

But his actions became only thoughts. He does not want to do that because if he kills the king Claudius he will be damned. In the play, thought is verbalized through words. He is all the time hesitating and in doubt. Hamlet hesitates so much because he is “considering the result and significance of his actions”, according to Northrop.

The impossibility of Hamlet to take revenge against the king anticipates the wishes of common people of judging and condemning tyrannical and legitimate authority: this is another possible cause of the delay. That is to say, the fact that Hamlet being a prince could not avenge his father’s death because King Claudius was the supreme authority, a good king, and people would never believe him.

Moreover, from the orthodox point of view, revenge was not lawful. According to Christianity there was not acceptable for a man to take revenge. There was a kind of law to follow, did not mean that everyone obeyed. Hamlet is forbidden to take revenge. He is in a different position because he cannot rebel against the supreme authority of the king.

On the other hand, revenge could be accepted from the political perspective. The problem is that Hamlet wanted to take revenge within religious authority. Therefore, the only possibility is resort to madness, playing a subversive role. And the end, taking revenge cost him his own death because it was impossible the fall of a king who was strong.

In conclusion, there are many readings about the different causes of Hamlet’s delay. In mi opinion, the depression and melancholy of the main character which impede his action, is the most attractive interpretation of the play. However, we can attribute also a political understanding of his delay: an exploration of illegitimate power being presented as legitimate.

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