

**The Hamlet Syndrome**

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^This script is focused on the psychosomatic disorder.

^Characters in the play, is there one person who sees himself in different mental states? Or several Hamlets are we facing? The choice is yours

Characters:

Female Hamlet

1st Male Hamlet (The thoughtful Hamlet)

2nd Male Hamlet (The Angry Hamlet)

The soul of Hamlet's father (Hamlet's father)

Lucifer

1.

(The red light is on the soul of Hamlet's father; he is sleeping on the metallic dinner table. 3 metal doors are on the 3 corners of the stage. Are they the doors of hell? On hearing the word "Hamlet" (by the soul of Hamlet' father which is calling his child), 3 Hamlets (female Hamlet, 1st male Hamlet, 2nd male Hamlet) thrown out of the hell to the earth. Then each of them comes to an angel of the table. Lucifer is standing on a corner while he is speechless and mysterious, watching them.)

Hamlet's father: (Narration): Your uncle, my brother; He killed me while I was in a deep asleep and until the resurrection comes I will be trapped in the purgatory that Lucifer made.

1st male Hamlet (Narration, it seems like it is the sound of his mind.): Father, father, father, father. Why did my uncle kill my father and marry my mother? Am I crazy?

2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet: Uncle, you killed my father, and mother ... . let me not think about it. I'll kill you. I'll kill you. I'll kill you?

Female Hamlet: (Narration) Father, father, father, why not my father? Why not my father? Why not my father? Father, I am alone without you, Father, I am alone without you, and sadness casts its ominous shadow over my life. How can I endure the world without you?

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

2.

(The sound of harmonica is being heard. The light comes. 3 Hamlets are sitting around the dinner table while the Hamlet's father's position made him turned his back to the audiences. Lucifer is pushing the metal food trolley that there are some copper goblets and several plates, including some cut hands and the pieces of body in them, he is serving them dreadfully. Female Hamlet is playing with her cellphone which is made of wood block. 2nd male Hamlet is crashing the table with his knife, making harsh sound. As Lucifer gives him the goblet, he goes to the Hamlet's father and makes him drink it by force.)

2nd male Hamlet: Drink!

1st male Hamlet: don't do that, Hamlet!

2nd male Hamlet: Not your business, Drink!

1st male Hamlet: don't do that, Hamlet!

2nd male Hamlet: It's not your business!

(1st male Hamlet sprinkles the content of his goblet on the 2nd male Hamlet madly. Female Hamlet screams and cries. 2nd male Hamlet sits on his seat.)

1<sup>st</sup> Hamlet: Do not cry, Hamlet! O, that this too too solid flesh would melt Thaw and resolve itself into a dew! Or that the Everlasting had not fix'd His canon 'gainst self-slaughter! O God! God! How weary, stale, flat and unprofitable, Seem to me all the uses of this world! Fie on't! ah fie!

'tis an unweeded garden, That grows to seed; things rank and gross in nature Possess it merely. That it should come to this! But two months dead. So excellent a king; that was, to this, Hyperion to a satyr; so loving to my mother That he might not beteem the winds of heaven Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth! Must I remember? why, she would hang on him, As if increase of appetite had grown By what it fed on: and yet, within a month--Let me not think on't--Frailty, thy name is woman!--A little month, or ere those shoes were old With which she follow'd my poor father's body. O, God! a beast, that wants discourse of reason, Would have mourn'd longer--married with my uncle, My father's brother, but no more like my father Than I to Hercules: within a month: Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears Had left the flushing in her galled eyes, She married. O, most wicked speed, to post With such dexterity to incestuous sheets! It is not nor it cannot come to good. My sheet music ... But break, my heart; for I must hold my tongue.

(The church bell rings six times. Hamlet's father and two male Hamlets open their arms wide as the cross. Female Hamlet stands on the table, with clasped hands in front, humming somethings unlistenable. Maybe a whisper of the church! Lucifer goes to the back of two male Hamlets with his food trolley; whispering in their ears and causes them brain metamorphoses and then turns them to their normal state. Afterwards he goes back again.)

2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet: (Standing on the table, in front of the 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet.):  
These but the trappings and the suits of woe. But I have that within which passeth show; For they are actions that a man might play, That can denote me truly, these indeed seem, Together with all forms, moods, shapes of grief, Nor the dejected 'havior of the visage, No, nor the fruitful river in the eye, Nor windy suspiration of forced breath, Nor customary suits of solemn black.

1st male Hamlet: I am too much in the sun.

(2nd male Hamlet laughs and returns to its place.)

(1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet returns to his place too. Suddenly, Hamlet's father begin knocking his head to the dinner table for several times. Female Hamlet stands up scared.)

Female Hamlet: methinks I see my father. I am thy father's spirit,

(Lucifer and Hamlet's father go to in front of the table and Hamlet's father does the handstand and Lucifer helps him. Three Hamlets make uncommon sounds by hitting the things.)

Hamlet's father: (And Lucifer says the same things silently.)

I Doom'd for a certain term to walk the night, And for the day confined to fast in fires, Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature Are burnt and purged away. But that I am forbid To tell the secrets of my prison-house, I could a tale unfold whose lightest word Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood, Make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres, Thy knotted and combined locks to part And each particular hair to stand on end, Like quills upon the fretful porpentine.

(Lucifer releases Hamlet's father.)

(Lucifer returns to his food trolley, Hamlet's father barely gets up and stands next to his chair, opposite the three Hamlets.)

Hamlet's father: But this eternal blazon must not be To ears of flesh and blood. List, list, O, list!

1st male Hamlet: O God! (sit down)

Female Hamlet: O God! (sit down)

2nd male Hamlet: O God! (sit down)

Hamlet's father: If thou didst ever thy dear father love

1st male Hamlet: I find thee apt;

Hamlet's Father: And duller shouldst thou be than the fat weed That roots itself in ease on Lethe wharf, Wouldst thou not stir in this. Now, Hamlet, hear: 'Tis given out that, sleeping in my orchard, A serpent stung me; so the whole ear of all Is by a forged process of my death Rankly abused; but now, thou noble youth, The serpent that did sting thy father's life Now wears his crown.

(Hamlet's father goes behind 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet. Narration): so the whole ear of all Is by a forged process of my death Rankly abused

(Hamlet's father goes behind 2nd male Hamlet. Narration): so the whole ear of all Is by a forged process of my death Rankly abused

(Hamlet's father goes behind female Hamlet. Narration): so the whole ear of all Is by a forged process of my death Rankly abused

(2nd male Hamlet scratches the ground with a knife and female laughs madly and 1st male Hamlet tries to stop her. Lucifer moves towards Hmalet's father and pours the poison in his ear.)

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: Don't laugh Hamlet! Hamlet! (Calls female Hamlet indignantly.) Hamlet! Hamlet! Hamlet!

Female Hamlet: (Interrupts 1st male Hamlet's words.) Yes? O my prophetic soul!

2nd male Hamlet: (Female Hamlet lip reads the 2nd male Hamlet's dialogues mutely.) O my prophetic soul! O horrible! O horrible! most horrible!

Angels and ministers of grace defend us! Be thou a spirit of health or goblin damn'd, Bring with thee airs from heaven or blasts from hell, Be thy intents wicked or charitable, Thou comest in such a questionable shape That I will speak to thee: I'll call thee Hamlet, King, father, royal Dane: O, answer me!

Let me not burst in ignorance; but tell Why thy canonized bones, hearsed in death, Have burst their cerements; why the sepulchre, Wherein we saw thee quietly inurn'd, Hath oped his ponderous and marble jaws, To cast thee up again. What may this mean, That thou, dead corse, again in complete steel Revisit'st thus the glimpses of the moon,

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: Making night hideous; and we fools of nature So horridly to shake our disposition With thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls? Say, why is this? wherefore? what should we do?

(2nd male Hamlet plunges his knife into 1st male Hamlet's leg. 1st male Hamlet pulls out the knife painfully and takes the goblet from Lucifer, drinks some and pours some on the scratch. 2nd male Hamlet giggles. 1st male Hamlet sees his father in another corner while he is in his drunken delusions.)

Female Hamlet: Ay, marry, is't: But to my mind, though I am native here And to the manner born, it is a custom, More honour'd in the breach than the observance. This heavy-headed revel east and west Makes us traduced and tax'd of other nations: They clepe us drunkards, and with swinish phrase Soil our addition; So, oft it chanceth in particular men, That for some vicious mole of nature in them, As, in their birth—wherein they are not guilty,

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: (Silences her.) Hush! Since nature cannot choose his origin—By the o'ergrowth of some complexion, Being nature's livery, or fortune's star Shall in the general censure take corruption From that particular fault: the dram of eale Doth all the noble substance of a doubt To his own scandal.

2nd male Hamlet: O all you host of heaven! O earth! what else? And shall I couple hell? O, fie! Hold, hold, my heart; And you, my sinews, grow not instant old, But bear me stiffly up. Remember thee! Ay, thou poor ghost, while memory holds a seat In this distracted globe. Remember thee! Yea, from the table of my memory I'll wipe away all trivial fond records, All saws of books, all forms, all pressures past, And thy commandment all alone shall live Within the book and volume of my brain, Unmix'd with baser matter: yes, by heaven!

Female Hamlet: 'Sblood,

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret me, yet you cannot play upon me.

Female Hamlet: O most pernicious woman! O most pernicious woman! O most pernicious woman! O most pernicious woman!

O villain, villain, villain, smiling damned villain!

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: My music notes, My music notes,--meet it is I set it down, That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain; At least I'm sure it may be so here

(1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet seems to have seen the image of his father, follows him in fear. 2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet slaps him and wears him his glasses, this makes 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet aware. Lucifer claps and the 2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet and the female Hamlet fall on the ground. The light goes out.)

3.

(1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet and Hamlet's father are sitting at two ends of the table. Lucifer clears the dinner table. 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet plays the harmonica and writes some music notes.)

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: World's a prison; in which there are many confines,wards and dungeons, World being one o' the worst. then, 'tis none to you; for there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so: to me it is a prison. I could be bounded in a nut shell and count myself a king of infinite space, were it not that I have bad dreams. A dream itself is but a shadow. Then are our beggars bodies, and our monarchs and outstretched heroes the beggars' shadows. Beggar that I am, I am even poor in thanks; Is it your own inclining? Is it a free visitation? Come, deal justly with me: come, come; nay, speak.

Hamlet's father (Takes the glasses and puts them on his face): I am too much i' the sun.

(Lucifer claps. The light comes. 2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet and Female Hamlet stand up.)

2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet (Female Hamlet are on the back of the table and at the left of the backstage and 2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet in front of the table at the right of the backstage and walk on a straight line, opposite of each other.): I will tell you why; I have of late--but wherefore I know not--lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises; and indeed it goes so heavily with my disposition that this goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory, this most excellent canopy,

2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet and Female Hamlet: (standing vis a vis the audience) the air, look you,(again continue to move)

2<sup>nd</sup> male Hamlet:

this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to me than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours. in my heart there was a kind of fighting, That would not let me sleep.

female Hamlet: methought I lay. (female Hamlet and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamlet Falls down. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamlet lip reads her dialogues mutely.) Worse than the mutines in the bilboes. Rashly, And praised be rashness for it, let us know, Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well,When our deep plots do pall: and that should teach us There's a divinity that shapes our ends,Rough-hew them how we will,-- most certain.

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

4.

(Female Hamlet, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamlet, Hamlet's father, and Lucifer have sat at the dinner table. 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet pushes food trolley and serves them Frighteningly. IT seems he has turned to Lucifer. The Hamlets begin to eat wildly. Hamlet's father hits his head on the table. But it seems that Lucifer had gotten the role of 1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet, watching them thoughtfully.)

1<sup>st</sup> male Hamlet: What a piece of work is a man! how noble in reason! how infinite in faculty! in form and moving how express and admirable! in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals! And yet, to me, what is this quintessence of dust?

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

5.

(Everyone is at the dinner table, while as if the female Hamlet has turn into Lucifer, she pushes the food trolley and stops by side of each Hamlet and applies lipstick to each of Hamlet's lips and Lucifer performs what the female Hamlet does.)

1st male Hamlet: man delights not me: no, nor woman neither, though by your smiling you seem to say so. (Everybody laugh ridiculously.), Why did you laugh then, when I said 'man delights not me'? if philosophy could find it out.

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

6.

(Everyone except 2nd male Hamlet is dancing to the music, Lucifer claps, everyone become motionless at this moment. But Hamlet's father, looking at Lucifer, moves and sits down on his seat, worried and scared. Lucifer claps. Everyone moves again. 2nd Hamlet moves with the food trolley as if he is Ophelia.)

female Hamlet: The fair Ophelia!

1st male Hamlet: Are you honest?!

female Hamlet: Are you fair?

1st male Hamlet: Ay, truly; for the power of beauty will sooner transform honesty from what it is to a bawd than the force of honesty can translate beauty into his likeness: this was sometime a paradox, but now the time gives it proof.

2nd male Hamlet (becomes ashamed): I did love you once. Indeed, I made you believe so. You should not have believed me; for virtue cannot so inoculate our old stock but we shall relish of it: I loved you not. Get thee to a nunnery

female Hamlet: why wouldst thou be a breeder of sinners? I am myself indifferent honest; but yet I could accuse me of such things that it were better my mother had not borne me: I am very proud, revengeful, ambitious, with more offences at my beck than I have thoughts to put them in, imagination to give them shape, or time to act them in.

1st male Hamlet: What should such fellows as I do crawling between earth and heaven? We are arrant knaves, all; believe none of us. Go thy ways to a nunnery.

female Hamlet: Ophelia, if thou dost marry, I'll give thee this plague for thy dowry: be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny.

1st male Hamlet: Or, if thou wilt needs marry, marry a fool; for wise men know well enough what monsters you make of them. To a nunnery, go, and quickly too. Farewell.

(2nd male Hamlet shouts and turns back to his first place with the food trolley.)

Female Hamlet: (2nd Hamlet Cleans the table.) I have heard of your paintings too, well enough; God has given you one face, and you make yourselves another: you jig, you amble, and you lisp, and nick-name God's creatures, and make your wantonness your ignorance.

1st male Hamlet: Go to, I'll no more on't; it hath made me mad. I say, we will have no more marriages, To a nunnery, go.

(2nd male Hamlet runs screamingly. Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

7.

(2nd male Hamlet is sleeping with a flower in his hands on the dinner table. Hamlet's father is standing above him and Lucifer is standing behind him. Two other Hamlets are watching. The church bell is ringing.)

Hamlet's father: Ophelia!

1st male Hamlet: Ophelia!

Hamlet's father: Ophelia!

Female Hamlet: Hamlet!

Hamlet's father: I'm not Hamlet!

1st male Hamlet: Ophelia, my sparrow, Didn't I tell you? Doubt thou the stars are fire; Doubt that the sun doth move; Doubt truth to be a liar; But never doubt I love. Why did you doubt?

(A noise interrupts his voice. He changes his place with the female Hamlet.)

female Hamlet: Ophelia, my sparrow, Didn't I tell you? Doubt thou the stars are fire; Doubt that the sun doth move; Doubt truth to be a liar; But never doubt I love. Why did you doubt? I loved thee: forty thousand brothers Could not, with all their quantity of love, Make up my sum. Whether love lead fortune, or else fortune love.

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

8.

(The Hamlets and Lucifer are watching a film, Maybe Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shot. Hamlet's father passes them while pushing the food trolley and gives them a drink.)

2nd male Hamlet: Now I am alone. O, what a rogue and peasant slave am I! Is it not monstrous that this player here, But in a fiction, in a dream of passion, Could force his soul so to his own conceit That from her working all his visage wann'd, Tears in his eyes, distraction in's aspect, A broken voice, and his whole function suiting With forms to his conceit? and all for nothing!

Yet I, A dull and muddy-mettled rascal, peak, Like John-a-dreams, unpregnant of my cause, And can say nothing; no, not for a king, Am I a coward? Who calls me villain? breaks my pate across? Plucks off my beard, and blows it in my face? Tweaks me by the nose? gives me the lie i' the throat, As deep as to the lungs? who does me this? Ha!

1st male Hamlet: 'Swounds, I should take it

female Hamlet: Why, what an ass am I! This is most brave, That I, the son of a dear father murder'd, Prompted to my revenge by heaven and hell, Must, like a whore, unpack my heart with words, And fall a-cursing, like a very drab, A scullion! Fie upon't! foh!

1st male Hamlet: The spirit that I have seen May be the devil: and the devil hath power To assume a pleasing shape; yea, and perhaps Out of my weakness and my melancholy, As he is very potent with such spirits, Abuses me to damn me, The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, That ever I was born to set it right! I'll have grounds.

female Hamlet: I'll have grounds.

2nd male Hamlet: I'll have grounds.

( Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

9.

(Hamlet's father is asleep on the table. Lucifer cleanse him, tortures him and wakes him up by splashing the goblet. The other three Hamlets are at the dinner table and look at the audiences. Hamlet's father shouts. Lucifer comes to the Hamlets and makes a sign of cross on them and knocks them to the ground. After a short period of time, they wake up as if they have been sleeping for 100 years.)

female Hamlet: Tis now the very witching time of night, When churchyards yawn and hell itself breathes out Contagion to this world

2nd male Hamlet: now could I drink hot blood, And do such bitter business as the day Would quake to look on.

**1st male Hamlet:** How all occasions do inform against me, And spur my dull revenge! What is a man, If his chief good and market of his time ,Be but to sleep and feed?

**2nd male Hamlet:** a beast, no more.

**1st male Hamlet:** to be honest, as this world goes, is to be one man picked out of ten thousand. Doesn't it seem like a duty on my shoulders? This world is praiseworthy.

(Lucifer claps. The light goes out.)

10.

(Each Hamlet stands in front of a door. One after another, they go toward the table and talks to the head. Lucifer and the Hamlet's father are standing at the opposite corners of the scene, gazing at each other.)

female Hamlet: That skull had a tongue in it, and could sing once: It might be the pate of a politician, one that would circumvent God, might it not? (She goes to the door that had came through and leaves the scene.)

**1st male Hamlet:** why may not that be the skull of a lawyer? Where be his quiddities now, his quillets, his cases, his tenures, and his tricks? (He goes to the door that had came through and leaves the scene.)

**2nd male Hamlet:** This fellow might be in's time a great buyer of land, with his statutes, his recognizances, his fines, his double vouchers, his recoveries: is this the fine of his fines, and the recovery of his recoveries, to have his fine pate full of fine dirt?

(He goes to the door that had came through and leaves the scene.)

(The light goes out.)

11.

(Hamlet's father and Lucifer are sitting at both sides of the table and look at each other.)

Hamlet's father: (Narration.) To be, or not to be: that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles, And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep; No more;



(Lucifer claps. Hamlet's father's head falls on the table. The light goes out.)

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