

Student's name

Instructor's name

Course

Date

Hamlet's Relationship With Ophelia

The relationship between Hamlet and Ophelia is rather complicated. On the one hand, he shows affection to her by writing love letters and talking to her in a gentle and thoughtful manner. On the other hand, Hamlet is often rude, and his actions are difficult to understand. The key issue is whether Hamlet truly loves Ophelia or simply pretends to do so.

To begin with, it is important to state that Hamlet obviously has feelings for Ophelia. When you read his letters, it becomes apparent that he is in love with her:

Doubt thou the stars are fire;

Doubt that the sun doth move;

Doubt truth to be a liar;

But never doubt I love.

'O dear Ophelia, I am ill at these numbers;

I have not art to reckon my groans: but that

I love thee best, O most best, believe it. Adieu (Shakespeare).

Hamlet cherishes Ophelia. When reading these lines, the reader realizes that Hamlet even feels devotion for the young girl.

Furthermore, Hamlet makes a declaration of his love when he realizes that Ophelia has passed away. This is the moment when he gives vent to his sincere feelings:

I loved Ophelia: forty thousand brothers

Could not, with all their quantity of love,

Make up my sum (Shakespeare).

Obviously, the whole situation is tragic, and it is probably the wrong time to express his feelings for Ophelia. However, this is the exact moment when Hamlet is at his most honest. Therefore, these lines and the words Hamlet has said signify that he really loves her. In addition, Hamlet definitely regrets that everything has turned out this way. He starts to feel that he may also be guilty of Ophelia's death by being unkind and cruel to her.

It seems that Hamlet never stops loving Ophelia, but the issue is that their love is fading away over time. There are several reasons for that, the first and most important being his desire for revenge. Hamlet is so overwhelmed with this idea that he does not have time for Ophelia. He believes that his mother and Claudius have betrayed his father, and that it is his destiny to make sure they eventually pay for it. What is more, the Ghost of his father has specifically asked him to take revenge. Hamlet becomes obsessed with this thought and does his best to make the King of Denmark acknowledge his guilt. Another vital point to highlight is that Hamlet hates his mother for marrying his father's brother so quickly. He thinks that it has been done only because

of sordid motives. Moreover, Gertrude may not even realize the whole cunning plan which Claudius has come up with. That is why Hamlet's feeling of hatred is applied to every female character and, of course, to Ophelia. Hamlet assumes that Ophelia may become equally traitorous and corrupt (Mabillard).

Apart from that, Hamlet makes everybody believe that he is mad. At first, everyone thinks that he is insane because of his love for Ophelia. However, later on Hamlet acts extremely strangely, which leads to the assumption that he has lost his mind completely. He is impolite to Ophelia and allows himself to make some inappropriate jokes. Perhaps Hamlet fakes or exaggerates his madness to conceal his real feelings and worries, so as not to be vulnerable while surrounded by people who he thinks can be trusted. Besides, he is afraid that Ophelia is just bait. Hamlet knows that Ophelia's father Polonius and brother Laertes are very close to Claudius. Therefore, they may be working out a secret plan and implementing it with the help of Ophelia. As a result, his beloved Ophelia also cannot be trusted.

Taking everything into account, Hamlet does love Ophelia, as he sincerely talks of his feelings and expresses them. However, there are a few serious circumstances that prevent Hamlet from being happy with Ophelia: he wants to take revenge and believes that almost everyone around him is a traitor. As a result, Hamlet's feelings for Ophelia have dried up, and he becomes the one who ruins their relationship.

Works cited

Mabillard, Amanda. "*Introduction to Hamlet*". Shakespeare Online. 20 Aug. 2000,

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/hamlet/hamletintroduction.html>

Shakespeare, William. "*The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*". Oxford World's Classics, 2008.



Helping students to excel at writing papers.

[ORDER NOW](#)

collegepaperworld.com