

Funeral procession for O: includes C, G, L, courtiers. H wonders who died, funeral rites "maimed" (5.1.242) – suicide. H+Hor hide, O laid in earth H realises. L infuriated with Priest, says to give O proper Christian burial profane dead. L leaps into O's grave to hold once more; H bursts in, grief-stricken and outraged, agonised fury love for O. Leaps into grave and fights with L: "forty thousand brothers / Could not, with all their quantity of love, / make up my sum" (5.1.254-6). H cries would do things for O L could not dream of – eat crocodile, buried alive. O+L pulled apart, G+C declare H mad, H+Hor leave, C urges L patience, remember plan.

Scene II

H: Hor plotted against Cl's plan, replaced sealed letter with one calling for R+Gu's execution. No sympathy because betrayed, catered to C – feels sorry for hostility towards L. L's vengeance is mirror image of own desire, promises seek L's favour.

Osric (foolish courtier) tries flatter H, agrees with everything even when contradicts. C wants H fence with L, king wagered with L H will win. Os praises L, H+Hor don't get point. Lord enters, asks H if ready, C+G expecting. H fights, Hor advises against: "all's ill here about my heart" (5.2.222), must be ready for death, will come no matter what. Court marches into hall, H asks L for forgiveness – madness, not will, murdered P. L: not forgive H until elder has advised, but will accept offer of love in meantime.

Select foils, C: if H wins first/second hit, will drink to H's health, throw in a valuable gem (poison). Duel: H strikes L, declines to drink, play another hit first. Hits L again, G rises to drink. C says don't, but does so anyway, explains in an aside. L remarks that to wound H with the poisoned sword is against his conscience. Fight again, L scores, drawing blood: exchanges swords, H wounds L with his own blade.

G falls; L: "I am justly kill'd with my own treachery" (5.2.318). G moans cup poisoned, calls to H, dies. L tells H he has been slain by own poisoned sword, C to blame for both. H, fury, runs C through with poisoned sword, forces drink poisoned wine. C dies crying for help. H tells Hor dying, exchanges last forgiveness with L, dies after absolving H.

Marching, shot rings out: Os – F come in conquest from Poland, fires volley to English ambassadors. H tells Hor again he is dying, urges friend not to commit suicide, to stay alive and tell story. Wishes F to be King of Denmark, then dies.

F marches in accompanied by English ambassadors, announce R+Gu dead. Hor – will tell everyone story that led to gruesome scene. F orders for H to be carried away like a soldier.