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Gertrude’s Truth

She looked out the window seeing him drinking out his favorite cup, she thought nothing of it. Until he did not return to the castle from his afternoon adventure. It did not hit her until the courtier told her that the King has fallen. In her time of need his brother offers his help but not for the reason expects only for the quest of gold. Before the night was over his words had persuaded her that she the love that got away from him and that he was going to take a chance and that night she was married to him. Though she was a mother she felt as if the marriage would not look appropriate from her son’s perspective. She is stuck in hard place trying not to let the mirror crack exposing the behavior she has while maintaining a proper for son. Soon time will strike upon her and the mirror will crack exposing Gertrude for the woman she is. Gertrude’s actions will speak louder than the opinions that Hamlet has as a wife to his father King Hamlet exposing her identity as a character.

Because, William Shakespeare lived from April 26, 1564 to April 23, 1616 (Biography.com). Women were inferior and submissive to men, following all guidelines that the husband expects from his wife. In Shakespeare’s literature many of the social standards occurring at the time were reflected in his literature. Men held all the control on the relationship, women were only to “speak only when spoken too”. The woman job is to have the babies, raise the children and upkeep the household primarily “housewives and mothers”. (Elizabethi.org) Gertrude has an opportunity to have an education, with the advantage with of having a husband being the King of Denmark, her destiny was brighter. With the opportunity to be could be educated at home by private tutors (Elizabethi.org). Along with not having any political, economic advantage women had no say in the voting process. Gertrude’s behavior was not the norm of the people whom she lived among. If Gertrude were still alive and to were to marry her deceased brother she would have not gotten the perception of being an “Ay, that incestuous, that adulterate beast”(Shakespeare 1.5.49).

Of course, as a wife she is the other half of the man, she is the one who supports her husband in all endeavors regardless of the challenge at hand. In that period once women got married “their husband was expected to look after them” (Elizabethi.org). His perspective is formulated from speaking with the ghost of his father. His father perspective is the feelings he experienced with Gertrude describing a moment when the two were getting married. Describing the matrimony to be “That it went hand in hand even with the vow” (Shakespeare 1.5.55). Only to learn that she was going to against the vows after his untimely death. King Hamlet gives the impression that everything he wrote in his vows in expression of the love that was there for Gertrude. In thought when King Hamlet took the vow “till death do us part” (bcponline.org) in meaning that the two lovers would not part ways from each other until one is strike with death. Hamlet’s perspective can form the opinion that his mother did not cherish the relationship as much as his father King Hamlet did. From another standpoint it could be viewed as Gertrude rebelling against social standards with the label that women to be only subservient to their husbands. In *Hamlet* Gertrude was considered a widow but the social standards declared “was in charge of her own life and property, but would be likely to marry again to find someone to protect her and to be the legal guardian to her children.” (“Audiences and Social Attitudes”).

Hamlet’s perception of Gertrude in the wife position is “You cannot call it love, for at your age, The heyday in the blood is tame, it’s humble, And waits upon the judgment. And what judgment, Would step from this to this?” (Shakespeare 3.4.70-72). In confrontation with Gertrude with the reality of her decisions that her figure as a wife is that she is not loyal and not true to herself. From leaving his father to be with the brother who would only use her for capital gain. “Here is your husband, like a mildewed ear, Blasting his wholesome brother. Have you eyes? Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed, And batten on this moor? Ha, have you eyes?” (Shakesphere.3.4.66-70) As Hamlet’s father, his son Hamlet is describing Claudius to be this intoxicating individual that has nothing to offer her and does have her best interest at heart. Gertrude’s decisions have given Hamlet the perspective that she is not the ideal image of what a wife is.

In the meantime, “Behaviorism refers to a [psychological approach](https://www.simplypsychology.org/perspective.html) which emphasizes scientific and objective methods of investigation. The approach is only concerned with observable stimulus-response behaviors, and states all behaviors are learned through interaction with the environment.” ([www.simplypsychology.org](http://www.simplypsychology.org)) Gertrude behavior is shown to shift after her husband’s death. Gertrude has become this promiscuous figure with the marriage of Claudius after his demise. “With witchcraft of his wit, with traitorous gifts,– O wicked wit and gifts, that have the power “So to seduce!–won to his shameful lust.” (Shakespeare 1.5.50-53). Gertrude’s behavior is blinded from being given gifts from her new husband. Claudius conveying the emotion of love towards Gertrude as a result she will fall under his spell becoming submissive towards him. “O Hamlet, speak no more! Thou turn’st mine eyes into my very soul, And there I see such black and grainèd spots, As will not leave their tinct” Recognizing the words Hamlet speaks to her allows her to hear the insight that Hamlet has about his mother and her behavior.

In the final analysis, *Hamlet* is complex and diverse with many common concepts incorporated. Gertrude being an essential character to the narrative. Her perception of being a wife is formed through the eyes of her son and nephew Hamlet. That transcends into the behavior she starts to exhibit through her conflicting circumstances. Though the mirror has two sides her truth hides behind the mirror trying not let the cracks show. Marriage being sacred between both woman and man with the intention. Of being with that partner till one was to part in death. “That it went hand in hand even with the vow” (Shakespeare 1.5.55). Gertrude’s actions gave the perception that relationship was at the end of the road by marrying the brother of her deceased husband. Claudius is “that adulterate beast” (*Shakespeare* 1.5.49) Claudius is beneath King Hamlet for engaging in sexual actions with his new wife whom he conveyed the feeling of love through giving gifts in exchange of a submissive queen. Hamlet’s perception of Gertrude in the wife position is “You cannot call it love, for at your age, The heyday in the blood is tame, it’s humble, And waits upon the judgment. And what judgment, Would step from this to this?” (Shakespeare 3.4.70-72). Confronting Gertrude with the reality of her decisions that her figure as a wife is that she is not loyal and not true to herself. From leaving his father to be with the brother who would only use her for capital gain. Gertrude’s identity showed that she wasn’t the perfect wife to her first husband. Due to not sticking together with through death through Hamlet’s eyes. While conforming to the promiscuity of being with Claudius that has her under a submissive mindset that the lust is real.

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