

## Act three

### Scene 1

*Enter King, Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz, Guildenstern.*

**King** And can you by no drift of conference

Get from him why he puts on this confusion,

Grating so harshly all his days of quiet

With turbulent and dangerous lunacy?

**Rosencrantz** He does confess he feels himself distracted,

But from what cause he will by no means speak.

**Guildenstern** Nor do we find him forward to be sounded,

But with a crafty madness keeps aloof

When we would bring him on to some confession

Of his true state.

**Queen** Did he receive you well?

**Rosencrantz** Most like a gentleman.

**Guildenstern** But with much forcing of his disposition.

**Rosencrantz** Niggard of question, but of our demands

Most free in his reply.

**Queen**

Did you assay him

To any pastime?

**Rosencrantz** Madam, it so fell out that certain players

We o'erraught on the way. Of these we told him,

And there did seem in him a kind of joy

## Act three

### Scene 1

*The King's apartments in the castle. Enter the King, the Queen, Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.*

**King** [to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern] And cannot you

discover by talking with him the reason why he acts in this

confused way, disturbing his calm of mind with wild and

dangerous lunacy?

**Rosencrantz** He admits he feels deranged, but he won't under

any circumstances say why.

**Guildenstern** Nor have we found him eager to be questioned.

He cunningly avoids the issue when we sound him out.

**Queen** Did he welcome you?

**Rosencrantz** Most politely.

**Guildenstern** But with a great effort.

**Rosencrantz** He was somewhat reticent, but he answered our

inquiries freely.

**Queen** Did you check his interest in any entertainment?

**Rosencrantz** Madam, it so happened that we overtook some

actors on our way there. We told him of them, and he

seemed quite pleased to hear the news. They are here at