

## THE TEST OF CHARACTER

### *Hamlet's Use of Greek Mythological Figures*

#### HAMLET SR. AS HYPERION

“Hyperion is the Titan of light, an early sun god, He is the son of Gaea and Uranus. He married his sister Theia. Their children Helios (the sun), Selene (the moon), and Eos (the dawn).

Sun = kingship, royalty  
Enlightenment  
Truth  
Brightness  
safety, security ( away from the mysterious, creepy darkness)  
warmth  
active, effective (exposure to sun allows humans to feel vitalized and productive)

Hamlet compares his father to the sun god in order To accentuate the virtuous, bold, and warm qualities Of his father. He illustrates the qualities of an ideal king.

#### CLAUDIUS AS SATYR

“Satyre were originally human, but came to be described as beings who had the torso and head of a human and The lower body of a goat. They are renown as creatures who had sensual appetites and were noisy merry-makers”

satyr = appears to be a man, but is really a dirty beast  
driven by lust and sensual appetite  
cause trouble and disorder  
no respect for laws  
irrational  
savage  
depicted as the devil in Christian mythology

Hamlet compares Claudius to the satyr to show that he has two faces. Although he Appears to be just and compassionate, he is capable of transforming into a cold and savage beast in the fight for power.