

<p>[Another room in the castle.] [Enter KING CLAUDIUS, attended]</p>	<p><i>attended</i> – with attendants, i.e. not alone</p>
<p>KING CLAUDIUS I have sent to seek him, and to find the body. 5 How dangerous is it that this man goes loose! Yet must not we put the strong law on him: He's loved of the distracted multitude, Who like not in their judgment, but their eyes; And where tis so, the offender's scourge is weigh'd, 10 But never the offence. To bear all smooth and even, This sudden sending him away must seem Deliberate pause: diseases desperate grown By desperate appliance are relieved, Or not at all.</p>	<p><i>him</i> – Hamlet; <i>body</i> – Hamlet has killed Polonius, the lord chamberlain (Germ. Oberkämmerer)  <i>of ... multitude</i> – by the irrational masses who like Hamlet because of his (good) looks (rather than for sound reasons); <i>tis</i> – it is; <i>offender's scourge</i> – Hamlet's punishment will be observed more than the seriousness of his crime; <i>to bear all smooth and even</i> – to make things look "smooth and even"; <i>deliberate pause</i> – well planned</p>
<p>15 [Enter ROSENCRANTZ] How now! what hath befall'n?</p>	<p><i>hath befall'n</i> –has happened</p>
<p>ROSENCRANTZ Where the dead body is bestow'd, my lord, We cannot get from him.</p>	<p><i>is bestow'd</i> – has been hidden</p>
<p>20 KING CLAUDIUS But where is he?</p>	
<p>ROSENCRANTZ Without, my lord; guarded, to know your pleasure.</p>	<p><i>without</i> – outside; <i>know your pleasure</i> – awaiting your orders</p>
<p>25 KING CLAUDIUS Bring him before us. ROSENCRANTZ</p>	<p><u>Omission:</u> Claudius reproaches Hamlet with Polonius' death and sends him off to England. After Hamlet has left he gives orders to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, who are spying for Claudius on Hamlet, to accompany their former friend to England.</p>
<p>Ho, Guildenstern! bring in my lord. [Enter HAMLET and GUILDENSTERN]</p>	
<p>30 [..... <b>Omission</b> .....] KING CLAUDIUS Follow him at foot; tempt him with speed aboard; Delay it not; I'll have him hence to-night: Away! for every thing is seal'd and done</p>	<p><i>tempt ...aboard</i> – make sure that he gets on board the ship quickly; <i>have him hence</i> – I will order him to leave tonight; <i>seal'd</i> – seal n. Germ. Siegel</p>
<p>35 That else leans on the affair: pray you, make haste. [Exeunt ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDENSTERN]</p>	<p><i>leans on the affair</i> – what is necessary for this act</p>
<p>And, England, if my love thou hold'st at aught -- As my great power thereof may give thee sense, 40 Since yet thy cicatrice looks raw and red After the Danish sword, and thy free awe Pays homage to us -- thou mayst not coldly set Our sovereign process; which imports at full, By letters congruing to that effect, 45 The present death of Hamlet. Do it, England; For like the hectic in my blood he rages, And thou must cure me: till I know 'tis done, Howe'er my haps, my joys were ne'er begun. [Exit] [285 words]</p>	<p><i>love...at aught</i> - if you consider my love important <i>give thee sense</i> – as you should because of my power; <i>cicatrice</i> – as the wounds you received fighting against England; <i>free awe pays homage</i> – if you show respect; <i>thou mayst .... process</i> – you should follow all my royal orders; <i>imports ... effect</i> – which means agreeing to what is ordered in the sealed letters that Hamlet is carrying  'tis done – Hamlet is killed <i>howe'er my haps</i> – I will not be happy even if I am successful in all other matters</p>

**Assignments:** 1) Work closely on the text to show that King Claudius cannot be considered a fair person that follows moral principles. 2) King Claudius speaks both in dialogue and in soliloquy in this excerpt. Explain why Shakespeare makes this distinction. 3) Use your findings in assignment one to compare King Claudius to another of Shakespeare's villains of your choice.

## Answers (by Peter H.)

### Task 1)

- King Claudius wants to kill Hamlet to make sure
- 5 that no one will ever know about the fact that he murdered his father to usurp his throne and marry his wife. In his actions King Claudius is clever and calculating. He realises that his nephew and stepson is very popular in Denmark so that the people might
- 10 not tolerate a death sentence<sup>1</sup>. Instead of dealing with Hamlet before the Danish public Claudius sends him into exile in England<sup>2</sup> where he intends to have him killed<sup>3</sup>.
- So it is obvious that Claudius wants to secure his
- 15 own position without any considerations for other people's lives, which is a very immoral behaviour.

### Task 2)

- 20 Shakespeare uses a soliloquy in order to reveal King Claudius' inner feelings and intentions thus giving information to the audience that the other characters in the play do not have. In this scene King Claudius plans to deal with Hamlet in England
- 25 to prevent any public protests<sup>4</sup>. He has the intention to have Hamlet killed as soon as possible to win back his peace of mind but he hides this fact from his assistants<sup>5</sup> Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are to accompany Hamlet and spy on him to make sure
- 30 that his plan is carried out without any delay.

<sup>1</sup> see ll 7-10

<sup>1</sup> see **Omission**

<sup>1</sup> see 1.47

<sup>1</sup> see ll 7-10 and 1.47

35 <sup>1</sup> see 1.47

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<sup>1</sup> see l. 7-10

<sup>2</sup> see **Omission**

<sup>3</sup> see l. 47

<sup>4</sup> see l. 7-10 and l. 1.47

<sup>5</sup> see 1.47