



**Word Study** - Hamlet's Soliloquy "To be or not to be", *Hamlet*, 3.1

Many of the following words and phrases are referenced in the Folger edition of *Hamlet*. Note the meanings of the words and phrases in the spaces below. Find the etymologies (word histories) for specific words in print dictionaries or online sources.

1. line 73 - rub  
    meaning:  
    etymology:
2. line 75 - shuffled off this mortal coil  
    meaning:
3. line 77 - makes calamity of so long life  
    meaning:
4. line 80 - despised  
    meaning:  
    etymology:
5. line 81 - office  
    meaning:
6. line 83 - his quietus make  
    meaning:
7. line 84 - bare bodkin  
    meaning:  
    etymology:
8. line 84 - fardels  
    meaning:  
    etymology:
9. line 87 - undiscovered  
    meaning:

10. line 87 - bourn  
meaning:  
etymology:
11. line 88 - puzzles  
meaning:  
etymology:
12. line 91 - conscience  
meaning:  
etymology:
13. line 92 - native hue  
meaning:
14. line 93 - cast  
meaning:
15. line 94 - pitch  
meaning:
16. line 94 - moment  
meaning:
17. line 95 - With this regard  
meaning:
18. line 95 - their currents turn awry  
meaning:
19. line 96 - Soft you now  
meaning:
20. line 97 - orisons  
meaning:

Researching **etymologies** will generate questions about words and phrases that are **idiomatic** and **archaic**. Abbreviations such as ME for Middle English and OFr. for Old French can be referenced and explained as well. This is an interesting way to introduce a discussion about our living and dynamic language. The words **orisons**, meaning prayer, is an archaic usage and may be found in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.