

# English

## 中学英语课外选读

刘明善 编译

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第三册 (下)

(外国文学名著)

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### HAMLET

#### A Tale from Shakespeare

(1)

Hamlet, the young prince of Denmark, was once the happiest young man in the country, but a great trouble came into his life. His father died suddenly in a mysterious way, so that Hamlet became very sad and upset. Hamlet was told that the old King had died from the bite of a snake when he was asleep one afternoon in the garden. Soon after his death, Claudius, brother of the dead King and uncle of Hamlet, married the Queen and now was the King.

Hamlet did not love his uncle and it troubled him to think that his mother had married such a man. He slowly began to wonder whether Claudius had caused his father to be killed in order that he himself might become king, and whether his mother had known all about it— and this last thought drove him nearly mad.



The new King and Queen noticed that the prince was dull and unhappy. They did not realize he suspected them of a terrible crime, so they tried hard to cheer him up. But although they advised him to dress and behave more cheerfully, he would not do so. At last they decided it was the result of his being in love.

At this time a strange story was told to Hamlet. For three nights the guards of soldiers in front of the castle had seen a ghost. Hamlet's best friend, Horatio, had also seen it and brought the news to the prince. The ghost had appeared in the middle of the night. It was dressed just like the old dead King, and its face was just like his face. It wore a sad look, and when the guard had spoken to it, it had not answered, though once it seemed about to speak when the sun rose and it disappeared. Hamlet questioned the soldiers, and from their answer he felt sure that the story was true, so he determined to sit up next night and watch for the ghost.

On the next night, Hamlet, Horatio, and one of the soldiers met at midnight in front of the castle. As they stood listening, Horatio suddenly touched Hamlet on the shoulder.

"Look, my lord," he whispered, "Look, it comes."  
The ghost had come again.

When Hamlet saw how like the dead King the ghost was, he asked him, "What does your coming mean, you, who are so like my father? Are you really he, or another? What do you want me to do?"

In answer the spirit made a sign for Hamlet to go aside with it, away from his two companions. He followed the spirit, which was truly his father's ghost, which quickly told him that he had indeed been murdered by Claudius. The spirit then commanded Hamlet to revenge this terrible murder. So, telling Hamlet not to forget its command, the old King's spirit disappeared.

Returning to his friends, Hamlet made them promise to say nothing of what had happened that night, to Horatio he spoke of his talk with the ghost. He made up his mind to do a strange thing; he would in future behave like a madman for in that way he thought his uncle would be most unlikely to suspect him.

Hamlet's talk and behaviour, therefore, became stranger than ever, especially when he was with the King and Queen. Weeks had passed since his father's death, and yet the Prince did not seem to get any better, but rather worse, and his uncle and the Queen could not understand what was the matter.

Among those at court was an old man famous for

his experience and wisdom, named Polonius. Polonius had a beautiful daughter, named Ophelia, whom Hamlet had liked very much at one time. Polonius had always hoped that Ophelia would marry Hamlet one day and become a princess, but he was not certain whether Hamlet truly loved Ophelia. Being very clever, he told Ophelia that if she sometimes appeared unfriendly to Hamlet, he would love her more.

Ophelia did as he advised. The result seemed to be just what Polonius had wanted. For soon afterwards his daughter came to him, telling him that Hamlet had been to see her, badly dressed, and with a look of sorrow on his face. Polonius at once thought Hamlet was unhappy because Ophelia did not love him, and he felt sure that this was the cause of all Hamlet's madness.

Hamlet was always thinking of the command of his father's ghost to revenge his cruel murder, and he continued to wonder how he could plan the revenge. One day he wrote a wild love-letter to Ophelia. She showed it to her father, who read it to the King and Queen, and then they agreed that the reason for the Prince's madness had been found.

Poor Hamlet could not decide whether the ghost's story was really true. He made up his mind to find out the truth—whether the King and Queen had really

planned the murder, and he soon thought of a way to do this. For it happened that a party of wandering actors came to the castle and wanted to perform one of their plays before the Court. Hamlet had seen them before and remembered that one of their plays told of the terrible murder of a duke and of the sorrow of his duchess. He asked one of the players if he knew a play called "The Murder of Gonzago" in which a duke named Gonzago was poisoned in his garden by a near relation who afterwards married his widow. The actor said they knew it and would act it if Hamlet wished. "Tomorrow night," said Hamlet, "you shall play it before the King and Queen, but I wish to put in a few lines of my own to improve it."

So Hamlet made some changes in the play, in order that it might be as like the real murder of his father as possible. He therefore invited King Claudius and the Queen to come and see the play the next evening. And he went to his friend Horatio, told him what had been arranged, and asked him to watch the King and Queen closely.

### About the author

莎士比亚 (William Shakespeare) 是英国伊莉莎白女王时代伟大的戏曲家, 也是世界上最伟大的戏曲家之一。他生于1564年的一个中产家庭, 22岁时到伦敦去谋生, 当过演

员，因而逐渐自编戏曲。到了三十多岁，便成为出名的诗人和戏曲家。他于1616年逝世。

### New Words

Hamlet/'hæmlit/n. (人名) 哈姆雷特 (丹麦王子)

upset/ʌp'set/v.; n. 烦躁, 不安, 失常

Claudius/'klɔ:dʒəs/n. (人名) 克劳第斯

dull/dʌl/adj. 头脑迟钝的

Horatio/hə'reɪʃiəu/n. (人名) 郝雷修

murder/'mɜ:də/v. t. 谋杀

therefore/'ðeəfɔ:/adv. 因此, 所以

Polonius/pə'ləunjəs/n. (人名) 波龙尼亚斯

Ophelia/ɒ'fi:liə/n. (人名) 奥菲利亚

perform/pə:'fɔm/v. 表演, 演奏

duke/dju:k/n. 公爵

duchess/'dʌtʃɪs/n. 公爵夫人

Gonzago/'gɒnzəgəu/n. (人名) 刚寨果

### Expressions and Notes

1. *in a mystery way*: 神秘地

2. *whether...in order that*: 是否...为了...以便

3. *drive sb. mad*: 逼人发疯

4. *he suspected them of a terrible crime.*

他怀疑他们犯下了可怕的罪行

5. *cheer up*: 鼓舞精神, 使人高兴

6. *it was the result of his being in love*:

此乃他堕入情海的结果。

其中being系动名词。his being是of的宾语

7. *it wore a sad look*: 愁容满面
8. *to sit up*: 熬夜, 不睡觉  
*to sit up next night and watch for the ghost*,  
第二天晚上熬夜, 等待着鬼魂的到来。
9. *My lord*: 阁下 (对某些王公贵族的尊称)
10. *In answer the spirit made a sign for Hamlet to go aside with it, away from his two companions*. 鬼魂做了个手势作为回答, 叫哈姆雷特离开他的两个同伴, 随他到一边去。
11. *make a promise*: 约定, 许诺
12. *to say nothing of*: 更不消说, 更不用说
13. *his uncle would be most unlikely to suspect him*.  
他叔父就会不大可能再去怀疑他。
14. *did not seem get away better, but rather worse*,  
(病势) 不仅没有什么起色, 反而愈来愈糟。
15. *a wild love letter*: 一封狂热的情书
16. *it happened that*: 碰巧...
17. *a party of wandering actors*: 一班流浪艺人
18. *I wish to put in a few lines of my own to improve it*.  
为了改进这出戏, 我想加进去自己的几句话。

## 哈姆雷特

——莎士比亚故事之一

### (一)

哈姆雷特——丹麦的年青王子，曾是这个国家里面最幸福的一位青年；可是，一种莫大的烦恼却闯进了他的生活。他的父王突然神秘地死去了，为此，他便变得忧郁和烦乱不安。他听说，有天下午年老的父王在御花园里睡着了，被一条毒蛇咬后而死的。父王死后不久，他的弟弟克劳第斯，也就是哈姆雷特的叔父，便与王后结了婚，现在当上了国王。

哈姆雷特并不喜爱他的叔父，而且一想到自己的母亲怎么能与这般人结了婚，心中就不免感到非常烦恼。他后来逐渐怀疑起来——会不会是克劳第斯为了争夺王位而使父王遭到暗杀；会不会他的母亲全晓得这其中的隐情——这后一种念头，几乎把他逼得发疯。

新国王和王后也留意到王子现在思想迟钝，郁闷不乐，但他们却不清楚是否是王子在怀疑他们犯下了滔天罪行，因而便尽量想使他高兴起来。他们虽屡次规劝他要他穿得更艳丽些，表情更活泼些；但他却不愿这样去做。后来他们才确信这是他堕入情海的结果。

此刻，哈姆雷特听到了一个奇异的传闻：已经有三个夜晚，城堡前面的岗哨，老是看见一个幽灵。而哈姆雷特最要好的朋友赫雷修也曾看见过，并把这个消息告诉王子。这个

幽灵都是在夜半时分才出现的。它的穿着酷似那已逝的国王，而且连面孔也很相似。它愁容满面，卫兵向它问话，它却闭口不答；曾有一次，它似乎想要开口，但适时，旭日冉冉升起，它立即就隐没了。哈姆雷特又细问过岗哨卫兵。从他们的回答中，他觉得此事属实，于是便决定在第二天晚上，他自己去守夜，等待着幽灵的到来。

第二天晚上，哈姆雷特，郝雷修，还有一个卫士，午夜时分，大家在城堡前面会面。他们站着，倾听动静。这时，郝雷修猛然间撞了一下哈姆雷特的肩膀。

“阁下，快看，”他悄悄耳语说，“看，它来了。”顿时那个幽灵又出现了。

哈姆雷特见此幽灵很像是自己已故的父王，他就问道：“你来这儿是什么意思？你为何这般象我的父王？你果真是他，抑或是另外一个人？你要我干什么？”

那个幽灵向哈姆雷特打了一个手势，让他离开自己那两个同伴，跟着他到一边去来作为回答。哈姆雷特于是就紧紧地跟着那个真正是他父亲的幽灵，走往一旁。幽灵立即告诉他说，自己的确是被克劳第斯谋杀的。然后，幽灵还命令哈姆雷特一定要为这次骇人听闻的谋杀而报仇雪恨。并且，还再三叮咛哈姆雷特切勿忘记此事。嘱咐过后，老国王的幽灵便隐没了。

哈姆雷特回到两个朋友那里，并与他们约定，不许把今晚所发生的事情泄露出去，他并向郝雷修说出自己和幽灵谈话的内容。哈姆雷特决意要做一件不寻常的事：他的举止将要活象是一个患有精神病狂的人。他认为只有如此，他的叔父才不大可能再去怀疑他。



因之，哈姆雷特的言吐举止，就变得比以往更加离奇了，特别是当他和国王、王后在一块的时候，更是如此。自从他父亲去世以后，光阴迅速流逝，王子的病情不仅似乎没有什么起色，反而越来越严重。他的叔父和王后也搞不清楚这到底是怎么回事。

宫室里面臣僚中有一位名叫波龙尼亚斯的老年人，他素以自己经验丰富和智慧超人而著称。他有个女儿，长得非常漂亮，名叫奥菲利亚，哈姆雷特从前有段时间很喜欢她。波龙尼亚斯也很希望能将奥菲利亚嫁给哈姆雷特，成为王妃。可是，他却不敢肯定哈姆雷特是否是真正爱上了奥菲利亚。出于自己聪颖过人，他便告诉奥菲利亚说，如果她要再露面，便要对他表示冷淡，那么，王子就会更加爱慕她。

奥菲利亚便按照自己父亲的吩咐去做了，而其效果也似乎正象是波龙尼亚斯所预料的那样。因为，过后不久，女儿奥菲利亚便来告诉他说，哈姆雷特曾经见过她，他的衣着乱七八糟，满脸苦相。波龙尼亚斯立即意识到哈姆雷特如此快快不悦，乃是由于奥菲利亚表示并不爱他；而且他还断定，这也就是哈姆雷特疯疯癫癫的真正原因。

哈姆雷特总是念念不忘父亲的幽灵要他一定为父王被残酷谋杀而报仇雪恨的命令，而且他在不断地思索，准备怎么报仇的办法。有一天，他写了一封狂热的情书送给奥菲利亚。她便立即拿去给自己父亲看，而他的父亲便又去读给新国王和王后听。尔后，他们的看法便趋于一致，都认为这才真正找到了王子疯疯癫癫的原因所在。

可怜的哈姆雷特又确定不下那个幽灵的倾诉是否属实，于是便决定先要弄清事实的真象——是不是国王和王后