

This, in obedience, hath my daughter shown me:  
And, more above, hath his solicitings  
As they fell out by time, by means, and place,  
All given to mine ear.

*King.* But how hath she  
Receiv'd his love?

*Pol.* What do you think of me?

*King.* As of a man, faithful and honourable.

*Pol.* I would fain prove so. But what might you think?  
When I had seen his hot love on the wing,  
(As I perceiv'd it, I must tell you that,  
Before my daughter told me,) what might you,  
Or my dear majesty your queen here, think?  
If I had play'd the desk, or table-book;  
Or given my heart a working, mute and dumb;  
Or look'd upon this love with idle sight,  
What might you think? no, I went round to work,  
And my young mistress thus I did bespeak;  
*Lord Hamlet is a prince out of thy sphere,*  
*This must not be:* and then I precepts gave her,  
That she should lock herself from his resort,  
Admit no messengers, receive no tokens:  
Which done, she took the fruits of my advice,  
And he, repulsed, (a short tale to make)  
Fell to a sadness, then into a fast,  
Thence to a watching, thence into a weakness,  
Thence to a lightness; and by this declension,  
Into the madness wherein now he raves,  
And all we wail for.

*King.* Do you think this?

*Queen.* It may be very likely.

*Pol.* Hath there been such a time, I'd fain know that,  
That I have positively said, 'tis so,  
When it prov'd otherwise?

*King.* Not that I know.

*Pol.* Take this from this, if this be otherwise;

[pointing to his head and body.  
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