**4-The closet scene**

It called close scene because Hamlet met his mother in her chamber or closet. The scene is great thematic and dramatic significance. It is concerned with the revenge theme as well as with Hamlets madness. The sole purpose of Hamlet to meet his mother is awakening her conscience and he succeeds in his mission. Two more important events that take place here, the death of Polonius and the reappearance of the ghost of Hamlets father. The scene and its relevance can be explained as follows.

The meeting of Hamlet with his mother takes place just after the show of the play within play. The interview is suggested by Polonius. His purpose is that the queen may diagnose the cause of the madness of Hamlet. The king and the queen are displeased with hamlet as the play within play arranged by him displeases the king. Polonius then tells Claudius that the Queen has called Hamlet in her chamber. He would hide behind the tapestry and overheard the conversation between Hamlet and the Queen. He would learn more about Hamlet’s strange behavior.

Polonius hears the voice of Hamlet and so hides behind the tapestry (colorful curtain). Hamlet inters and his mother says angrily: “***Hamlet, thou has thy father offended”.***  To this Hamlet replies: “***Mother you have my father much offended***”. Thus, there is an exchange of hot words between the son and the mother. The queen amazes at the strange behavior of Hamlet. She rises to leave but Hamlet catches hold of her and forces her to sit. The queen cries for help and Polonius echoes her screams thinking that the hidden person is the king. Hamlet stabs him with his sword.

Hamlet then turns to his main purposes-of awakening the conscience of his mother. He charges her with violation of the scared marriage vows. He says that she is too old to have sensuous emotions. The queen feels tortured and asks Hamlet:“***speak no mor****e”*. She thus starts regretting. However, Hamlet would not stop his scathing words.

Soon the ghost appears. It wants to sharpen the bunted spirit of revenge in Hamlet. It also wishes to prevent Hamlet from his severe attack on his mother. The queen cannot see the ghost. Therefore, she calls it a mere hallucination. She calls it the result of hamlets madness. Hamlet assures of her that he is not mad and can repeat everything he has said earlier. He would explain the murderer of Polonius. The queen learns that Hamlet is not mad. She also repents for her guilt. She says: “***O, Hamlet; thou hast cleft my heart in twin*”*.*** Thus, Hamlet becomes successful in his mission of awakening his mother’s conscience. He hops that his mother will not tell the king about the ghost and that Hamlet’s false madness. The queen promises him to keep everything secret. She later on shields Hamlet. Hus, the closet scene brings a kind of reconciliation between the mother and the son. Hamlet bids goods night to his mother and leaves.

**The closet scene has much dramatic relevance.**

**First,** it gives Hamlet an opportunity to reform the queen.

**Secondly**, the scene conforms the fact that Hamlet’s madness is not real but feigned

**Thirdly,** the scene has importance because the ghost reappears in it. It stops hamlet from being too cruel to his mother, it also whets the blunted purposes of revenge. The queen does not see it and this fact symbolizes the evil within her heart.

**Fourthly,** the scene brings the murder of Polonius who meddles in the divine purposes of Hamlet namely to take revenge upon the villain.

**Finally,** the scene puts the action of the play in motion. Poor Ophelia becomes mad, Laertes becomes mad with anger and the king hastens the dispatch of Hamlet to England for getting him killed.