

## Hamlet's procrastination in taking revenge in Hamlet

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

### Write about Hamlet's procrastination in taking revenge in *Hamlet*.

Hamlet's procrastination (the action of delaying or postponing something) in seeking revenge is a central theme in William Shakespeare's (1564-1616) play Hamlet, which was written between 1599 and 1601. In the play, Hamlet seeks revenge on his father's murderer, a duty given by the Ghost of his late father.

Here are some key factors contributing to Hamlet's procrastination:

**Uncertainty and Doubt:** The Ghost tells Hamlet that his uncle Claudius murdered King Hamlet by poisoning him while he was asleep. In Act 1, Scene 5, the Ghost says,

*"The serpent that did sting thy father's life  
Now wears his crown."*

Hamlet is initially unsure about the ghost's revelation regarding his father's murder. He grapples with doubts about the ghost's authenticity and the reliability of its information. As a reflective and philosophical character, Hamlet is cautious about acting impulsively based on uncertain evidence.

**Moral Consideration:** Hamlet is deeply troubled by the moral implications of revenge. He is torn between his duty to avenge his father's murder and his ethical qualms about committing murder himself.

**Overthinking:** Hamlet is a highly intellectual character who tends to overthink and analyze situations. Hamlet even contemplates suicide to end his troubles. He says in his most famous soliloquy,

*"To be or not to be, that is the question"*

Hamlet's fatal flaw is his inability to act decisively to avenge his father's death. He would rather analyze and theorize than act boldly.

**Fear of Consequences:** Hamlet is acutely aware of the potential consequences of seeking revenge. He fears acting against the current king, Claudius, may lead to his downfall or ignite a series of tragic events.

In Conclusion, Hamlet's procrastination results from psychological, moral, ethical, intellectual, and emotional factors. Hamlet's procrastination makes him the most human character Shakespeare ever created.

