3/10/16

**Socratic Seminar Notes taken by Zumwalt during seminar. At some point, I referred to letters only because I was typing so fast. Hope at least some of this makes sense.**

**Final Psycho Thoughts:**

Hamlet as mom-lover seems unplausible. He has more direct motivations. Is it a stretch?

Projection of mother in his conversation with Ophelia. P.91/2 when H is talking to O – marry a fool for wise men know well what monsters…. H projecting his feelings onto O. Is Hamlet just acting crazy here?

Was H just trying to save O?

Difference in Hamlet’s emotional state between Gertrude & Ophelia. He wasn’t as upset with Gertrude as he was with Ophelia. P.168 Hamlet’s response seems like he’s angry, but not the love he displayed for Ophelia .

Yet, when Gertrude died, it did propel him to action.

Could Hamlet just be trying to protect his mother from going to hell? No, because she wasn’t going to hell because she married funcle. P.55 Ghost tells Hamlet to let her be judged, but Hamlet wants to wash away her sins.

Hamlet tells the king to follow his mother – you and my mother are going to hell? Does Hamlet think his mom is going to hell.

Hamlet may just be angry with his funcle and doesn’t think she’s going to hell, just follow her to death.

No, it’s hell because she’s merely interested in keeping the throne, which is why she married funcle.

Hamlet thinks Claudius married Gertrude just for the throne – “is this union here” – supports that Hamlet thought Claudius was only there for power, which is why Claud didn’t want Gert to drink the poison – he needed her alive.

Biggest argument of lens – H couldn’t kill C until after G dies. But that isn’t true because he would have killed C when he thought it was P. But he does talk about incestuous sheets a few too many times.

**Marx**

Gravediggers: Christian burial? ..when she willingly killed herself. Upper class get grandeur in everything. Or was it a ploy by C. L is mad that P didn’t get a proper burial. Where did it say P didn’t get a proper burial? In final scene, all of old nobility dies. Wasn’t F noble? Yes, but he’s not Denmark nobility. P. 169, Horatio I am more an antique Roman than a Dane. Hor wants to kill himself, but H tells him not to because he’s not noble to? Or is Shakespeare saying that nobility can’t last and it’s only commoners who can last? Gravediggers: 145-152 talk about it, p. 132, 168. What about players? P. 80 400 H prompts the players. Nobility using players to accomplish their goals. The players are telling a very ancient story, like Horatio telling the story – commoners tell the story. R&G – how do they fit into this nobility convo? They’re wealthy because they’re friends with H. All commoners – including R & G they always follow the tide – they support C, they support L when he’s going to overthrow C, they support Fort – is Shakespeare implying that commoners just follow whoever has power? Conversation between H and Osric same. When H tells Horatio to tell his story – H wants Horatio to share the idea that scheming doesn’t work. P. 146/7, Gallows/Churches – both nobility – Gravediggers outlive everything – churches and gallows both decay. Do commoners support C? C’s soliloquy early, they can’t oppose the authority because they feared treason. R&G have to take H to England because they have to. Gravediggers – Shakespeare going for comedic relief, not so much a point. But that’s the point – they’re smart enough to make these jokes. Commoners switching sides – trying to save their own skin, not necessarily indicative of working class taking over. C is concerned with commoners throughout the play – in initial soliloquy, and in p. 132, if commoners had trusted C, L wouldn’t have been able to rally them so quickly. But the mob did listen to him.

**Culture/Historical**

H versus chivalry – it’s a feudalistic time period, everyone motivated by vengeance – H is pushed to vengeance by the Ghost, Fort is vengeful, Laertes is pushed to vengeance. H is struggling with it because he’s a Renaissance man (struggling with Humanist and Nihilism). Humanist – human lives has supreme value, Nihilism – humanity has no inherent meaning. Hamlet is caught between the old ways and these new ideas. L is the old ways. H is the only character who exercises restraint at all. Laertes, the kind, Fortenbras, Ghost – all old ways. His turning to dust soliloquy, and when he’s questioning his suicide he’s struggling between the value of a Human life. Two big symbols, his dead father – the old times: chivalry, revenge and Horatio: new Renaissance ideas. Hamlet caught between the old and new ways. Is the restraint and reluctance his downfall? Maybe. Shakespeare might be talking about a person caught in between ideas – his downfall could be his indecisiveness. F recognizes H’s struggle and the problems with it at the end. Is Shakespeare saying we should just be decisive? Yes. Or…is he arguing that these two ideas don’t mix well? The Ghost is wearing the armour of a king – support for the idea that the Ghost is pushing H toward Chivalry. Is Shakespeare critizing the old ways? That the tragedy is that F took over the kingdom – which threw the kingdom backward. From a humanist perspective, all the deaths were part of the noble class, and now commoners are free to do what they want. Every person has their own value. P.169