Polonius’s Precepts
(1.3.64 – 86)

“And these few precepts in thy memory

1. Look thou character. Give thy thoughts no tongue, Nor any unproportioned thought his act. 65 -
2. Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar. 66
3. Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, Grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel, 67 -
4. But do not dull thy palm with entertainment Of each new-hatched, unfledged courage. Beware 68 -
5. Of entrance to a quarrel, but, being in, Bear ’t that th’ opposèd may beware of thee. 69
6. Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice. 70 -
7. Take each man’s censure, but reserve thy judgment. 71
8. Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy, But not expressed in fancy (rich, not gaudy), 72 -
For the apparel oft proclaims the man, And they in France of the best rank and station Are of a most select and generous chief in that. 73
9. Neither a borrower nor a lender be, For loan oft loses both itself and friend, 74 -
And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry. 75
10. This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.” 76