

Hamlet / Ophelia

~~For in that sleep of death, what dreams may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil
Must give us pause.~~

Start

Hamlet: (Notices Ophelia.)
Ah...the fair Ophelia.

OPHELIA

Good day, my lord. How does your honor for this many a day.

HAMLET

Well, well, well.

OPHELIA

My Lord, your letters...I wish that you would take them back.

HAMLET

Letters? I never wrote you letters.

OPHELIA

My honored Lord, you know that you did. When your words of love seemed true, these were the richest gifts I had ever received, but rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind. Take them.

(She hands him the letters.)

HAMLET

Are you honest?

OPHELIA

Honest?

HAMLET

(Mimicking her.)

Honest? When I ask you a question, don't repeat it as if you don't understand. Answer it!

OPHELIA

But my Lord -

HAMLET

Are you beautiful?

OPHELIA

I-

HAMLET

Answer!

OPHELIA

Why do you ask me these questions?

HAMLET

Because if you are honest and beautiful, your honesty should preclude any advances on your beauty, should it not?

OPHELIA

I don't know, my lord. Do you mean if one is beautiful one cannot be honest?

(Pause.)

HAMLET

I loved you once.

OPHELIA

You made me believe that you did.

HAMLET

You should not have believed me. I loved you not.

OPHELIA

I was the more deceived.

HAMLET

Get thee to a nunnery. Why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners?

(Pause.)

The world is full of cruelty, and sin. I am as guilty as the next. What should fellows such as I do, crawling between heaven and earth? We are arrant knaves, all; believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery.

(Pause.)

We shall not marry. If you are to marry another, marry a fool, for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them. To a nunnery go! And farewell.

(Hamlet exits. ~~King and Polonius rush on to console Ophelia.~~)

OPHELIA

O, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown. Heaven help him.

end