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**HAMLET: UNMASKING THE ENIGMA – HEROISM
AND TRICKERY IN SHAKESPEARE'S MASTERPIECE**

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Introduction:

Educators, students and theater lovers have been fascinated by Shakespeare's famous play called "Hamlet" for many years. "Hamlet" is a ravishing work that has been discussed about how the relationship between heroism and trickery is interrelated in the image of Hamlet. The researchers on this topic examine the important characteristics of each character type and their effects on the flow of events in Shakespeare's work. The main objective of this paper is to explore both the heroic and trickster aspects of Hamlet to understand man as a being not limited to a few specific labels and to contribute to the interpretation of the image of the protagonist, the debate about which has not stopped for several centuries.

Discussion:

Shakespeare's Hamlet is known for its multiple and complex characters intriguing and interesting. He represents the characteristics of a hero such as courage, dedication, justice and commitment to noble principles. He also represents the characteristics of a trickster such as cunning tactics and deception to question the norms and achieve his goals. This uncertainty takes the reader on an adventure unlike any experienced before.

Let's analyze heroic traits of Hamlet first:

Courage. One of the greatest defining characteristics of a Hamlet is his firm and effectual courage that is easily apprehensible by the reader, in facing difficult situations. His seek for justice for King Hamlet reflects his feature that is relevant to courage to the reader in the finest and the most efficient way. Although facing multiple dangers and moral problems, Hamlet feigns madness with valiant determination that helps reveal the truth behind his father's murder. The heroic tradition is basically represented by this daring act that displays Hamlet's dedication to justice and courage. Courage in Hamlet is shown when he unremittingly seeks revenge for his father, King Hamlet. In spite of life-threatening hazards and ethical problems, he dares to challenge the court vices including his own uncle Claudius. At its best, this courage manifests itself in his pretending to be insane so that he can find out what happened to his father's death. His courage cannot be questioned as he made this bold move. Hamlet's soliloquy in Act 3, Scene 1 clearly contains deep traces of the nature of his existence and his inner turmoil. "To be or not to be: that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles and, by opposing, end them," reflect Hamlet's courageous spirit in the face of adversity. The phrase «to

take arms against a sea of troubles" underlines Hamlet's courage and determination to actively fight against the difficulties that surround him.

Nobility. A hero's nobility goes beyond mere status. It also encompasses virtues like honor, honesty, and moral straightforwardness. Hamlet's nobility, justice and his honor that is effectively transmitted to the reader can clearly demonstrate his commitment to maintaining moral straightforwardness. Hamlet's ethical values lead his choices and behaviors, even when faced with uncertain situations. Hamlet is loyal for his father's memory as well as his dutifulness to Denmark. The prince is aware of his own duty and this is to save the kingdom from any corruption or the possibility of other people taking over power. Nobility is demonstrated in Hamlet's decision to restore the order into Denmark even at the cost of his life. Act 1, Scene 5: "Haste me to know't, that I, with wings as swift / As meditation or the thoughts of love, / May sweep to my revenge." In this part of the play, Hamlet speaks passionately about his duty to avenge his father's murder. This quote clearly underlines his nobility to restoring honor to his family.

Sense of Justice. Hamlet has a defined understanding of justice, which makes everything clear regarding their actions at all times. For instance, Hamlet's quest for justice and his mission to discover his father's killer reveal this aspect. He seeks to organize a court, which penalizes guilty persons for miscarriage of justice. Act 1, Scene 5: "And thy commandment all alone shall live / Within the book and volume of my brain, / Unmixed with baser matter." In this quote, Hamlet expresses his determination to remember his father's command. In addition, in the play "Hamlet," there is a scene where Hamlet uses a group of actors to reveal King Claudius's guilt. The actors perform a play that mirrors the circumstances of King Hamlet's murder. When Claudius watches the play, he reacts with fear and guilt, confirming Hamlet's suspicions about his involvement in the murder. Hamlet acquires the evidence he required, or professed to need, of Claudius' guilt, thereby liberating his conscience to fulfill his oath: "Now could I drink hot blood / And engage in such bitter business as the day / Would quake to look on." (Act III, Scene ii, lines 372-374). In this example, the pursuit of justice that we can clearly see brings forth his heroic nature.

We can find trickster-like qualities of Hamlet.

Cunning. Hamlet can be seen as a trickster because of his deceptive character. One of the biggest reasons for this is that tricksters defeat and influence their enemies by using intelligence and art of manipulation, and this shows Hamlet's mastery in this regard, especially by pretending to be crazy and trying to trick and convince those around him. Hamlet uses different and clever deceptions to deceive people throughout the Shakespeare's masterpiece. Especially his feigned madness conveys his sharp intelligence and strategic thinking to the reader. Apart from all these, he uses this disguise as a tool to gather information and manipulate those around him. Act 1, Scene 5: Hamlet: "And then it started like a guilty thing Upon a fearful summons. I have heard, The cock, that is the trumpet to the morn, Doth with his lofty and shrill-sounding throat Awake the god of day." In this scene, Hamlet

manipulates those around him by speaking mysteriously about the ghost's revelations and avoiding giving direct answers.

Willingness to Break Rules. Hamlet can be considered a character who does not depend on any set of social standards because he is ready to stand against tradition, refute some orders and violate existing laws in order to meet his selfish needs. Hamlet's willingness to disobey laws is presented when he makes direct criticisms about Claudius and his men. Especially, his play-within-play exposes Claudius as that person behind king Hamlet's death. This is something that defies court decorum and norms. Hamlet is not afraid of using this unusual approach to challenge the individuals whom he holds accountable for his father's death. Act 3, Scene 4: Hamlet: "O, from this time forth, My thoughts be bloody or be nothing worth!" After seeing Claudius's reaction to "The Mousetrap," After watching how Claudius reacted to "The Mousetrap," Hamlet says he is determined to do something, no matter what might happen as a result. These words show that he is ready to do things even if they are not what people usually expect.

Deceitfulness. Deceitfulness is another characteristic of Hamlet. He does not hesitate to use deception as a tool to achieve his goals. He is skilled in the art of manipulation and can use tricks, riddles, or disguises to effectively deceive people to achieve the results he wants. In the play, it is quite understandable that deception is one of the most dangerous weapons in Hamlet's mind, waiting to be used at any moment. Hamlet's feigned insanity and his use of deception to uncover the truth behind his father's murder clearly demonstrate to the reader his capacity for deception. Hamlet's masterstroke of manipulation can be seen when he plots The Mousetrap. He uses this stage play to assess Claudius' reaction, to establish his own guilt or innocence.

"The Mousetrap" is the term used for the play-within-a-play that Hamlet arranges in Act 3, Scene 2 of Shakespeare's work. Hamlet delicately tries to aim to assess Claudius's response to ascertain whether he is guilty or innocent. Throughout this entire scene, Hamlet uses his ability to manipulate those around him in a skillful and impressive way. Act 3, Scene 2: Hamlet: "For murder, though it have no tongue, will speak With most miraculous organ." Hamlet thinks that even though murder itself may be silent, it will somehow show the truth in a profound and miraculous way.

Conclusion:

As a result, it can be clearly indicated that Hamlet, which is one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, demonstrates both heroism and trickery. Some people might believe Hamlet is a trickster because of his tricky ways. But I am convinced that he's a hero with qualities that make him deserving of being remembered as a hero in Shakespeare's great work. The biggest reason I'm indicating that is because his strong determination for justice and his commitment to noble principles show that he follows the heroic tradition. "Hamlet" as a matter of fact is an outstanding subject of study for scholars, students, and lovers of literature, and the theme of heroism and trickery in it has a deep dimension for in-depth investigation and discussion.

References:

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2. Hornback, Bert G. Hamlet's heroism. – Colby quarterly, 1994, 30.4: 8. – pp. 292-295.