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The Ghost of King Hamlet: Catholic in Purgatory or Protestant from Hell?

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Oral Presentation O8.3

**THE GHOST OF KING HAMLET: CATHOLIC IN PURGATORY OR
PROTESTANT FROM HELL?**

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The Ghost of King Hamlet is one of the most significant characters in Hamlet because he is the catalyst that sets the play in motion. Because the Ghost's role is so pivotal to the plot, it was essential that the Elizabethan audience believed that the Ghost was real in order for the play to be successful. However, there were several different belief systems on ghosts and spirits during the time period that the play was written, including those of the Catholic and Protestant churches. Both of these belief systems are represented in the Ghost of King Hamlet, begging the question: is he Catholic or Protestant?