

# **Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 307: Shakespeare's Precepts for all - Hamlet - Lord Polonius advises his son**

Hello all Tele Class friends:

Shakespeare is recognized as the greatest English Poet, Playwright and actor. He has written 39 plays. Many of his plays are historic, some are comedies, tragic, and combination of both. By all accounts, his "To be or not to be, is the question" Hamlet play is considered to be his best and is the most performed of all his plays.

In this play, he has some wonderful advice for your life in terms of advice given by Lord Polonius to his son on his way to Europe. These lines are good for all of us in our daily life even today and today we will present them to you for our weekly.

## **Lord Polonius advises his son on his journey to Europe**

**(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation)**

### **LORD POLONIUS to his son Laertes:**

**And these few precepts in thy memory  
See thou character.  
Give thy thoughts no tongue,  
Nor any unproportioned thought his act.  
Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar.  
Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,  
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel;  
But do not dull thy palm with entertainment  
Of each new-hatch'd, unfledged comrade.  
Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in,  
Bear't that the opposed may beware of thee.  
Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice;  
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.  
Neither a borrower nor a lender be;  
For loan oft loses both itself and friend,  
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.**

### **SPD Comments:**

3. The above advice is as good today as it was when Shakespeare wrote it in Hamlet.
4. Many of the advice have some oblique reference to what our Vakhshur-e-

Vakhshuraan Zarathushtra Spitamaan has said in his Gathas. For instance, the words above:

**Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice;  
Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment.**

are very similar to Zarathushtra's words in Ahunavaiti Gatha, Yasna 30 Verse 2:

“Listen with your ears the highest truth,  
Consider them with illumined minds carefully,  
And decide each man and women personally,  
Between the two paths, good and evil,  
Before ushering in of the great day, or the day of judgment,  
Arise all of you and try to spread Ahura's word!”

3. In our wonderful MF Cama Institute, we were taught English literature by none other than the amazing teacher Kaekhushroo Daruwalla. The above advice was one of the poems in our English literature and we had to learn these lines by heart. I can still recite these lines from memory!
4. Let me state an oblique coincidence:  
Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet* in 1600.

**In the same year, our Sanjana Mirza family Dastur Kaekobad wrote *Kisseh-e-Sanjaan!***

**May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Respect for all burn ever eternal in our hearts so we can do HIS work with humility, diligence and eternal enthusiasm!**

**In HIS SERVICE 24/7!**

**Atha Jamyat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli