamlet's a pointed satire that ingeniously tested the integrity of Claudius. He pleaded with his mother to think the better of her relationship with Claudius. Perhaps she was beginning to change her mind as she approached the day of her death.

Hamlet was a deeply philosophical person. He would often muse on the worthlessness of man and the true purpose of his life. He was a lover of classics, theatre and the arts as well as sport.. He would often criticise the King for bring so drunken and de-

bauched.

He was popular with his people, getting on well with strangers has helped him in several situations. Notably when he escaped death at the hands of English assassins by boarding a pirate vessel in the Channel. This daring escape would bring him back to Denmark where he would challenge the King and Laertes. His valour and wit shone through to the last and he approached the confrontation his state of mind was agile and perceptive and he seemed relaxed. Gone completely was the antic and confused Hamlet that he had been. There was no inner struggle, no self-loathing only a quiet and calm resolve to do what was right.

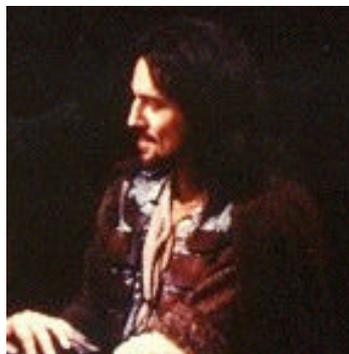
I am deeply saddened by the passing of my most loyal, caring and trusted friend. His story is one of carnal, bloody and unnatural acts. He experienced accidental slaughters and carnal acts. He was subject to the plotting and cunning of evil men. Their wrongdoing and his strength of will and righteousness meant that they were stopped. Sadly so is he.

Now cracks a noble heart. Good night sweet prince, and flights of angles sing the to thy rest.

In with the new: The first 24 hours of the new King.

Following the tragic events at the castle it would be easy to see nothing but doom and misery for Denmark. We have lost a King, a Queen and the only heir to the throne, a popular hero, Prince Hamlet slain. Yet arriving just too late the forces of Fortinbras arrived in the castle.

As Hamlet's life was draining from him he heard the noise of the approaching armies of Young Fortinbras of Norway, on his return from victory in Poland. When Hamlet was told this he informed close confidant to the royal family in the presence of several other witnesses that he would have Fortinbras as his successor.



The New King: Fortinbras

On arrival, Fortinbras expressed horror and dismay at seeing such carnage. He said that though he was used to such

sights on the battlefield, the scene in the castle showed "much amiss". He asked that the world must be told about it but he would take up the opportunity afforded to him by Hamlet's nomination of him as successor. In a touching display of respect and admiration from one soldier to another Fortinbras insisted on a full military funeral for the dead Prince. King Fortinbras said "The soldiers music and the rites of war speak loudly for him".

The Norwegian leader is said to be "a delicate and tender prince" and valiant in his daring leadership of his armies in the Polack war. His first actions as King elect have been encouraging and noble, There is light at the end of Denmark's tunnel.