27/10/26 – Book présentaton

Hey, I'm really excited to share with you my favorite book, which I read in its original version for this presentation. It's a play, probably one of the most famous ever written, and the backbone of countless stories. I'm talking about Hamlet, by Shakespeare.

Today we have Game of Thrones, but back then, they had Hamlet. Picture this: a dark medieval world where everyone's hungry for power, driven by revenge, and where no skill is underestimated, masterminds clash with swordsmen and the greatest manipulators.

I won't get too deep into the plot because Hamlet isn't really about what happens; it's about what's underneath. But to help you follow along, a lot from Hamlet inspired The Lion King.

So, Hamlet is a young prince, heir to the Danish throne. He's a university scholar while Denmark is at war with Norway.

One day, his dad suddenly dies under mysterious circumstances, and right away Hamlet's uncle grabs the throne by marrying the Queen. Think about The Lion King: Scar get rid of Mufasa and pushes Simba out.

Hamlet is crushed but feels powerless. He's bitter and cynical about the corruption around him, struggling to sleep.

Then, in the middle of the night, a ghost appears—it's his father, the former king. His father's words burn into him: "Your uncle poisoned me, stole your mother, took your crown. Avenge me. You're my son, the true king of Denmark." End of Act One.

What's really powerful is Hamlet's vision of revenge: it's more about restoring the truth rather than just killing his uncle, which wouldn't be justice as he pictured it.

So, Hamlet sets off on a strange, brilliant, and often unsettling journey. For example, to avoid being seen as a threat, he pretends to be mad, spending months acting erratic while waiting for the right moment to strike.

This plan fails, but worse, as he tries to fight corruption, people start seeing him as a deceiver rather than a victim.

The famous “to be or not to be” scene comes right after; Hamlet thinks about existence, suicide, and the fear of death. In a world where people accept the lies they’re told, how’s he supposed to bring back the truth?

At its core, the play succeeds in exploring the thin line between opposites: life and death, truth and lies, sanity and madness. Hamlet thinks he’s in control, sane while pretending to be mad, but if the world itself is sick, was he really as sane as he thought?

If you ever feel like life is a speeding train with no brakes, and you’re not into theory but want a read that puts the right words to your emotions, this is definitely the right book for you.