

*“The time is out of joint: O cursed spite,  
That ever I was born to set it right!”*

## **An introduction to Hamlet’s problem**

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### **Abstract**

*Hamlet*, the famous tragedy by William Shakespeare is undoubtedly one of the greatest plays ever written in English language and one of the most prominent literary works of all world literature. For centuries, readers, critics and scholars alike have been fascinated by the enigmatic and mysterious character of Prince Hamlet, the play’s protagonist. They have been trying to find the answer to the most puzzling question regarding Hamlet: Why does not the Prince kill Claudius right away avenging thus his father’s death? - otherwise known as Hamlet’s problem. For that purpose, many theories have been developed and many solutions have been elaborated by the brightest people the world has ever known. This article attempts to address the issue of Hamlet’s problem by introducing several critical interpretations provided by the best literary minds the world has ever known and modestly endeavors to unfold the perspective of its author regarding this topic.

**Keywords:** murder, revenge, suicide, insanity, Hamlet’s problem.

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