

## HAMLET IS A BASTARD

The idea that Hamlet is actually illegitimate arose when, in one of his conversations with Horatio, the prince mentions some people with a defect who aren't responsible for how and where they are born, since they do not choose their origin. According to Hamlet, the defect resulting from this misfortune causes others to look at them as spoiled [1.4.25-40].

In the context of a general conversation with Horatio, one might think that Hamlet is talking about people who are born with certain vices, for example, an excessive love of drinking, and that this defect negates all their good qualities in the eyes of others. Obviously, this meaning is more consistent with the answer to a friend's question about whether regular drinking in Denmark is a local tradition [1.4.14].

However, what if Hamlet is talking about something completely different in this case, such as his illegitimate birth? This idea is reinforced by the circumstances under which the character was born. It should be remembered that he was born on the day of the battle between old Hamlet and old Fortinbras thirty years ago [1.5.144-161]. And the reason why this battle took place, according to Horatio, was that the honor of the Norwegian king was hurt by the Danish king [1.1.90-117]. How exactly the two venerable monarchs quarreled among themselves is not specified in the text, but it can be assumed that it was a love affair.

Thus, it would be possible to explain the fact noted by Bloom H. that Hamlet's father never once throughout the entire play addressed him with love [1, p. 4]. Instead, old Hamlet once used the phrase «*if thou didst ever thy dear father love*» [1.5.28]. It is worth adding that at the age of seven the prince was sent to Wittenberg away from Denmark [1.5.172]. This decision of the king may be due to the fact that he simply did not want to see, as he believed, someone else's child under his nose.

If Hamlet were his father's real son, he could, purely hypothetically, be born the day after the battle between Denmark and Norway; and if he is the son of Fortinbras – a day earlier. But he was born on the very day of the battle, so whose son this remains unclear. Of course, if the circumstances of Hamlet's birth had no plot significance, Shakespeare might not have focused on the specific date of this event.

Due to his illegitimate birth, Hamlet finds himself relegated to a minor role at the Danish court. It should be remembered that in the reception room of the castle, the first person Claudius invited to talk was Laertes, and only after that – his own nephew [1.2.43]. It should be noted that in a room of state in the castle, the first person Claudius invited to talk was Laertes, and only after that his own nephew [1.2.43]. That is, when the prince first appears in the plot, Shakespeare presents him as a minor character.

Along with this Wilson D. comments on Hamlet's words regarding «*sullied flesh*» and writes that the prince feels involved in the lust of his mother [2, p. 42]. This allows some Shakespeare scholars to create theories that perhaps Hamlet is actually the son of Claudius, and that the latter had an affair with Gertrude even before marrying her. One of the arguments of the supporters of this theory is that Claudius, when communicating with the prince, calls him his «*son*» several times [1.2.66].

Thus, we can come to the conclusion that there is a certain problem with the origin of Hamlet: it is not known exactly whose son he is. His words about some people with a defect who do not choose how and where they are born only confirm the general points made in this article. It's doubtful that in the future it will be possible to establish Hamlet's relationship with any of the acting characters in the play. This is the eternal riddle posed by Shakespeare, the answer to which most likely never existed.

#### REFERENCES

1. Bloom H. 2003. Hamlet: Poem Unlimited. Penguin Publishing Group, New York.
2. Wilson J. D. 1959. What Happens in Hamlet. 2nd edition. University Press, Cambridge.

I. Mytrofanov, O. Besarab

### GLOBAL CULTURAL IMPERIALISM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE MODERN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

To begin with, it is important to mention that cultural imperialism occurs when one community imposes or exports various aspects of its own lifestyle onto another community. The term "cultural" refers to local customs, traditions, religion, language, social and moral norms, and other features of a way of life that are distinct