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HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY

An Excerpt from Hamlet, Act III, Scene I

Written by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Narrated by

MICHAEL ANTHONY SCOTT

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HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY

20 **T**O be, or not to be, that is the question:
21 Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
22 The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
23 Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
24 And by opposing end them. To die — to sleep,
25 No more; and by a sleep to say we end
26 The heartache and the thousand natural shocks
27 That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
28 Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;
29 To sleep, perchance to dream — ay, there's the rub:
30 For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,
31 When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
32 Must give us pause — there's the respect
33 That makes calamity of so long life.
34 For who would bear the whips and scorns of time,
35 Th' oppressor's wrong, the proud man's contumely,
36 The pangs of dispriz'd love, the law's delay,
37 The insolence of office, and the spurns
38 That patient merit of th' unworthy takes,
39 When he himself might his quietus make
40 With a bare bodkin? Who would fardels bear,
41 To grunt and sweat under a weary life,
42 But that the dread of something after death,
43 The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
44 No traveler returns, puzzles the will,
45 And makes us rather bear those ills we have
46 Than fly to others that we know not of?
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49 Thus conscience doth make cowards of us all,
50 And thus, the native hue of resolution
51 Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
52 And enterprises of great pith and moment
53 With this regard their currents turn awry
54 And lose the name of action.

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THE END

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