

## THE TENDENCY TO PROCRASTINATION IN PRINCE HAMLET

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If thou has nature in thee, bear it not,  
Let not theroyalbed of Denmarkbe  
Acouchof Luxury anddamnedincest.  
But howsoever thou pursuest this act,  
Taint not thy mind nor let thy soul contrive  
Against thy mother aught. Leave her to heaven,  
And those thorns that in her bosom lodge  
To Prick and sting her.

(The Ghost: I. V 82-88)

The Ghost revelation comes as a shocking surprise to Hamlet. The Ghost commands him to right a wrong. The imposed task is the public one of exposing and revenging the crimes of regicide and adultery. But in the moment that he demands vengeance from his son, the elder Hamlet renders action impossible for him by deepening his sense of an evil that no human intention can purify; first in the tale of his own purgatorial sufferings and secondly in the revelation that Gertrude's adultery took place during her first husband life time. How is Hamlet to rid the state of Denmark of an usurping murderer when the state of all humanity is so deeply polluted. The country cannot be healthy and wholesome while its king, who should be the fountain head of justice, is guilty of fratricide, adultery and incest. And how will the act of killing the King who caused this dislocation of things serves to remedy matters. It does not seem to be a convincing solution. It is useless for the Ghost to say 'Taint not thy mind, since Hamlet's mind is already tainted as his flesh is sullied. It is apparent from the speech he utters immediately after the Ghost disappearance that he is more obsessed with his mother guilt than with Claudius blacker crime. Secondly, how can he kill Claudius in such a way that justice appears to be done, without at the same time exposing the guilt of his mother. Hamlet knows that evil is not so easily rooted out of society; the unweeded garden has run to seed and no amount of weeding can prevent the growth of what has already seeded. No action that Hamlet can take will restore his mother's innocence. M.M. Mahmood remarks:-