

Ham. The king doth wake to-night, and takes his rouse,
Keeps wassel, and the swagg'ring upstart reels;
And, as he drains his draughts of rhenish down,
The kettle-drum and trumpet thus bray out
The triumph of his pledge.

Hor. Is it a custom?

Ham. 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.*

Enter Ghost.

Hor. Look, my lord, it comes!

Ham. Angels and ministers of grace defend us! —
Be thou a spirit of health, or goblin damn'd,
Bring with thee airs from heav'n, or blasts from hell,
Be thy intents wicked or charitable,
Thou com'st in such a questionable^b shape,
That I will speak to thee. I'll call thee *Hamlet*,
King, father, royal *Dane*: o, answer me!

* These 20 lines following are in the first edition, but since left out, perhaps as being thought too verbose.

This heavy-headed revel, east and west,
Makes us traduc'd, and tax'd of other nations:
They clepe us drunkards, and with swinish phrase
Soil our addition; and, indeed, it takes
From our achievements, though perform'd at height,
The pith and marrow of our attribute.
So oft it chances in particular men;
That, for some vicious mole of nature in them,
As in their birth (wherein they are not guilty,
Since nature cannot choose his origin)
By the o'ergrowth of some complexion,
Oft breaking down the pales and forts of reason;
Or by some habit, that too much o'er-leavens
The form of plausive manners; that these men
Carrying, I say, the stamp of one defect,
(Being nature's livery, or fortune's star)
Their virtues else, be they as pure as grace,
As infinite as man may undergo,
Shall in the general censure take corruption
From that particular fault. ----

Enter Ghost. &c.

^b By questionable is meant, inviting question, provoking question.

Let