

## THE FIXATION OF PRINCE HAMLET

Mohammad Idris

Department of English NWFP Agricultural University, Peshawar.

The person who trusts another may increasingly scrutinize and review the basis of his belief in the trusted person's intelligence and good will. Fixation implies the reduction of the self esteem of the person fixated, and it proceeds in particular by the creation and exploitation of a powerful instinctive conflict, by which the individual is held fixed, with no freedom of intelligence to operate. This is the predicament of Prince Hamlet who has immature and abnormal emotional attachment to the Ghost. The Ghost (the fixator) arouses in Hamlet exactly equal measure irrational positive and negative impulses<sup>1</sup>.

If thou hast nature in thee, bear it not;  
Let not the royal bed of Denmark be  
A couch for luxury and damned incest.  
But howsoever thou pursuest this act,  
Taint not thy mind, nor let thy soul contrive  
Against thy mother aught.

(1. V. 81-6)

His father's Ghost reveals to Hamlet that he was betrayed by his wife, Hamlet's mother and murdered by his brother, who now reigns in his place. For Hamlet this is the greatest horror that life can hold. The Ghost also imposes the duty of revenge on him, hence leaving him to face a task of appalling magnitude and complexity<sup>2</sup>.

Hamlet knows that he is now also possessed of an explanation for a seemingly inexplicable sequence of events<sup>3</sup>. He knows clearly that as an explanation whether arrived at by intuitive processes or by Ghostly revelation, it is one that lacks the smallest particle of proof: proof of murder, proof of adultery and proof that the Ghost is a true penny, not satan in disguise. But there is no shred of evidence beyond the word of this Ghost exists to substantiate either murder or adultery. A mother who might naturally be counted his best ally has become estranged from him by marriage to his despised uncle. In such a situation, can the intuitive image of the truth ever be matched by the factual evidence which alone can give substance. A day