

Soldier, Ambassador, Horatio (Hamlet)

Hamlet and Soldier [Act III Scene 8 Line 9]

Hamlet. Good sir, whose powers are these?

Soldier. They are of Norway, sir.

Hamlet. How purposed, I pray you?

Soldier. Against some part of Poland.

Hamlet. Who commands them, sir?

Soldier. The nephew to old Norway, Fortinbras.

[Continuing with lines from Hamlet]

Ham. Goes it against the main of Poland, sir,
Or for some frontier?

Soldier. Truly to speak, and with no addition,
We go to gain a little patch of ground
That hath in it no profit but the name.
To pay five ducats, five, I would not farm it;
Nor will it yield to Norway or the Pole
A ranker rate, should it be sold in free.

Ambassador and Horatio [Act V Scene 2 line 369]

Ambassador. The sight is dismal;
and our affairs from England come too late.
The ears are senseless that should give us hearing
to tell him his commandment is fulfilled,
that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.
Where should we have our thanks?

Horatio. Not from his mouth,
had it the ability of life to thank you:

Soldier, Ambassador, Horatio (Hamlet)

He never gave commandment for their death.
But since, so jump upon this bloody question,
you from the Polack wars, and you from England,
are here arrived, give order that these bodies
high on a stage be placed to the view;
and let me speak to the yet unknowing world
how these things came about: so shall you hear
of carnal, bloody and unnatural acts,
of accidental judgments, casual slaughters,
of deaths put on by cunning and forced cause,
and, in this upshot, purposes mistook
fallen on the inventors' heads: all this I can truly deliver.