

Shakespeare's Hamlet is perhaps one of the most famous to exist to date. In this particular passage, Shakespeare utilises wit and ^{jabbing} ^{remarks} to characterise Hamlet as a smart character who ^{mischiefous} seeks to undermine the king.

Within the first few lines of dialogue, Shakespeare has Hamlet not directly answer the king's question and instead offers him a misleading answer. Hamlet answers: "At supper" in response to a request of Polonius' location. He then follows with a response that will not only answer the king's question but also begin to undermine the king by poking at him and his court. Hamlet states: "a certain/convocation of politic worms are e'en at him." In this line he has both established Polonius' location, and also called the king's court "politic worms" surely an insult. Later in this stretch of dialogue Shakespeare writes "we eat all/creatures else to eat us", and ~~we eat ourselves for maggots~~. Here Hamlet is ~~perhaps~~ giving commentary to the way the court is run, that it is ^{perhaps} inherently greedy ^{and power} hungry. However, he also reflects on how none of this matters and writes away the king's authority as ultimately useless as "we eat ourselves for/maggots".

Later on in the passage Hamlet once again undermines the status of the king, ~~but~~ but ^{does so directly} without the disguise of answering

the king's question. In lines 29-30, "A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a/king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of the worm." ~~The effect~~ By writing Hamlet's dialogue in almost a riddle like style, Shakespeare demonstrates Hamlet's intellectual superiority. The effect is clear as the king

~~is~~ is ~~is~~ confused by the statement saying "What dost you mean by this?" Hamlet in the next line ~~is~~ tells it directly to the king's face and builds upon ~~what~~ the insignificance of the king that he had previously alluded to, "how a king may go a/ progress through the guts of a beggar." As the king asks Hamlet yet another question, once again requesting Polonius' location, Hamlet once again uses this as an opportunity to not immediately reply and to lead him on. He first replies "In heaven". Here he basically says Polonius is dead. However, he wittily retracts this statement and says "you shall nose him as you go up the stairs into the lobby".

It is quite evident that throughout the passage Shakespeare intended to characterize Hamlet as witty and in an attempt to undermine the king's authority and demands plays around with him, leads him on, and only answers after getting a few insults and jabs in. ~~Hamlet always gets the last word,~~