

Polonius (Claudius, Hamlet)

[Hamlet, Act II Scene 2 line 40]

Polonius. The ambassadors from Norway, my good lord, are joyfully returned.

Claudius. Thou still hast been the father of good news.

Polonius. Have I, my lord? Assure you, my good liege, I hold my duty as I hold my soul,
Both to my God and to my gracious King;
And I do think, or else this brain of mine
hunts not the trail of policy so sure
As it hath used to do, that I have found
The very cause of Hamlet's lunacy...

[Hamlet, Act II Scene 2 line 203]

Hamlet. ...for you yourself, sir, should be as old as I am if like a crab you could go backward.

Polonius. (*Aside.*) Though this be madness, yet there is method in it. Will you walk out of the air, my lord?

Hamlet. Into my grave.

Polonius. Indeed, that's out of the air. (*Aside.*) How pregnant sometimes his replies are! a happiness that often madness hits on, which reason and sanity cannot so prosperously be delivered of. I will leave him and suddenly contrive the means of meeting between him and my daughter. My honorable lord, I will most humbly take my leave of you.

Hamlet. You cannot take from me anything that I will more willingly part withal—except my life, except my life, except my life.

Polonius. Fare you well, my lord.