

Johnson and Steevens 1778      'Macbeth', in Samuel  
Johnson and George Steevens (eds.), The plays of William  
Shakspeare, 2nd ed., vol. 4 (London, 1778), 439--611.

439

MACBETH.

440

Persons Represented.

Duncan, King of Scotland.

Malcolm,        )  
Donalbain,     ) Sons to the King.

Macbeth,       )  
Banquo,        ) Generals of the King's army.

Lenox,         )

Macduff,       )

Rosse,         )  
Menteth,       ) Noblemen of Scotland.

Angus,         )

Cathness,      )

Fleance, Son to Banquo.

Siward, General of the English forces.

Young Siward, his son.

Seyton, an Officer attending on Macbeth.

Son to Macduff.

An English Doctor.

A Scotch Doctor.   A Captain.   A Porter.   An old Man.

Lady Macbeth.

Lady Macduff.

Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

Hecate, and three Witches.

Lords, Gentlemen, Officers, Soldiers, Murderers, Attendants,  
and Messengers.

The Ghost of Banquo, and several other Apparitions.

SCENE, in the end of the fourth act, lies in England;  
through the rest of the play, in Scotland; and, chiefly,  
at Macbeth's castle \*.

Of this play there is no edition more ancient than that of 1623.

Most of the notes which the present editor has subjoined to this  
play, were published by him in a small pamphlet in 1745.

Johnson.

\* I have taken a liberty with this tragedy, which might be practised with almost equal propriety in respect of a few others; I mean, the retrenchment of such stage-directions as are not supplied by the oldest copy. Mr. Rowe had tricked out Macbeth, like many more of Shakespeare's plays, in all the foppery of the reign of queen Anne. Every change of situation produced notice that the scene lay in an anti-chamber, a royal apartment, or a palace; and even some variations and starts of passion were set down in a manner no less ostentatious and unnecessary. Steevens.

441

MACBETH.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.

1 Witch. When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

442

2 Witch. When the hurly-burly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won:

443

3 Witch. That will be ere th' set of sun.  
1 Witch. Where the place?

444

2 Witch. Upon the heath:  
3 Witch. There to meet with Macbeth.  
1 Witch. I come, Gray-malkin!  
All. Paddock calls: ---- Anon. --  
Fair is foul, and foul is fair:  
Hover through the fog and filthy air.                      Ø

445

SCENE II.

Alarum within. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, Lenox, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding Captain.

King. What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt

The newest state.

Mal. This is the serjeant,  
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought  
'Gainst my captivity: -- Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil,

446

As thou didst leave it.

Cap. Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together,  
And choak their art. The merciless Macdonel  
(Worthy to be a rebel; for, to that,  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon him) from the western isles  
Of Kernes and Gallow-glasses **is** supply'd;  
And fortune, on his damned **quarrel** smiling,

447

Shew'd like a rebel's whore: But **all's** too weak:  
For brave Macbeth, (well he deserves that name)  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,  
Which smok'd with bloody execution,  
Like valour's minion, carved out his passage,  
'Till he fac'd the slave:  
And ne'er shook hands, nor **bade** farewell to him,  
'Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chops,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

448

King. Oh, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!  
Cap. As whence the sun 'gins his reflexion

449 sig 2G

Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break;  
So from that spring, whence comfort seem'd to come,  
Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:  
No sooner justice had, with valour arm'd,  
Compell'd these skipping Kernes to trust their heels;  
But the Norwegian lord, surveying vantage,

450

With furbish'd arms, and new supplies of men,  
Began a fresh assault.

King. Dismay'd not this

Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

Cap. Yes;

As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion.

If I say sooth, I must report they were

As cannons overcharg'd with double cracks;

So they

Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:

Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,

Or memorize another Golgotha,

451

I cannot tell: ----

But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

King. So well thy words become thee, as thy  
wounds;

They smack of honour both: -- Go, get him surgeons.

Enter Rosse.

Who comes here?

Mal. The worthythane of Rosse.

Len. What a haste looks through his eyes? So  
should he look,

That seems to speak things strange.

452

Rosse. God save the king!

King. Whence cam'st thou, worthythane?

Rosse. From Fife, great king,

Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky,

And fan our people cold.

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,

Assisted by that most disloyal traitor

Thethane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict:

'Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapt in proof,

Confronted him with self-comparisons,

453

Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,

Curbing his lavish spirit: And to conclude,

The victory fell on us; ----

King. Great happiness!

Rosse. That now

Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition;

Nor would we deign him burial of his men,

'Till he disbursed, at Saint Colmes' inch,

Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

King. No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
Our bosom interest: -- Go, pronounce his **present**  
death,

454

And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Rosse. I'll see it done.

King. What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.  
[Exeunt.]

SCENE III.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 Witch. Where hast thou been, sister?

2 Witch. Killing swine.

3 Witch. Sister, where thou?

1 Witch. A sailor's wife had chesnuts in her lap,  
And mouncht, and mouncht, and mouncht: -- *Give*  
*me*, quoth I.

*Aroint thee, witch!* the rump-fed ronyon cries.

455

Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'the Tyger:  
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,  
And, like a rat without a tail,  
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

2 Witch. I'll give thee a wind.

456

1 Witch. Thou art kind.

3 Witch. And I another.

1 Witch. I myself have all the other;  
And the very points they blow,  
All the quarters that they know  
I' the shipman's card.  
I will drain him dry as hay:  
Sleep shall, neither night nor day,  
Hang upon his pent-house lid;  
He shall live a man forbid:

457

Weary seven-nights, nine times nine,  
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine:

Though his bark cannot be lost,  
Yet it shall be tempest-tost.  
Look what I have.

2 Witch. Shew me, shew me.

1 Witch. Here I have a pilot's thumb,  
Wreck'd, as homeward he did come. [Drum within.

3 Witch. A drum, a drum;  
Macbeth doth come.

All. The weird sisters, hand in hand,  
Posters of the sea and land,

458

Thus do go about, about;  
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,  
And thrice again, to make up nine:  
Peace! -- the charm's wound up.

459

Enter Macbeth and Banquo.

Mac. So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

460

Ban. How far is't call'd to **Fores**? -- What are these,  
So wither'd, and so wild in their attire;  
That look not like the inhabitants o'the earth,  
And yet are on't? -- Live you? or are you aught  
That man may question? You seem to understand  
me,  
By each at once her choppy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lips: -- You should be women,

461

And yet your beards forbid me to interpret  
That you are so.

Macb. Speak, if you can; -- What are you?

1 Witch. All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane  
of Glamis!

462

2 Witch. All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane  
of Cawdor!

3 Witch. All hail, Macbeth! that shalt be king  
hereafter.

Ban. Good sir, why do you start; and seem to  
fear  
Things that do sound so fair? -- I'the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed Ø

463

Which outwardly ye shew? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace, and great prediction  
Of noble having, and of royal hope,  
That he seems rapt withal; to me you speak not:  
If you can look into the seeds of time,  
And say, which grain will grow, and which will not;  
Speak then to me, who neither beg, nor fear,  
Your favours, nor your hate.

1 Witch. Hail!

2 Witch. Hail!

3 Witch. Hail!

1 Witch. Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

2 Witch. Not so happy, yet much happier.

3 Witch. Thou shalt get kings, though thou be  
none:

So, all hail, Macbeth, and Banquo!

1 Witch. Banquo, and Macbeth, all hail!

Mac. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
By Sinel's death, I know, I amthane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? thethane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and, to be king,  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say, from whence

464

You owe this strange intelligence? or why  
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetick greeting? -- Speak, I charge  
you. [Witches vanish.]

Ban. The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,  
And these are of them: -- Whither are they vanish'd?

Macb. Into the air; and what seem'd corporal,  
melted

As breath into the wind. -- 'Would they had staid!

Ban. Were such things here, as we do speak about?  
Or have we eaten of the insane root,  
That takes the reason prisoner?

Macb. Your children shall be kings.

Ban. You shall be king.

Macb. Andthane of Cawdor too; went it not so?

Ban. To the self-same tune, and words. Who's

here?

Enter Rosse, and Angus.

Rosse. The king hath happily receiv'd, Macbeth,  
The news of thy success: and when he reads  
Thy personal venture in the rebel's fight,  
His wonders and his praises do contend,  
Which should be thine, or his: Silenc'd with that,

465 sig 2H

In viewing o'er the rest o' the self-same day,  
He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,  
Nothing afraid of what thyself didst make,  
Strange images of death. As thick as tale,  
Came post with post; and every one did bear  
Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,  
And pour'd them down before him.

Ang. We are sent,  
To give thee, from our royal master, thanks;  
Only to herald thee into his sight,  
Not pay thee.

Rosse. And, for an earnest of a greater honour,  
He bade me, from him, call theethane of Cawdor:  
In which addition, hail, most worthythane!  
For it is thine.

Ban. What, can the devil speak true?

Macb. Thethane of Cawdor lives; Why do you  
dress me  
In borrow'd robes?

Ang. Who was thethane, lives yet;  
But under heavy judgment bears that life,  
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was

466

Combin'd with Norway; or did line the rebel  
With hidden help and vantage; or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not;  
But treasons capital, confess'd, and prov'd,  
Have overthrown him.

Macb. Glamis, andthane of Cawdor:  
The greatest is behind. -- Thanks for your pains. --  
Do you not hope your children shall be kings,  
When those that gave thethane of Cawdor to me,  
Promis'd no less to them?

Ban. That, trusted home,  
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,



Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:  
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths;  
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us  
In deepest consequence. -- Cousins, a word I pray you.

Macb. Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme. -- I thank you, gentlemen. --  
This supernatural solliciting  
Cannot be ill; cannot be good: -- If ill,  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:

467

If good, why do I yield to that suggestion  
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,  
Against the use of nature? Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings:  
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,  
Shakes so my single state of man, that function

468

Is smother'd in surmise; and nothing is,  
But what is not.

Ban. Look, how our partner's rapt.

Macb. If chance will have me king, why, chance  
may crown me,  
Without my stir.

Ban. New honours, come upon him  
Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould,  
But with the aid of use.

Macb. Come what come may;  
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

469

Ban. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

Macb. Give me your favour: -- my dull brain was  
wrought  
With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains  
Are register'd where every day I turn  
The leaf to read them. -- Let us toward the king. --  
Think upon what hath chanc'd; and, at more time,  
The interim having weigh'd it, let us speak  
Our free hearts each to other.

Ban. Very gladly.

Macb. 'Till then, enough. -- Come, friends.  
[Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

Flourish. Enter King, Malcolm, Donalbain, Lenox, and Attendants.

King. Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not Those in commission yet return'd?

470

Mal. My liege,  
They are not yet come back. But I have spoke  
With one that saw him die: who did report,  
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons;  
Implor'd your highness' pardon; and set forth  
A deep repentance: nothing in his life  
Became him, like the leaving it; he dy'd  
As one that had been studied in his death,  
To throw away the dearest thing he ow'd,  
As 'twere a careless trifle.

King. There's no art,  
To find the mind's construction in the face:  
He was a gentleman on whom I built  
An absolute trust. -- O worthiest cousin!

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Rosse, and Angus.

The sin of my ingratitude even now  
Was heavy on me: Thou art so far before,  
That swiftest wing of recompence is slow  
To overtake thee. 'Would thou hadst less deserv'd;  
That the proportion both of thanks and payment

471

Might have been mine! only I have left to say,  
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

Macb. The service and the loyalty I owe,  
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part  
Is to receive our duties: and our duties  
Are to your throne and state, children, and servants;  
Which do but what they should, by doing every  
thing  
Safe toward your love and honour.

472

King. Welcome hither:  
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour  
To make thee full of growing. -- Noble Banquo,  
**That** hast no less deserv'd, **nor** must be known  
No less to have done so, let me enfold thee,  
And hold thee to my heart.

Ban. There if I grow,  
The harvest is your own.

King. My plenteous joys,  
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves  
In drops of sorrow. -- Sons, kinsmen, thanes,  
And you whose places are the nearest, know,  
We will establish our estate upon  
Our eldest, Malcolm; whom we name hereafter,  
The prince of Cumberland: which honour must  
Not, unaccompanied, invest him only,  
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine  
On all deservers. -- From hence to Inverness,  
And bind us further to you.

Macb. The rest is labour, which is not us'd for  
you:  
I'll be myself the harbinger, and make joyful

473

The hearing of my wife with your approach;  
So, humbly take my leave.

King. My worthy Cawdor!

Macb. The prince of Cumberland! -- That is a step,  
On which I must fall down, or else o'er-leap, [Aside.  
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires!  
Let not light see my black and deep desires:  
The eye wink at the hand! yet let that be,  
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see. [Exit.

King. True, worthy Banquo; he is full so valiant;  
And in his commendations I am fed;  
It is a banquet to me. Let us after him,  
Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome:  
It is a peerless kinsman. [Flourish. Exeunt.

SCENE V.

Enter Macbeth's wife alone, with a letter.

Lady. ---- *They met me in the day of success; and I*

474

have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burnt in desire to question them further, they made themselves -- air, into which they vanish'd. *Whiles* I stood *rapt* in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-hail'd me, Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referr'd me to the coming on of time, with, Hail, king that shalt be! This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness; that thou might'st not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promis'd thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be  
What thou art promis'd: -- Yet do I fear thy nature;  
It is too full o'the milk of human kindness,  
To catch the nearest way: Thou would'st be great;  
Art not without ambition; but without  
The illness should attend it. What thou would'st  
highly,  
That would'st thou holily; would'st not play false,  
And yet would'st wrongly win: thou'd'st have, great  
Glamis,  
That which cries, *Thus thou must do, if thou have it;*  
And that which rather thou dost fear to do,

475

Than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither,  
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear;  
And chastise with the valour of my tongue  
All that impedes thee from the golden round,  
Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem  
To have thee crown'd withal. ---- What is your  
tidings?

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. The king comes here to-night.

Lady. Thou'rt mad to say it:  
Is not thy master with him? who, wer't so,  
Would have inform'd for preparation.

Mes. So please you, it is true: our thane is coming:  
One of my fellows had the speed of him;  
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more  
Than would make up his message.

Lady. Give him tending,

476

He brings great news. The raven himself is hoarse,  
[Exit Mes.]

That croaks the fatal **entrance** of Duncan  
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits  
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here;  
And fill me, from the crown to the toe, top-full  
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood,  
Stop up the access and passage to remorse;  
That no compunctious visitings of nature  
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between

477

The effect, and it! Come to my woman's breasts,  
And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring mini-  
sters,  
Wherever in your sightless substances  
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,

478

And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell!  
That my keen knife see not the wound it makes;  
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,  
To cry, *Hold, hold!* ---- Great Glamis! worthy  
Cawdor!

479

Enter Macbeth.

Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!  
Thy letters have transported me beyond  
This ignorant present time, and I feel now

480

The future in the instant.  
Macb. My dearest love,  
Duncan comes here to-night.  
Lady. And when goes hence?  
Macb. To-morrow, as he purposes.  
Lady. Oh, never  
Shall sun that morrow see!  
Your face, my thane, is as a book, where men  
May read strange matters: -- To beguile the time,  
Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,  
Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent

flower,  
But be the serpent under it. He that's coming  
Must be provided for: and you shall put  
This night's great business into my dispatch;  
Which shall to all our nights and days to come  
Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

Macb. We will speak further.

Lady. Only look up clear;  
To alter favour ever is to fear:  
Leave all the rest to me. [Exeunt.]

481 sig 2I

SCENE VI.

Hautboys and Torches. Enter King, Malcolm, Donalbain, Banquo, Lenox, Macduff, Rosse, Angus, and Attendants.

King. This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air  
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our gentle senses.

Ban. This guest of summer,  
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,  
By his lov'd mansionry, that ~~the~~ heaven's breath  
Smells wooingly here: no jutty frieze,  
Buttress, nor coigne of vantage, but this bird

482

Hath made his pendant bed, and procreant cradle:  
Where they most breed and haunt, I have observ'd,  
The air is delicate.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

King. See, see! our honour'd hostess! ----  
The love that follows us, sometime is our trouble,  
Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you,  
How you ~~shall~~ bid God yield us for your pains,  
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady. All our service  
In every point twice done, and then done double,  
Were poor and single business, to contend  
Against those honours deep and broad, wherewith  
Your majesty loads our house: For those of old,  
And the late dignities heap'd up to them,  
We rest your hermits.

483

King. Where's the thane of Cawdor?  
We cours'd him at the heels, and had a purpose  
To be his purveyor: but he rides well;  
And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him  
To his home before us: Fair and noble hostess,  
We are your guest to-night.

Lady. Your servants ever  
Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs, in compt,  
To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,  
Still to return your own.

King. Give me your hand:  
Conduct me to mine host; we love him highly,  
And shall continue our graces towards him.  
By your leave, hostess. [Exeunt.

484

SCENE VII.

Hautboys and torches. Enter a sewer, and divers servants with dishes and service over the stage. Then enter Macbeth.

Macb. If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere  
well  
It were done quickly: If the assassination  
Could **trammel** up the consequence, and catch,

485

With his surcease, success; that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, --  
We'd jump the life to come. -- But, in these cases,  
We still have judgment here; that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return  
To plague the inventor: This even-handed justice  
Commends the ingredients of our poison'd chalice  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,  
Who should against his **murderer** shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been

486

So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongu'd, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off:  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,  
Striding the blast, or heavens cherubin, hors'd  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind. -- I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which o'er-leaps itself,  
And falls on the other -- How now! what news?

487

Enter Lady.

Lady. He has almost supp'd; Why have you left  
the chamber?

Macb. Hath he ask'd for me?

Lady. Know you not, he has?

Macb. We will proceed no further in this business:  
He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought  
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,  
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,  
Not cast aside so soon.

Lady. Was the hope drunk,  
Wherein you drest yourself? hath it slept since?  
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale  
At what it did so freely? From this time,  
Such I account thy love. Art thou afraid

488

To be the same in thine own act and valour,  
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that  
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,  
And live a coward in thine own esteem;  
Letting I dare not wait upon I would,  
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

Macb. Pr'ythee, peace:  
I dare do all that may become a man;  
Who dares do more, is none.

Lady. What beast was it then,  
That made you break this enterprize to me?  
When you durst do it, then you were a man;  
And, to be more than what you were, you would  
Be so much more the man. Nor time, nor place,

489



Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:  
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now  
Does unmake you. I have given suck; and know  
How tender 'tis, to love the babe that milks me:  
I would, while it was smiling in my face,  
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless gums,  
And dash'd the brains out, had I but so sworn  
As you have done to this.

Macb. If we **should** fail, ----

Lady. We fail!

But screw your courage to the sticking place,  
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep,  
(Where'to the rather shall his day's hard journey  
Soundly invite him) his two chamberlains  
Will I with wine and wassel so convince,

490

That memory, the warder of the brain,  
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason

491

A limbeck only: When in swinish sleep  
Their drenched natures lie, as in a death,  
What cannot you and I perform upon  
The unguarded Duncan? what not put upon  
His spungy officers; who shall bear the guilt  
Of our great quell?

Macb. Bring forth men-children only!  
For thy undaunted mettle should compose  
Nothing but males. Will it not be receiv'd,  
When we have mark'd with blood those sleepy two  
Of his own chamber, and us'd their very daggers,  
That they have don't?

Lady. Who dares receive it other,  
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar  
Upon his death?

Macb. I am settled, and bend up

492

Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.  
Away, and mock the time with fairest show:  
False face must hide what the false heart doth know.  
[Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE I.

Enter Banquo, and Fleance, with a torch before him.

Ban. How goes the night, boy?

Fle. The moon is down; I have not heard the clock.

Ban. And she goes down at twelve.

Fle. I take't, 'tis later, sir.

Ban. Hold, take my sword: -- There's husbandry in heaven,

Their candles are all out. -- Take thee that too.

A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,

And yet I would not sleep: Merciful powers!

493

Restrain in me the cursed thoughts, that nature Gives way to in repose! -- Give me my sword; --

Enter Macbeth, and a servant with a torch.

Who's there?

Macb. A friend.

Ban. What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed: He hath been in unusual pleasure, and Sent forth great largess to your officers: This diamond he greets your wife withal, By the name of most kind hostess; and shut up In measureless content.

Macb. Being unprepar'd, Our will became the servant to defect; Which else should free have wrought.

Ban. All's well.

I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:

494

To you they have shew'd some truth.

Macb. I think not of them:

Yet, when we can intreat an hour to serve, We would spend it in some words upon that business, If you would grant the time.

Ban. At your kind'st leisure.

Macb. If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis, It shall make honour for you.

Ban. So I lose none,

In seeking to augment it, but still keep My bosom franchis'd, and allegiance clear, I shall be counsel'd.

Macb. Good repose, the while!

Ban. Thanks, sir; The like to you! [Exit Banquo.

Macb. Go, bid thy mistress, when my drink is  
ready,

She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed. [Exit Serv.

Is this a dagger, which I see before me,

The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch  
thee: ----

495

I have thee not; and yet I see thee still.

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible

To feeling, as to sight? or art thou but

A dagger of the mind; a false creation,

Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw.

Thou marshal'st me the way that I was going;

And such an instrument I was to use.

Mine eyes are made the fools o'the other senses,

Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;

And on thy blade, and dudgeon, gouts of blood,

496

Which was not so before. -- There's no such thing:

It is the bloody business, which informs

Thus to mine eyes. -- Now o'er the one half world

497 sig 2K

Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse

The curtain'd sleep; now witchcraft celebrates

Pale Hecate's offerings; and wither'd murder,

498

Alarum'd by his sentinel, the wolf,

Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,

With Tarquin's ravishing strides, **towards** his design

Moves like a ghost. -- Thou sure and firm-set earth,

499

Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear

Thy very stones prate of my where-about,

And take the present horror from the time,

500

Which now suits with it. -- While I threat, he lives:  
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

[A bell rings.]

I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.  
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell  
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell. [Exit.]

501

SCENE II.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady. That which hath made them drunk, hath  
made me bold;  
What hath quench'd them, hath given me fire: ----  
Hark! -- Peace!  
It was the owl that shriek'd, the fatal bell-man,  
Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it:  
The doors are open; and the surfeited grooms  
Do mock their charge with snores: I have drugg'd  
their possets,  
That death and nature do contend about them,  
Whether they live, or die.

Macb. [Within.] Who's there? -- what, ho!

Lady. Alack! I am afraid they have awak'd,  
And 'tis not done: -- the attempt, and not the deed,  
Confounds us: -- Hark! -- I laid their daggers ready,  
He could not miss **them**. -- Had he not resembled  
My father as he slept, I had don't. -- My husband?

502

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. I have done the deed: -- Didst thou not hear  
a noise?

Lady. I heard the owl scream, and the crickets  
cry.

Did not you speak?

Macb. When?

Lady. Now.

Macb. As I descended?

Lady. Ay.

Macb. Hark! -- Who lies i'the second chamber?

Lady. Donalbain.

Macb. This is a sorry sight. [Looking on his hands.]

Lady. A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.  
 Macb. There's one did laugh in his sleep, and one  
       cry'd, *murder!*  
 That they did wake each other; I stood and heard  
       them:  
 But they did say their prayers, and address'd them  
 Again to sleep.  
 Lady. There are two lodg'd together.  
 Macb. One cry'd, *God bless us!* and, *Amen!* the  
       other;  
 As they had seen me, with these hangman's hands,  
 Listening their fear. I could not say, amen,

503

When they did say, God bless us.  
 Lady. Consider it not so deeply.  
 Macb. But wherefore could not I pronounce, amen?  
 I had most need of blessing, and amen  
 Stuck in my throat.  
 Lady. These deeds must not be thought  
 After these ways; so, it will make us mad.  
 Macb. Methought, I heard a voice cry, *Sleep no  
       more!*  
*Macbeth does murder sleep, the innocent sleep;  
 Sleep, that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,  
 The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,*

504

*Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,  
 Chief nourisher in life's feast; ----*  
 Lady. What do you mean?  
 Macb. Still it cry'd, *Sleep no more!* to all the house:  
*Glamis hath murder'd sleep; and therefore Cawdor  
 Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!*  
 Lady. Who was it, that thus cry'd? Why, worthy  
       thane,  
 You do unbend your noble strength, to think  
 So brain-sickly of things: -- Go, get some water,  
 And wash this filthy witness from your hand. --  
 Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
 They must lie there: Go, carry them; and smear  
 The sleepy grooms with blood.  
 Macb. I'll go no more:  
 I am afraid to think what I have done;  
 Look on't again, I dare not.  
 Lady. Infirm of purpose!  
 Give me the daggers: The sleeping, and the dead,

Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood,  
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,  
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,

505

For it must seem their guilt. [Exit. Knocking within.]

Macb. Whence is that knocking?  
How *is't* with me, when every noise appals me?  
What hands are here? Ha! they pluck out mine eyes!  
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood  
Clean from my hand? No; this my hand will rather  
The multitudinous seas incarnardine,  
Making the green -- one red.

506

Re-enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady. My hands are of your colour; but I shame  
To wear a heart so white. I hear a knocking [Knock.  
At the south entry: -- retire we to our chamber:  
A little water clears us of this deed:  
How easy is it then? Your constancy  
Hath left you unattended. -- Hark! more knocking:  
[Knock.  
Get on your night-gown, lest occasion call us,  
And shew us to be watchers: -- Be not lost  
So poorly in your thoughts.

Macb. To know my deed, -- 'Twere best not know  
myself. [Knock.  
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would, thou  
couldst! [Exeunt.

507

SCENE III.

Enter a Porter.

[Knocking within.] Port. Here's a knocking, indeed! If a man were porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key. [Knock.] Knock, knock, knock: Who's there, i'the name of Belzebub? Here's a farmer, that hang'd himself on the expectation of plenty: come in time; have napkins enough about you; here you'll sweat for't. [Knock.] Knock, knock: Who's there, i'the other devil's name? 'Faith, here's an equivocator, that could swear in both the scales

against either scale; who committed treason enough  
for God's sake, yet could not equivocate to heaven:  
oh, come in, equivocator. [Knock.] Knock, knock,  
knock: Who's there? 'Faith, here's an English tay-

508

lor come hither, for stealing out of a French hose:  
come in, taylor; here you may roast your goose.  
[Knock] Knock, knock: Never at quiet! What are  
you? But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-  
porter it no further: I had thought to have let in some  
of all professions, that go the primrose way to the  
everlasting bonfire. [Knock] Anon, anon; I pray you,  
remember the porter.

Enter Macduff, and Lenox.

Mac. Was it so late, friend, ere you went to bed,  
That you do lie so late?

Port. 'Faith, sir, we were carousing 'till the second  
cock: and drink, sir, is a great provoker of three  
things.

Macd. What three things doth drink especially  
provoke?

Port. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine.  
Lechery, sir, it provokes, and unprovokes; it pro-  
vokes the desire, but it takes away the performance:  
Therefore, much drink may be said to be an equivo-  
cator with **lechery**: it makes him, and it mars him;  
it sets him on, and it takes him off; it persuades him,  
and disheartens him; makes him stand to, and not  
stand to: in conclusion, equivocates him in a sleep,  
and, giving him the lie, leaves him.

509

Macd. I believe, drink gave thee the lie last night.

Port. That it did, sir, i'the very throat o'me: But  
I requited him for his lie; and, I think, being too  
strong for him, though he took up my legs sometime,  
yet I made a shift to cast him.

Macd. Is thy master stirring? ----  
Our knocking has awak'd him; here he comes.

Len. Good-morrow, noble sir!

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. Good-morrow, both!

Macd. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?  
 Macb. Not yet.  
 Macd. He did command me to call timely on him;  
 I have almost slipt the hour.  
 Macb. I'll bring you to him.  
 Macd. I know, this is a joyful trouble to you;  
 But yet, 'tis one.  
 Macb. The labour we delight in, physicks pain.  
 This is the door.  
 Macd. I'll make so bold to call,  
 For 'tis my limited service. [Exit Macduff.  
 Len. Goes the king hence to-day?  
 Macb. He does: he did appoint so.  
 Len. The night has been unruly: Where we lay,  
 Our chimneys were blown down: and, as they say,

510

Lamentings heard i'the air; strange screams of death;  
 And prophesying, with accents terrible,  
 Of dire **combustion**, and confus'd events,  
 New hatch'd to the woeful time: The obscure bird  
 Clamour'd the live-long night: some say, the earth  
 Was feverous, and did shake.  
 Macb. 'Twas a rough night.  
 Len. My young remembrance cannot parallel  
 A fellow to it.

Re-enter Macduff.

Macd. O horror! horror! horror! Tongue, nor  
 heart,

511

Cannot conceive, nor name thee!  
 Macb. and Len. What's the matter?  
 Macd. Confusion now hath made his master-piece!  
 Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope  
 The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence  
 The life o'the building.  
 Macb. What is't you say? the life?  
 Len. Mean you his majesty?  
 Macd. Approach the chamber, and destroy your  
 sight  
 With a new Gorgon: -- Do not bid me speak;  
 See, and then speak yourselves. -- Awake! awake! --  
 [Exeunt Macbeth and Lenox.  
 Ring the alarum-bell: -- Murder! and treason!



Banquo, and Donalbain! Malcolm! awake!  
Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit,  
And look on death itself -- up, up, and see  
The great doom's image! -- Malcolm! Banquo!  
As from your graves rise up, and walk like sprights,  
To countenance this horror! ---- Ring the bell.

Bell rings. Enter Lady Macbeth.

Lady. What's the business,  
That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley  
The sleepers of the house? speak, speak, ----

Macd. O, gentle lady,  
'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:  
The repetition in a woman's ear,  
Would murder as it fell. -- O Banquo! Banquo!

512 "521"

Enter Banquo.

Our royal master's murder'd.

Lady. Woe, alas!  
What, in our house?

Ban. Too cruel, any where. ----  
Dear Duff, I pr'ythee, contradict thyself,  
And say, it is not so.

Re-enter Macbeth, and Lenox.

Macb. Had I but dy'd an hour before this chance,  
I had liv'd a blessed time; for, from this instant,  
There's nothing serious in mortality:  
All is but toys: renown, and grace, is dead;  
The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees  
Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter Malcolm, and Donalbain.

Don. What is amiss?  
Macb. You are, and do not know it:  
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood  
Is stopt; the very source of it is stopt.

Macd. Your royal father's murder'd.

513 sig 2L

Mal. Oh, by whom?

Len. Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had don't:

Their hands and faces were all badg'd with blood,  
So were their daggers, which, unwip'd, we found  
Upon their pillows; they star'd, and were distracted;  
No man's life was to be trusted with them.

Macb. O, yet I do repent me of my fury,  
That I did kill them.

Macd. Wherefore did you so?

Macb. Who can be wise, amaz'd, temperate, and  
furious,  
Loyal and neutral in a moment? No man:  
The expedition of my violent love  
Out-ran the pauser reason. -- Here lay Duncan,

514

His silver skin lac'd with his golden blood;  
And his gash'd stabs look'd like a breach in nature,  
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,  
Steep'd in the colours of their trade, their daggers  
Unmannerly breech'd with gore: Who could re-  
frain,

515

That had a heart to love, and in that heart  
Courage, to make his love known?

516

Lady. Help me hence, ho!

Macd. Look to the lady.

Mal. Why do we hold our tongues,  
That most may claim this argument for ours?

Don. What should be spoken here,  
Where our fate, hid within an augre-hole,  
May rush, and seize us? Let's away, our tears  
Are not yet brew'd.

Mal. Nor our strong sorrow  
Upon the foot of motion.

Ban. Look to the lady: --  
And when we have our naked frailties hid,  
That suffer in exposure, let us meet,  
And question this most bloody piece of work,  
To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us:  
In the great hand of God I stand; and, thence,

517

Against the undivulg'd pretence I fight

Of treasonous malice.

Macb. And so do I.

All. So all.

Macb. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,  
And meet i'the hall together.

All. Well contented. [Exeunt.]

Mal. What will you do? Let's not consort with  
them:

To shew an unfelt sorrow, is an office  
Which the false man does easy: I'll to England.

Don. To Ireland, I; our separated fortune  
Shall keep us both the safer: where we are,  
There's daggers in men's smiles: the near in blood,  
The nearer bloody.

Mal. This murderous shaft that's shot,

518

Hath not yet lighted; and our safest way  
Is, to avoid the aim. Therefore, to horse;  
And let us not be dainty of leave-taking,  
But shift away: There's warrant in that theft  
Which steals itself, when there's no mercy left.  
[Exeunt.]

#### SCENE IV.

Enter Rosse, with an Old Man.

Old M. Threescore and ten I can remember well:  
Within the volume of which time, I have seen  
Hours dreadful, and things strange; but this sore  
night  
Hath trifled former knowings.

Rosse. Ah, good father,  
Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,  
Threaten his bloody stage: by the clock, 'tis day,  
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:  
Is it night's predominance, or the day's shame,  
That darkness does the face of earth intomb,  
When living light should kiss it?

Old M. 'Tis unnatural,  
Even like the deed that's done. On tuesday last,  
A faulcon, trowing in her pride of place,  
Was by a mousing owl hawk'd at, and kill'd.

Rosse. And Duncan's horses, (a thing most strange,  
and certain)

519

Beauteous, and swift, the minions of their race,  
Turn'd wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,  
Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would  
Make war with mankind.

Old M. 'Tis said, they eat each other.

Rosse. They did so; to the amazement of mine  
eyes,  
That look'd upon't. Here comes the good Mac-  
duff: ----

Enter Macduff.

How goes the world, sir, now?

Macd. Why, see you not?

Rosse. Is't known, who did this more than bloody  
deed?

Macd. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

Rosse. Alas, the day!

What good could they pretend?

Macd. They were suborn'd:

Malcolm, and Donalbain, the king's two sons,  
Are stol'n away and fled; which puts upon them  
Suspicion of the deed.

Rosse. 'Gainst nature still:  
Thrifless ambition, that wilt ravin up  
Thine own life's means! -- Then 'tis most like,

520

The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

Macd. He is already nam'd; and gone to Scone,  
To be invested.

Rosse. Where is Duncan's body?

Macd. Carried to Colmes-kill;  
The sacred storehouse of his predecessors,  
And guardian of their bones.

Rosse. Will you to Scone?

Macd. No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

Rosse. Well, I will thither.

Macd. Well, may you see things well done there;  
-- adieu! ----

Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!

Rosse. Farewel, father.

Old M. God's benison go with you; and with those  
That would make good of bad, and friends of foes!

[Exeunt.]

ACT III. SCENE I.

Enter Banquo.

Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,  
As the weird women promis'd; and, I fear,  
Thou playd'st most foully for't: yet it was said,  
It should not stand in thy posterity;

521

But that myself should be the root, and father  
Of many kings: If there come truth from them,  
(As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine)  
Why, by the verities on thee made good,  
May they not be my oracles as well,  
And set me up in hope? But, hush; no more.

Senet sounded. Enter Macbeth as King; Lady Macbeth,  
Lenox, Rosse, Lords and Attendants.

Macb. Here's our chief guest.

Lady. If he had been forgotten,  
It had been as a gap in our great feast,  
And all things unbecoming.

Macb. To-night we hold a solemn supper, sir,  
And I'll request your presence.

Ban. Lay your highness'  
Command upon me; to the which, my duties  
Are with a most indissoluble tye  
For ever knit.

Macb. Ride you this afternoon?

Ban. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. We should have else desir'd your good  
advice,  
(Which still hath been both grave and prosperous)  
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.  
Is't far you ride?

Ban. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time  
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the better,

522

I must become a borrower of the night,  
For a dark hour, or twain.

Macb. Fail not our feast.

Ban. My lord, I will not.

Macb. We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd  
In England, and in Ireland; not confessing  
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers

With strange invention: But of that to-morrow;  
When, therewithal, we shall have cause of state,  
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: Adieu,  
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

Ban. Ay, my good lord: our time does call up-  
on us.

Macb. I wish your horses swift, and sure of foot;  
And so I do commend you to their backs.

Farewel. ----

[Exit Banquo.]

Let every man be master of his time

'Till seven at night; to make society

The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself

'Till supper-time alone: while then, God be with you.

[Exeunt Lady Macbeth, and Lords.]

Sirrah, a word with you: Attend those men our  
pleasure?

Ser. They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

Macb. Bring them before us. -- To be thus, is no-  
thing; [Exit Servant.]

But to be safely thus: -- Our fears in Banquo  
Stick deep; and in his royalty of nature

523

Reigns that, which would be fear'd: 'Tis much he  
dares;

And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,

He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour

To act in safety. There is none, but he,

Whose being I do fear: and, under him,

My genius is rebuk'd; as, it is said,

Mark **Antony's** was by Cæsar. He chid the sisters,

When first they put the name of King upon me,

And bade them speak to him; then, prophet-like,

They hail'd him father to a line of kings:

Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,

And put a barren scepter in my gripe,

Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,

524

No son of mine succeeding. If it be so,

For Banquo's issue have I fil'd my mind;

For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;

Put rancours in the vessel of my peace

Only for them; and mine eternal jewel

Given to the common enemy of man,

To make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings!

Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,

And champion me to the utterance! -- Who's there? --

525

Re-enter Servant, with two Murderers.

Now go to the door, and stay there till we call.

[Exit Servant.]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

Mur. It was, so please your highness.

Macb. Well then, now

Have you consider'd of my speeches? Know,  
That it was he, in the times past, which held you  
So under fortune; which, you thought, had been  
Our innocent self: this I made good to you  
In our last conference, past in probation with you;  
How you were borne in hand; how crost; the in-  
struments;

526

Who wrought with them; and all things else, that  
might,

To half a soul, and to a notion craz'd,  
Say, Thus did Banquo.

1 Mur. You made it known to us.

Macb. I did so; and went further, which is now  
Our point of second meeting. Do you find  
Your patience so predominant in your nature,  
That you can let this go? Are you so gospell'd,  
To pray for this good man, and for his issue,  
Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,  
And beggar'd yours for ever?

1 Mur. We are men, my liege.

Macb. Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;  
As hounds, and greyhounds, mungrels, spaniels, curs,  
**Shoughs**, water-rugs, and demi-wolves, are cleped  
All by the name of dogs: the valued file

527

Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,  
The house-keeper, the hunter, every one  
According to the gift which bounteous nature  
Hath in him clos'd; whereby he does receive  
Particular addition, from the bill  
That writes them all alike: and so of men.  
Now, if you have a station in the file,  
Not in the worst rank of manhood, say it;

And I will put that business in your bosoms,  
Whose execution takes your enemy off;  
Grapples you to the heart and love of us,  
Who wear our health but sickly in his life,  
Which in his death were perfect.

2 Mur. I am one, my liege,  
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world

528

Have so incens'd, that I am reckless what  
I do, to spite the world.

1 Mur. And I another,  
So weary with disasters, tugg'd with fortune,  
That I would set my life on any chance,  
To mend it, or be rid on't.

Macb. Both of you  
Know, Banquo was your enemy.

Mur. True, my lord.

Macb. So is he mine: and in such bloody distance,  
That every minute of his being thrusts  
Against my near'st of life: And though I could  
With bare-fac'd power sweep him from my sight,  
And bid my will avouch it; yet I must not,  
For certain friends that are both his and mine,  
Whose loves I may not drop, but wail his fall  
Whom I myself struck down: and thence it is,  
That I to your assistance do make love;

529 sig 2M

Masking the business from the common eye,  
For sundry weighty reasons.

Mur. We shall, my lord,  
Perform what you command us.

1 Mur. Though our lives ----

Macb. Your spirits shine through you. Within  
this hour, at most,  
I will advise you where to plant yourselves;  
Acquaint you with the perfect spy o'the time,  
The moment on't; for't must be done to-night,  
And something from the palace; always thought,  
That I require a clearness: And with him,  
(To leave no rubs, nor botches, in the work)

530

Fleance his son, that keeps him company,  
Whose absence is no less material to me



Than is his father's, must embrace the fate  
Of that dark hour: Resolve yourselves apart;  
I'll come to you anon.

Mur. We are resolv'd, my lord.

Macb. I'll call upon you straight; abide within.  
It is concluded: -- Banquo, thy soul's flight,  
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night. [Exeunt.

## SCENE II.

Enter Lady Macbeth, and a Servant.

Lady. Is Banquo gone from court?

Serv. Ay, madam; but returns again to-night.

Lady. Say to the king, I would attend his leisure  
For a few words.

Serv. Madam, I will. [Exit.

Lady. Nought's had, all's spent,  
Where our desire is got without content:  
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy,  
Than, by destruction, dwell in doubtful joy.

Enter Macbeth.

How now, my lord? why do you keep alone,  
Of sorriest fancies your companions making?  
Using those thoughts, which should indeed have dy'd  
With them they think on? Things without all remedy  
Should be without regard: what's done, is done.

Macb. We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it,

531

She'll close, and be herself; whilst our poor malice  
Remains in danger of her former tooth.

But let the frame of things disjoint, both the worlds  
suffer,

Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep  
In the affliction of these terrible dreams,  
That shake us nightly: Better be with the dead,  
Whom we, to gain our place, have sent to peace,  
Than on the torture of the mind to lie  
In restless **ecstasy**. -- Duncan is in his grave;  
After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;  
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison,  
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,  
Can touch him further!

Lady. Come on; Gentle my lord,  
Sleek o'er your rugged looks; be bright and jovial

Among your guests to-night.

Macb. So shall I, love;  
And so, I pray, be you: let your remembrance

532

Apply to Banquo; present him eminence, both  
With eye and tongue: Unsafe the while, that we  
Must lave our honours in these flattering streams;  
And make our faces **vizards** to our hearts,  
Disguising what they are.

Lady. You must leave this.

Macb. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!  
Thou know'st, that Banquo, and his Fleance, lives.

Lady. But in them nature's copy's not **eterne**.

Macb. There's comfort yet, they are assailable;  
Then be thou jocund: Ere the bat hath flown  
His cloister'd flight; ere, to black Hecat's sum-  
mons,  
The **shard-borne** beetle, with his drowsy hums,

533

Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done  
A deed of dreadful note.

534

Lady. What's to be done?

Macb. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest  
chuck,  
'Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night,  
Skarf up the tender eye of pitiful day;  
And, with thy bloody and invisible hand,  
Cancel, and tear to pieces, that great bond  
Which keeps me pale! -- Light thickens; and the  
crow

535

Makes wing to the rooky wood:  
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;  
While night's black agents to their **preys** do rouse.  
Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still;  
Things, bad begun, make strong themselves by ill:  
So, pr'ythee, go with me. [Exeunt.

SCENE III.

Enter three Murderers.

1 Mur. But who did bid thee join with us?

3 Mur. Macbeth.

2 Mur. He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers

Our offices, and what we have to do,  
To the direction just.

1 Mur. Then stand with us.

The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day:  
Now spurs the lated traveller apace,

536

To gain the timely inn; and near approaches  
The subject of our watch.

3 Mur. Hark! I hear horses.

[Banquo within.] Give us a light there, ho!

2 Mur. Then it is he; the rest  
That are within the note of expectation,  
Already are i'the court.

1 Mur. His horses go about.

3 Mur. Almost a mile: but he does usually,  
So all men do, from hence to the palace gate  
Make it their walk.

Enter Banquo, and Fleance with a torch.

2 Mur. A light, a light!

3 Mur. 'Tis he.

1 Mur. Stand to't.

Ban. It will be rain to-night.

1 Mur. Let it come down. [They assault Banquo.

Ban. Oh, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly;  
Thou may'st revenge. ---- Oh slave!

[Dies. Fleance escapes.

3 Mur. Who did strike out the light?

1 Mur. Was't not the way?

3 Mur. There's but one down; the son is fled.

2 Mur. We have lost best half of our affair.

1 Mur. Well, let's away, and say how much is  
done. [Exeunt.

537

SCENE IV.

A banquet prepared. Enter Macbeth, Lady, Rosse, Lenox,  
Lords, and Attendants.

Macb. You know your own degrees, sit down: at  
first,  
And last, the hearty welcome.  
Lords. Thanks to your majesty.  
Macb. Ourself will mingle with society,  
And play the humble host.  
Our hostess keeps her state; but, in best time,  
We will require her welcome.  
Lady. Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends;  
For my heart speaks, they are welcome.

Enter first Murderer, to the door.

Macb. See, they encounter thee with their hearts'  
thanks: ----  
Both sides are even: Here I'll sit i'the midst:  
Be large in mirth; anon, we'll drink a measure

538

The table round. -- There's blood upon thy face.  
Mur. 'Tis Banquo's then.  
Macb. 'Tis better thee without, than he within.  
Is he dispatch'd?  
Mur. My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.  
Macb. Thou art the best o'the cut-throats: Yet  
he's good,  
That did the like for Fleance: if thou did'st it,  
Thou art the non-pareil.  
Mur. Most royal sir,  
Fleance is 'scap'd.  
Macb. Then comes my fit again: I had else been  
perfect;  
Whole as the marble, founded as the rock;  
As broad, and general, as the casing air:  
But now, I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in  
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?  
Mur. Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides,  
With twenty trenched gashes on his head;  
The least a death to nature.  
Macb. Thanks for that: ----  
There the grown serpent lies; the worm, that's fled,  
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,  
No teeth for the present. -- Get thee gone; to-morrow  
We'll hear, ourselves again. [Exit Murderer.]

539

Lady. My royal lord,  
You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold,  
That is not often vouch'd while 'tis a making,  
'Tis given with welcome: To feed, were best at home;  
From thence, the sauce to meat is ceremony;  
Meeting were bare without it.

[Enter the ghost of Banquo, and sits in Macbeth's  
place.

Macb. Sweet remembrancer! --  
Now, good digestion wait on appetite,  
And health on both!

Len. May it please your highness sit?

Macb. Here had we now our country's honour  
roof'd,  
Were the grac'd person of our Banquo present;  
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness,  
Than pity for mischance!

Rosse. His absence, sir,  
Lays blame upon his promise. Please it your high-  
ness

To grace us with your royal company?

Macb. The table's full.

540

Len. Here is a place reserv'd, sir.

Macb. Where?

Len. Here, my good lord. What is't that moves  
your highness?

Macb. Which of you have done this?

Lords. What, my good lord?

Macb. Thou can'st not say, I did it: never shake  
Thy goary locks at me.

Rosse. Gentlemen, rise; his highness is not well.

Lady. Sit worthy friends: -- my lord is often thus,  
And hath been from his youth: pray you, keep seat;  
The fit is momentary; upon a thought  
He will again be well: If much you note him,  
You shall offend him, and extend his passion;  
Feed, and regard him not. -- Are you a man?

Macb. Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that  
Which might appall the devil.

Lady. O proper stuff!  
This is the very painting of your fear:  
This is the air-drawn-dagger, which, you said,  
Led you to Duncan. Oh, these flaws, and starts,

541

(Impostors to true fear,) would well become  
A woman's story, at a winter's fire,  
Authoriz'd by her grandam. Shame itself!  
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,  
You look but on a stool.

Macb. Pr'ythee, see there! behold! look! lo!  
how say you? ----

Why, what care I! If thou can'st nod, speak too. --  
If charnel-houses, and our graves, must send  
Those that we bury, back; our monuments  
Shall be the maws of kites.

Lady. What! quite unmann'd in folly?

Macb. If I stand here, I saw him.

Lady. Fie, for shame!

Macb. Blood hath been shed ere now, i'the olden  
time,

Ere human statute purg'd the gentle weal;  
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd  
Too terrible for the ear: the times have been,  
That, when the brains were out, the man would die,  
And there an end: but now, they rise again,  
With twenty mortal murders on their crowns,  
And push us from our stools: This is more strange  
Than such a murder is.

Lady. My worthy lord,  
Your noble friends do lack you.

Macb. I do forget: --

542

Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends;  
I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing  
To those that know me. Come, love and health to  
all;  
Then I'll sit down: -- Give me some wine, fill full: --  
I drink to the general joy of the whole table,

Re-enter Ghost.

And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss;  
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,  
And all to all.

Lords. Our duties, and the pledge.

Macb. **Avant!** and quit my sight! Let the earth  
hide thee!

Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;  
Thou hast no speculation in those eyes  
Which thou dost glare with!

Lady. Think of this, good peers,

But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;  
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

Macb. What man dare, I dare:  
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,

543

The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tyger,  
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves  
Shall never tremble: Or, be alive again,  
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;  
If trembling I inhabit, then protest me  
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!  
Unreal mockery, hence! -- Why, so; -- being gone,  
I am a man again. -- Pray you, sit still.

Lady. You have displac'd the mirth, broke the  
good meeting,  
With most admir'd disorder.

Macb. Can such things be,

544

And overcome us like a summer's cloud,  
Without our special wonder? You make me strange  
Even to the disposition that I owe,  
When now I think you can behold such sights,  
And keep the natural ruby of your cheek,  
When mine is blanch'd with fear.

545 sig 2N

Rosse. What sights, my lord?

Lady. I pray you, speak not; he grows worse and  
worse;

Question enrages him: at once, good night: --  
Stand not upon the order of your going,  
But go at once.

Len. Good night, and better health,  
Attend his majesty!

Lady. A kind good night to all! [Exeunt Lords.]

Macb. It will have blood, they say; blood will  
have blood:

Stones have been known to move, and trees to speak;  
Augurs, and understood relations, have

546

By magot-pies, and choughs, and rooks, brought  
forth

The secret'st man of blood. -- What is the night?

Lady. Almost at odds with morning, which is  
which.

Macb. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies his  
person,

At our great bidding?

Lady. Did you send to him, sir?

Macb. I hear it by the way; but I will send:  
There's not a one of them, but in his house  
I keep a servant fee'd. I will to-morrow,  
(And betimes I will) unto the weird sisters:  
More shall they speak; for now I am bent to know,  
By the worst means, the worst: for mine own good,  
All causes shall give way; I am in blood

547

Stept in so far, that, should I wade no more,  
Returning were as tedious as go o'er:  
Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;  
Which must be acted, ere they may be scann'd.

Lady. You lack the season of all natures, sleep.

Macb. Come, we'll to sleep: My strange and self-  
abuse

Is the initiate fear, that wants hard use: ----

We are yet but young in deed. [Exeunt.

SCENE V.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches, meeting Hecate.

1 Witch. Why, how now, Hecat'? you look an-  
gerly.

548

Hec. Have I not reason, beldams, as you are,  
Saucy, and overbold? How did you dare  
To trade and traffic with Macbeth,  
In riddles, and affairs of death;  
And I, the mistress of your charms,  
The close contriver of all harms,  
Was never call'd to bear my part,  
Or shew the glory of our art?  
And, which is worse, all you have done  
Hath been but for a wayward son,  
Spightful, and wrathful; who, as others do,  
Loves for his own ends, not for you.  
But make amends now: Get you gone,



And at the pit of Acheron  
Meet me i'the morning; thither he  
Will come to know his destiny.  
Your vessels, and your spells, provide,  
Your charms, and every thing beside:

549

I am for the air; this night I'll spend  
Unto a dismal and a fatal end.  
Great business must be wrought ere noon:  
Upon the corner of the moon  
There hangs a vaporous drop profound;  
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:  
And that, distill'd by magic slights,  
Shall raise such artificial sprights,  
As, by the strength of their illusion,  
Shall draw him on to his confusion:  
He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear  
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear:  
And you all know, security  
Is mortals' chiefest enemy. [Music and a song.  
Hark, I am call'd; my little spirit, see,  
Sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me.  
[Sing within. Come away, come away, &c.  
1 Witch. Come, let's make haste, she'll soon be  
back again. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.

Enter Lenox, and another Lord.

Len. My former speeches have but hit your  
thoughts,

550

Which can interpret further: only, I say,  
Things have been strangely borne: The gracious  
Duncan  
Was pitied of Macbeth: -- marry, he was dead: --  
And the right-valiant Banquo walk'd too late;  
Whom, you may say, if it please you, Fleance kill'd,  
For Fleance fled. Men must not walk too late.  
Who cannot want the thought, how monstrous  
It was for Malcolm, and for Donalbain,  
To kill their gracious father? damned fact!  
How **it did** grieve Macbeth! did he not straight,  
In pious rage, the two delinquents tear,

That were the slaves of drink, and thralls of sleep?  
Was not that nobly done? Ay, and wisely too;  
For 'twould have anger'd any heart alive,  
To hear the men deny it. So that, I say,  
He has borne all things well: and I do think,  
That, had he Duncan's sons under his key,  
(As, an't please heaven, he shall not) they should find  
What 'twere to kill a father; so should Fleance.  
But, peace! -- for from broad words, and 'cause he  
fail'd

His presence at the tyrant's feast, I hear,  
Macduff lives in disgrace: Sir, can you tell  
Where he bestows himself?

Lord. The son of Duncan,  
From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth,  
Lives in the English court; and is receiv'd  
Of the most pious Edward with such grace,

551

That the malevolence of fortune nothing  
Takes from his high respect: Thither Macduff is gone  
To pray the holy king, upon his aid  
To wake Northumberland, and warlike Siward:  
That, by the help of these, (with Him above  
To ratify the work) we may again  
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights;  
Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives;  
Do faithful homage, and receive free honours,  
All which we pine for now: And this report  
Hath so **exasperate** the king, that he  
Prepares for some attempt of war.

Len. Sent he to Macduff?

Lord. He did: and with an absolute, *Sir, not I,*  
The cloudy messenger turns me his back,  
And hums; as who should say, *You'll rue the time*  
*That clogs me with this answer.*

Len. And that well might  
Advise him to a caution, to hold what distance

552

His wisdom can provide. Some holy angel  
Fly to the court of England, and unfold  
His message ere he come; that a swift blessing  
May soon return to this our suffering country,  
Under a hand accurs'd!

Lord. I'll send my prayers with him. [Exeunt.]

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

1 Witch. Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.

2 Witch. Thrice; and once the hedge-pig  
whin'd.

553

3 Witch. Harper cries: -- 'tis time, 'tis time.

1 Witch. Round about the cauldron go;  
In the poison'd entrails throw. ----

554

Toad, that under the cold stone,  
Days and nights hast thirty one,

555

Swelter'd venom sleeping got,  
Boil thou first i'the charmed pot!  
All. Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.  
1 Witch. Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake:

556

Eye of newt, and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg, and **howlet's** wing,  
For a charm of powerful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.  
All. Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.  
3 Witch. Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf;  
Witches' mummy; maw, and gulf,  
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark;  
Root of hemlock, digg'd i'the dark;  
Liver of blaspheming Jew;  
Gall of goat, and slips of yew,  
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;  
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;  
Finger of birth-strangled babe,  
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,  
Make the gruel thick and slab:

Add thereto a tyger's chaudron,  
For the ingredients of our cauldron.

557

All. Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire, burn; and, cauldron, bubble.

2 Witch. Cool it with a baboon's blood,  
Then the charm is firm and good.

Enter Hecate, and other three Witches.

Hec. Oh, well done! I commend your pains;  
And every one shall share i'the gains.  
And now about the cauldron sing,  
Like elves and fairies in a ring,  
Inchanting all that you put in.

*Musick and a song.*

*Black spirits and white,  
Blue spirits and grey;  
Mingle, mingle, mingle,  
You that mingle may.*

2 Witch. By the pricking of my thumbs,  
Something wicked this way comes: ----  
Open, locks, whoever knocks.

558

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. How now, you secret, black, and midnight  
hags?  
What is't you do?

All. A deed without a name.

Macb. I conjure you, by that which you profess,  
(Howe'er you come to know it) answer me:  
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight  
Against the churches; though the yesty waves  
Confound and swallow navigation up;  
Though bladed corn be lodg'd, and trees blown  
down;  
Though castles topple on their warders' heads;  
Though palaces, and pyramids, do slope  
Their heads to their foundations; though the treasure  
Of nature's germins tumble all together,

559

Even 'till destruction sicken, answer me  
To what I ask you.

1 Witch. Speak.

2 Witch. Demand.

3 Witch. We'll answer.

1 Witch. Say, if thou'dst rather hear it from our  
mouths,

Or from our **masters'**?

Macb. Call **them**, let me see **them**.

1 Witch. Pour in sow's blood, that hath eaten  
Her nine farrow; grease, that's sweaten  
From the murderer's gibbet, throw  
Into the flame.

All. Come, high, or low;  
Thyself, and office, deftly show. [Thunder.

1st Apparition, an armed head.

Macb. Tell me, thou unknown power, ----

560

1 Witch. He knows thy thought;  
Hear his speech, but say thou nought.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware  
Macduff;

Beware the thane of Fife. -- Dismiss me: -- Enough.  
[Descends.

Macb. What-e'er thou art, for thy good caution,  
thanks;  
Thou hast harp'd my fear aright: -- But one word  
more --

1 Witch. He will not be commanded: Here's  
another,  
More potent than the first. [Thunder.

2nd Apparition, a bloody child.

App. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! --

Macb. Had I three ears, I'd **hear** thee.

App. Be bloody, bold, and resolute: laugh to scorn  
The power of man; for none of woman born  
Shall harm Macbeth. [Descends.

561 sig 20

Macb. Then live, Macduff; What need I fear of

thee?

But yet I'll make assurance double sure,  
And take a bond of fate: thou shalt not live;  
That I may tell pale-hearted fear, it lies,  
And sleep in spite of thunder. -- What is this,  
[Thunder.]

3d Apparition, a child crowned, with a tree in his hand.

That rises like the issue of a king;  
And wears upon his baby brow the round  
And top of sovereignty?

All. Listen, but speak not to't.

App. Be lion-mettled, proud; and take no care  
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:  
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until  
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill  
Shall come against him. [Descends.]

Macb. That will never be:  
Who can impress the forest; bid the tree  
Unfix his earth-bound root? sweet bodements! good!  
Rebellious head, rise never, 'till the wood

562

Of Birnam rise, and our high-plac'd Macbeth  
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath  
To time, and mortal custom. -- Yet my heart  
Throbs to know one thing; Tell me, (if your art  
Can tell so much) shall Banquo's issue ever  
Reign in this kingdom?

All. Seek to know no more.

Macb. I will be satisfy'd: deny me this,  
And an eternal curse fall on you! let me know: --  
Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this?

[Hautboys.]

1 Witch. Shew! 2 Witch. Shew! 3 Witch. Shew!

All. Shew his eyes, and grieve his heart;  
Come like shadows, so depart.

[A shew of eight kings, and Banquo; the last with  
a glass in his hand.]

Macb. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo;  
down!  
Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls: -- And thy air,

563

Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first: --  
A third is like the former: -- Filthy hags!

Why do you shew me this? -- A fourth? -- Start, eyes!  
What! will the line stretch out to the crack of  
doom? --

Another yet? -- A seventh? -- I'll see no more: --  
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass,

564

Which shews me many more; and some I see,  
That twofold balls and treble scepters carry:  
Horrible sight! -- Now, I see, 'tis true;  
For the blood-bolter'd Banquo smiles upon me,  
And points at them for his. -- What? is this so?

1 Witch. Ay, sir, all this is so: -- But why  
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly? --  
Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprights,  
And shew the best of our delights;  
I'll charm the air to give a sound,  
While you perform your antique round:  
That this great king may kindly say,  
Our duties did his welcome pay. [Musick.

[The witches dance and vanish.

Macb. Where are they? Gone? -- Let this pernicious hour

565

Stand aye accursed in the calendar! --  
Come in, without there!

Enter Lenox.

Len. What's your grace's will?

Macb. Saw you the weird sisters?

Len. No, my lord.

Macb. Came they not by you?

Len. No, indeed, my lord.

Macb. Infected be the air whereon they ride;  
And damn'd, all those that trust them! -- I did hear  
The galloping of horse: Who was't came by?

Len. 'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you  
word,

Macduff is fled to England.

Macb. Fled to England?

Len. Ay, my good lord.

Macb. Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits:  
The flighty purpose never is o'er-took,  
Unless the deed go with it: From this moment,  
The very firstlings of my heart shall be

The firstlings of my hand. And even now

566

To crown my thoughts with acts, **be it** thought and  
done:

The castle of Macduff I will surprise;  
Seize upon Fife; give to the edge o'the sword  
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls  
That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool;  
This deed I'll do, before this purpose cool:  
But no more sights! -- Where are these gentlemen?  
Come, bring me where they are. [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

Enter Macduff's wife, her son, and Rosse.

L. Macd. What had he done, to make him fly the  
land?

Rosse. You must have patience, madam.

L. Macd. He had none:

His flight was madness: When our actions do not,  
Our fears do make us traitors.

Rosse. You know not,  
Whether it was his wisdom, or his fear.

L. Macd. Wisdom! to leave his wife, to leave his  
babes,  
His mansion, and his titles, in a place  
From whence himself does fly? He loves us not;  
He wants the natural touch: for the poor wren,

567

The most diminutive of birds, will fight,  
Her young ones in her nest, against the owl.  
All is the fear, and nothing is the love;  
As little is the wisdom, where the flight  
So runs against all reason.

Rosse. My dearest coz',  
I pray you, school yourself: But, for your husband,  
He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows  
The fits o'the season. I dare not speak much fur-  
ther:

But cruel are the times, when we are traitors,  
And do not know ourselves; when we hold rumour

568



From what we fear, yet know not what we fear;  
But float upon a wild and violent sea,  
Each way, and move. -- I take my leave of you:  
Shall not be long but I'll be here again:  
Things at the worst will cease, or else climb upward  
To what they were before. -- My pretty cousin,  
Blessing upon you!

L. Macd. Father'd he is, and yet he's fatherless.

Rosse. I am so much a fool, should I stay longer,  
It would be my disgrace, and your discomfort:  
I take my leave at once. [Exit Rosse.]

L. Macd. Sirrah, your father's dead;  
And what will you do now? How will you live?

Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Macd. What, with worms and flies?

Son. With what I get, I mean; and so do they.

L. Macd. Poor bird! thou'dst never fear the net,  
nor lime,

The pit-fall, nor the gin.

Son. Why should I, mother? Poor birds they are  
not set for.

My father is not dead, for all your saying.

L. Macd. Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do for a  
father?

Son. Nay, how will you do for a husband?

L. Macd. Why, I can buy me twenty at any market.

Son. Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.

L. Macd. Thou speak'st with all thy wit; and yet  
i'faith,

With wit enough for thee.

569

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Macd. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

L. Macd. Why, one that swears and lies.

Son. And be all traitors, that do so?

L. Macd. Every one that does so, is a traitor, and  
must be hang'd.

Son. And must they all be hang'd, that swear and  
lie?

L. Macd. Every one.

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Macd. Why, the honest men.

Son. Then the liars and swearers are fools: for there  
are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest men,  
and hang up them.

L. Macd. **Now** God help thee, poor monkey! But

how wilt thou do for a father?

Son. If he were dead, you'd weep for him: if you would not, it were a good sign that I should quickly have a new father.

L. Macd. Poor prattler! how thou talk'st!

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. Bless you, fair dame! I am not to you known,  
Though in your state of honour I am perfect.  
I doubt, some danger does approach you nearly:  
If you will take a homely man's advice,  
Be not found here; hence, with your little ones.  
To fright you thus, methinks, I am too savage;

570

To do worse to you, were fell cruelty,  
Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve  
you!

I dare abide no longer. [Exit Messenger.]

L. Macd. Whither should I fly?  
I have done no harm. But I remember now  
I am in this earthly world: where, to do harm,  
Is often laudable; to do good, sometime,  
Accounted dangerous folly: Why then, alas!  
Do I put up that womanly defence,  
To say, I have done no harm? ---- What are these  
faces?

Enter Murderers.

Mur. Where is your husband?

L. Macd. I hope, in no place so unsanctified,  
Where such as thou may'st find him.

Mur. He's a traitor.

Son. Thou ly'st, thou shag-ear'd villain.

Mur. What, you egg?  
Young fry of treachery?

Son. **He has** kill'd me, mother:  
Run away, I pray you.

[Exit L. Macduff, crying Murder.]

571

SCENE III.

England.

Enter Malcolm, and Macduff.

Mal. Let us seek out some desolate shade, and  
there  
Weep our sad bosoms empty.

572

Macd. Let us rather  
Hold fast the mortal sword; and, like good men,

573

Bestride our down-faln birthdom: Each new morn,  
New widows howl; new orphans cry; new sorrows  
Strike heaven on the face, that it resounds

574

As if it felt with Scotland, and yell'd out  
Like **syllable** of dolour.

Mal. What I believe, I'll wail;  
What know, believe; and, what I can redress,  
As I shall find the time to friend, I will.  
What you have spoke, it may be so, perchance.  
This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues,  
Was once thought honest: you have lov'd him well;  
He hath not touch'd you yet. I am young; but  
something  
You may deserve of him through me: and wisdom  
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb,  
To appease an angry god.

Macd. I am not treacherous.

Mal. But Macbeth is.  
A good and virtuous nature may recoil,  
In an imperial charge, But I shall crave your pardon;  
That which you are, my thoughts cannot transpose:  
Angels are bright still, though the brightest fell:  
Though all things foul would wear the brows of  
grace,

575

Yet grace must **still** look so.

Macd. I have lost my hopes.

Mal. Perchance, even there, where I did find my  
doubts.  
Why in that rawness left you wife, and **child**,  
(Those precious motives, those strong knots of love)

Without leave-taking? -- I pray you,  
Let not my jealousies be your dishonours,  
But mine own safeties: -- You may be rightly just,  
Whatever I shall think.

Macd. Bleed, bleed, poor country!  
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,  
For goodness dares not check thee! -- wear thou thy  
    wrongs,  
His title is affear'd! -- Fare thee well, lord:  
I would not be the villain that thou think'st,  
For the whole space that's in the tyrant's grasp,

576

And the rich East to boot.

Mal. Be not offended:  
I speak not as in absolute fear of you.  
I think, our country sinks beneath the yoke;  
It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash  
Is added to her wounds: I think, withal,  
There would be hands uplifted in my right;  
And here, from gracious England, have I offer  
Of goodly thousands: But, for all this,  
When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head,  
Or wear it on my sword, yet my poor country  
Shall have more vices than it had before;  
More suffer, and more sundry ways than ever,  
By him that shall succeed.

Macd. What should he be?

Mal. It is myself I mean: in whom I know  
All the particulars of vice so grafted,  
That, when they shall be open'd, black Macbeth  
Will seem as pure as snow; and the poor state  
Esteem him as a lamb, being compar'd  
With my confineless harms.

Macd. Not in the legions  
Of horrid hell, can come a devil more damn'd.  
In evils, to top Macbeth.

Mal. I grant him bloody,  
Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,  
Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin  
That has a name: But there's no bottom, none,  
In my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters,  
Your matrons, and your maids, could not fill up  
The cistern of my lust; and my desire  
All continent impediments would o'er-bear,

577 sig 2P

That did oppose my will: Better Macbeth,  
Than such a one to reign.

Macd. Boundless intemperance  
In nature is a tyranny: it hath been  
The untimely emptying of the happy throne,  
And fall of many kings. But fear not yet  
To take upon you what is yours: you may  
Convey your pleasures in a spacious plenty,  
And yet seem cold, the time you may so hood-wink.  
We have willing dames enough; there cannot be  
That vulture in you, to devour so many  
As will to greatness dedicate themselves,  
Finding it so inclin'd.

Mal. With this, there grows,  
In my most ill-compos'd affection, such  
A **stanchless** avarice, that, were I king,  
I should cut off the nobles for their lands;  
Desire his jewels, and this other's house:  
And my more-having would be as a sauce  
To make me hunger more; that I should forge  
Quarrels unjust against the good, and loyal,  
Destroying them for wealth.

Macd. This avarice  
Sticks deeper; grows with more pernicious root  
Than summer-seeming lust: and it hath been  
The sword of our slain kings: Yet do not fear;  
Scotland hath foysons to fill up your will,

578

Of your mere own: All these are portable,  
With other graces weigh'd.

Mal. But I have none: The king-becoming graces,  
As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,  
Bounty, perseverance, mercy, lowliness,  
Devotion, patience, courage, fortitude,  
I have no relish of them; but abound  
In the division of each several crime,  
Acting it many ways. Nay, had I power, I should  
Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell,  
Uproar the universal peace, confound  
All unity on earth.

Macd. Oh Scotland! Scotland!

Mal. If such a one be fit to govern, speak:  
I am as I have spoken.

Macd. Fit to govern?  
No, not to live. -- O nation miserable,  
With an untitled tyrant bloody-scepter'd,  
When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again?

Since that the truest issue of thy throne  
By his own interdiction stands accurs'd,  
And does blaspheme his breed? -- Thy royal father  
Was a most sainted king; the queen, that bore thee,  
Oftner upon her knees than on her feet,  
Dy'd every day she lived. Fare thee well!  
These evils, thou repeat'st upon thyself,  
Have banish'd me from Scotland. -- O, my breast,

579

Thy hope ends here.

Mal. Macduff, this noble passion,  
Child of integrity, hath from my soul  
Wip'd the black scruples, reconcil'd my thoughts  
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth  
By many of these trains, hath sought to win me  
Into his power; and modest wisdom plucks me  
From over-credulous haste: But God above  
Deal between thee and me! for even now  
I put myself to thy direction, and  
Unspeak mine own detraction; here abjure  
The taints and blames I laid upon myself,  
For strangers to my nature. I am yet  
Unknown to woman; never was forsworn;  
Scarcely have coveted what was mine own;  
At no time broke my faith; would not betray  
The devil to his fellow; and delight  
No less in truth, than life: my first false speaking  
Was this upon myself: What I am truly,  
Is thine, and my poor country's, to command:  
Whither, indeed, before thy here-approach,  
Old Siward, with ten thousand warlike men,  
All ready at a point, was setting forth:  
Now we'll together; And the chance, of goodness,

580

Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?

Macd. Such welcome and unwelcome things at  
once,  
'Tis hard to reconcile.

Enter a Doctor.

Mal. Well; more anon. -- Comes the king forth,  
I pray you?

Doct. Ay, sir: there are a crew of wretched souls,  
That stay his cure: their malady convinces

The great assay of art; but, at his touch,  
Such sanctity hath heaven given his hand,  
They presently amend.

Mal. I thank you, doctor.

[Exit.

Macd. What's the disease he means?

Mal. 'Tis call'd the evil:

A most miraculous work in this good king;  
Which often, since my here-remain in England,  
I have seen him do. How he sollicit heaven,  
Himself best knows: but strangely-visited people,  
All swoln and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,  
The mere despair of surgery, he cures;

581

Hanging a golden stamp about their necks,  
Put on with holy prayers: and 'tis spoken,  
To the succeeding royalty he leaves  
The healing benediction. With this strange virtue,  
He hath a heavenly gift of prophecy;  
And sundry blessings hang about his throne,  
That speak him full of grace.

Enter Rosse.

Macd. See, who comes here?

Mal. My countryman; but yet I know him not.

Macd. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

Mal. I know him now: Good God, betimes remove  
The means that make us strangers!

Rosse. Sir, Amen.

582

Macd. Stands Scotland where it did?

Rosse. Alas, poor country;  
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot  
Be call'd our mother, but our grave: where nothing,  
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;  
Where sighs, and groans, and shrieks that **rent** the air,  
Are made, not mark'd; where violent sorrow seems  
A modern ecstasy: the dead man's knell  
Is there scarce ask'd, for whom; and good men's lives  
Expire before the flowers in their caps,  
Dying, or ere they sicken.

Macd. Oh, relation,  
Too nice, and yet too true!

Mal. **What is** the newest grief?

Rosse. That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker;

Each minute teems a new one.

Macd. How does my wife?

Rosse. Why, well.

Macd. And all my children?

Rosse. Well too.

Macd. The tyrant has not batter'd at their peace?

Rosse. No; they were all at peace, when I did leave  
them.

Macd. Be not a niggard of your speech; How  
goes it?

Rosse. When I came hither to transport the tidings,

583

Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumour  
Of many worthy fellows that were out;  
Which was to my belief witness'd the rather,  
For that I saw the tyrant's power a-foot:  
Now is the time of help; your eye in Scotland  
Would create soldiers, **make our** women fight,  
To doff their dire distresses.

Mal. **Be it** their comfort,  
**We are** coming thither: gracious England hath  
Lent us good **Siward**, and ten thousand men;  
An older, and a better soldier, none  
That Christendom gives out.

Rosse. 'Would I could answer  
This comfort with the like! But I have words,  
That would be howl'd out in the desert air,  
Where hearing should not catch them.

Macd. What concern they?  
The general cause? or is it a fee-grief,  
Due to some single breast?

584

Rosse. No mind, that's honest,  
But in it shares some woe; though the main part  
Pertains to you alone.

Macd. If it be mine,  
Keep it not from me, quickly let me have it.

Rosse. Let not your ears despise my tongue for ever,  
Which shall possess them with the heaviest sound,  
That ever yet they heard.

Macd. Hum! I guess at it.

Rosse. Your castle is surpriz'd; your wife, and  
babes,  
Savagely slaughter'd: to relate the manner,  
Were, on the quarry of these murder'd deer



To add the death of you.

Mal. Merciful heaven! ----

What, man! ne'er pull your hat upon your brows;  
Give sorrow words: the grief, that does not speak,  
Whispers the o'er-fraught heart, and bids it break.

Macd. My children too?

Rosse. Wife, children, servants, all  
That could be found.

Macd. And I must be from thence!

585

My wife kill'd too?

Rosse. I have said.

Mal. Be comforted:

Let's make us med'cines of our great revenge,  
To cure this deadly grief.

Macd. He has no children. -- All my pretty ones?  
Did you say, all? -- Oh, hell-kite! -- All?  
What, all my pretty chickens, and their dam,  
At one fell swoop?

Mal. Dispute it like a man.

Macd. I shall do so;  
But I must also feel it as a man:

586

I cannot but remember such things were,  
That were most precious to me. -- Did heaven look on,  
And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,  
They were all struck for thee! naught that I am,  
Not for their own demerits, but for mine,  
Fell slaughter on their souls: Heaven rest them now!

Mal. Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief  
Convert to **anger**; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

Macd. Oh, I could play the woman with mine eyes,  
And braggart with my tongue! -- But, gentle heaven,  
Cut short all intermission; front to front,  
Bring thou this fiend of Scotland, and myself;  
Within my sword's length set him; if he 'scape,  
Heaven, forgive him too!

Mal. This tune goes manly.  
Come, go we to the king; our power is ready;  
Our lack is nothing but our leave: Macbeth  
Is ripe for shaking, and the powers above  
Put on their instruments. Receive what cheer you  
may;  
The night is long, that never finds the day. [Exeunt.]

ACT V. SCENE I.

Enter a Doctor of physic, and a waiting Gentlewoman.

Doct. I have two nights watch'd with you, but can perceive no truth in your report. When was it she last walk'd?

587

Gent. Since his majesty went into the field, I have seen her rise from her bed, throw her night-gown upon her, unlock her closet, take forth paper, fold it, write upon it, read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed; yet all this while in a most fast sleep.

Doct. A great perturbation in nature! to receive at once the benefit of sleep, and do the effects of watching. -- In this slumbry agitation, besides her walking, and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say?

Gent. That, sir, which I will not report after her.

Doct. You may, to me, and 'tis most meet you should.

Gent. Neither to you, nor any one; having no witness to confirm my speech.

Enter Lady Macbeth, with a taper.

Lo you, here she comes! This is her very guise; and, upon my life, fast asleep. Observe her; stand close.

Doct. How came she by that light?

Gent. Why, it stood by her: she has light by her continually; 'tis her command.

Doct. You see, her eyes are open.

Gent. Ay, but their sense is shut.

Doct. What is it she does now? Look, how she rubs her hands.

Gent. It is an accustom'd action with her, to seem thus washing her hands; I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

Lady. Yet here's a spot.

588

Doct. Hark, she speaks: I will set down what comes from her, to satisfy my remembrance the more strongly.

Lady. Out, damned spot! out, I say! -- One; Two;

Why, then 'tis time to do't: -- Hell is murky! --  
Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afraid? what need  
we fear who knows it, when none can call our power  
to account? -- Yet who would have thought the old  
man to have had so much blood in him?

Doct. Do you mark that?

Lady. The thane of Fife had a wife; Where is she  
now? -- What, will these hands ne'er be clean? --  
No more o'that, my lord, no more o'that: you mar  
all with this starting.

Doct. Go to, go to; you have known what you  
should not.

Gent. She has spoke what she should not, I am sure  
of that: Heaven knows what she has known.

Lady. Here's the smell of the blood still: all the  
perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.  
Oh! oh! oh!

Doct. What a sigh is there? The heart is sorely  
charg'd.

Gent. I would not have such a heart in my bosom,  
for the dignity of the whole body.

Doct. Well, well, well, --

Gent. Pray God, it be, sir.

589

Doct. This disease is beyond my practice: Yet I  
have known those which have walk'd in their sleep,  
who have died holily in their beds.

Lady. Wash your hands, put on your night-gown;  
look not so pale: -- I tell you yet again, Banquo's  
buried; he cannot come out of his grave.

Doct. Even so?

Lady. To bed, to bed; there's knocking at the  
gate. Come, come, come, come, give me your  
hand; What's done, cannot be undone: To bed, to  
bed, to bed. [Exit Lady.

Doct. Will she go now to bed?

Gent. Directly.

Doct. Foul whisperings are abroad: Unnatural  
deeds

Do breed unnatural troubles: Infected minds  
To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets.  
More needs she the divine, than the physician. ----  
God, God, forgive us all! Look after her;  
Remove from her the means of all annoyance,  
And still keep eyes upon her: -- So, good-night:  
My mind she has mated, and amaz'd my sight:  
I think, but dare not speak.

Gent. Good night, good doctor. [Exeunt.

590

SCENE II.

Drum and Colours. Enter Menteth, Cathness, Angus, Lenox, and Soldiers.

Ment. The English power is near, led on by Malcolm,  
His uncle **Siward**, and the good Macduff.  
Revenge burn in them: for their dear causes  
Would, to the bleeding, and the grim alarm,  
Excite the mortified man.

Ang. Near Birnam wood  
Shall we well meet them; that way are they coming.

Cath. Who knows, if Donalbain be with his brother?

Len. For certain, sir, he is not: I have a file  
Of all the gentry; there is **Siward's** son,  
And many unrough youths, that even now  
Protest their first of manhood.

Ment. What does the tyrant?

Cath. Great Dunsinane he strongly fortifies:

591

Some say, he's mad; others, that lesser hate him,  
Do call it valiant fury: but, for certain,  
He cannot buckle his distemper'd cause  
Within the belt of rule.

Ang. Now does he feel  
His secret murders sticking on his hands;  
Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach;  
Those, he commands, move only in command,  
Nothing in love: now does he feel his title  
Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe  
Upon a dwarfish thief.

Ment. Who then shall blame  
His pester'd senses to recoil, and start,  
When all that is within him does condemn  
Itself, for being there?

Cath. Well, march we on,  
To give obedience where 'tis truly ow'd:  
Meet we the medicin of the sickly weal;  
And with him pour we, in our country's purge,  
Each drop of us.

Len. Or so much as it needs,

To dew the sovereign flower, and drown the weeds.  
Make we our march towards Birnam.  
[Exeunt, marching.]

592

SCENE III.

Enter Macbeth, Doctor, and Attendants.

Macb. Bring me no more reports; let them fly  
all:  
'Till Birnam wood remove to Dunsinane,  
I cannot taint with fear. What's the boy Malcolm?  
Was he not born of woman? The spirits that know  
All mortal consequences, have pronounc'd me thus:  
*Fear not, Macbeth; no man, that's born of woman,  
Shall e'er have power upon thee.* -- Then fly, false thanes,  
And mingle with the English epicures:  
The mind I sway by, and the heart I bear,  
Shall never sag with doubt, nor shake with fear.

593 sig 2Q

Enter a Servant.

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-fac'd loon!  
Where got'st thou that goose look?  
Ser. There is ten thousand ----  
Macb. Geese, villain?  
Ser. Soldiers, sir.  
Macb. Go, prick thy face, and over-red thy fear,  
Thou lilly-liver'd boy. What soldiers, patch?  
Death of thy soul! those linnen cheeks of thine  
Are counsellors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face?  
Ser. The English force, so please you.  
Macb. Take thy face hence. -- Seyton! -- I am sick  
at heart,

594

When I behold -- Seyton, I say! -- This push  
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.  
I have liv'd long enough: my May of life

595

Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf:  
And that which should accompany old age,

As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,  
I must not look to have; but, in their stead,  
Curses, not loud, but deep, mouth-honour, breath,  
Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not.  
Seyton! ----

Enter Seyton.

Sey. What is your gracious pleasure?

Macb. What news more?

Sey. All is confirm'd, my lord, which was reported.

Macb. I'll fight, 'till from my bones my flesh be

hack'd. --

Give me my armour.

Sey. 'Tis not needed yet.

Macb. I'll put it on.

596

Send out more horses, skirr the country round;  
Hang those that talk of fear. ---- Give me mine ar-  
mour. --

How does your patient, doctor?

Doct. Not so sick, my lord,

As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,  
That keep her from her rest.

Macb. Cure her of that:

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd;  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow;  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain;  
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,  
Cleanse the **foul** bosom of that perilous stuff,  
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doct. Therein the patient  
Must minister to himself.

Macb. Throw physick to the dogs, I'll none of it. --  
Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff: --  
Seyton, send out. -- Doctor, the thanes fly from me: --

597

Come, sir, dispatch: -- If thou could'st, doctor, cast  
The water of my land, find her disease,  
And purge it to a sound and pristine health,  
I would applaud thee to the very echo,  
That should applaud again. -- Pull't off, I say. --  
What rhubarb, senna, or what purgative drug,  
Would scour these English hence? -- Hearest thou of  
them?

Doct. Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation  
Makes us hear something.

Macb. Bring it after me. --  
I will not be afraid of death and bane,  
'Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.

Doct. Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,  
Profit again should hardly draw me here. [Exeunt.]

#### SCENE IV.

Drum and Colours. Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff,  
Siward's Son, Menteth, Cathness, Angus, and Soldiers  
marching.

Mal. Cousins, I hope, the days are near at hand,  
That chambers will be safe.

Ment. We doubt it nothing.

Siw. What wood is this before us?

Ment. The wood of Birnam.

Mal. Let every soldier hew him down a bough,  
And bear't before him; thereby shall we shadow  
The numbers of our host, and make discovery  
Err in report of us.

598

Sold. It shall be done.

Siw. We learn no other, but the confident tyrant  
Keeps still in Dunsinane, and will endure  
Our setting down before't.

Mal. 'Tis his main hope:  
For where there is advantage to be given,  
Both more and less have given him the revolt;  
And none serve with him but constrained things,  
Whose hearts are absent too.

Macd. Let our just censures  
Attend the true event, and put we on

599

Industrious soldiership.

Siw. The time approaches,  
That will with due decision make us know  
What we shall say we have, and what we owe.  
Thoughts speculative their unsure hopes relate;  
But certain issue strokes must arbitrate:  
Towards which, advance the war. [Exeunt, marching.]

#### SCENE V.

Enter Macbeth, Seyton, and Soldiers with drums and colours.

Macb. Hang out our banners on the outward walls;

The cry is still, *They come*: Our castle's strength  
Will laugh a siege to scorn: here let them lie,  
'Till famine, and the ague, eat them up:  
Were they not forc'd with those that should be ours,  
We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,  
And beat them backward home. What is that noise?

[A cry within, of women.

Sey. It is the cry of women, my good lord.

Macb. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:  
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd  
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair

600

Would at a dismal treatise rouse, and stir  
As life were in't: I have supt full with horrors;  
Direness, familiar to my slaught'rous thoughts,  
Cannot once start me. -- Wherefore was that cry?

Sey. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macb. She should have dy'd hereafter;  
There would have been a time for such a word. --

601

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of recorded time;  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,

602

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an **ideot**, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing. ----

Enter a Messenger.

Thou com'st to use thy tongue; thy story quickly.

Mes. **Gracious** my lord,  
I should report that which, I say I saw,



But know not how to do't.

Macb. Well, say, *o* sir.

Mes. As I did stand my watch upon the hill,  
I look'd toward Birnam, and anon, methought,  
The wood began to move.

Macb. Liar, and slave! [Striking him.

Mes. Let me endure your wrath, if't be not so:  
Within this three mile may you see it coming;  
I say, a moving grove.

Macb. If thou speak'st false,  
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,  
'Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,

603

I care not if thou dost for me as much. ----  
I pull in resolution; and begin  
To doubt the equivocation of the fiend,  
That lies like truth: *Fear not, 'till Birnam wood  
Do come to Dunsinane;* -- and now a wood  
Comes toward Dunsinane. -- Arm, arm, and out! --  
If this, which he avouches, does appear,

604

There is **no** flying hence, nor tarrying here.  
I 'gin to be a-weary of the sun,  
And wish the estate o'the world were now undone. --  
Ring the alarum bell: -- Blow, wind! come, wrack!  
At least we'll die with harness on our back. [Exeunt.

SCENE VI.

Drum and colours. Enter Malcolm, **Siward**, Macduff,  
and their Army, with Boughs.

Mal. Now near enough; your leavy screens  
throw down,  
And shew like those you are: -- You, worthy uncle,  
Shall, with my cousin, your right-noble son,  
Lead our first battle: worthy Macduff, and we,  
Shall take upon us what else remains to do,  
According to our order.

**Siw.** Fare you well. --  
Do we but find the tyrant's power to-night,  
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.

Macd. Make all **our** trumpets speak; give them  
all breath,  
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

[Exeunt. Alarums continued.]

SCENE VII.

Enter Macbeth.

Macb. They have ty'd me to a stake; I cannot fly,  
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. -- What's he,  
That was not born of woman? Such a one  
Am I to fear, or none.

605

Enter young Siward.

Yo. Siw. What is thy name?

Macb. Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

Yo. Siw. No; though thou call'st thyself a hotter  
name

Than any is in hell.

Macb. My name's Macbeth.

Yo. Siw. The devil himself could not pronounce a  
title

More hateful to mine ear.

Macb. No, nor more fearful.

Yo. Siw. Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my  
sword

I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

[Fight; and young Siward is slain.]

Macb. Thou wast born of woman. --

But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,  
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born. [Exit.]

Alarums. Enter Macduff.

Macd. That way the noise is: -- Tyrant, shew thy  
face;

If thou be'st slain, and with no stroke of mine,  
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.  
I cannot strike at wretched kernes, whose arms  
Are hir'd to bear their staves; either thou, Macbeth,  
Or else my sword, with an unbatter'd edge,  
I sheath again undeeded. There thou should'st be;  
By this great clatter, one of greatest note  
Seems bruited: Let me find him, fortune! and  
More I beg not. [Exit. Alarum.]

606

Enter Malcolm and old Siward.

Siw. This way, my lord; -- the castle's gently render'd:

The tyrant's people on both sides do fight;  
The noble thanes do bravely in the war;  
The day almost itself professes yours,  
And little is to do.

Mal. We have met with foes  
That strike beside us.

Siw. Enter, sir, the castle. [Exeunt. Alarum.

Re-enter Macbeth.

Macb. Why should I play the Roman fool, and die  
On mine own sword? whiles I see lives, the gashes  
Do better upon them.

Re-enter Macduff.

Macd. Turn, hell-hound, turn.

Macb. Of all men else I have avoided thee:  
But get thee back, my soul is too much charg'd  
With blood of thine already.

Macd. I have no words,  
My voice is in my sword; thou bloodier villain  
Than terms can give thee out! [Fight. Alarum.

Macb. Thou losest labour:  
As easy may'st thou the intrenchant air

607

With thy keen sword impress, as make me bleed:  
Let fall thy blade on vulnerable crests;  
I bear a charmed life, which must not yield  
To one of woman born.

Macd. Despair thy charm;  
And let the angel, whom thou still hast serv'd,  
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb  
Untimely ripp'd.

Macb. **Accursed** be that tongue that tells me so,  
For it hath cow'd my better part of man!  
And be these juggling fiends no more believ'd,  
That palter with us in a double sense;  
That keep the word of promise to our ear,  
And break it to our hope. -- I'll not fight with thee.

Macd. Then yield thee, coward,  
And live to be the shew and gaze o'the time.

We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,  
 Painted upon a pole; and under-writ,  
*Here may you see the tyrant.*

Macb. I will not yield,  
 To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,  
 And to be baited with the rabble's curse.  
 Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,  
 And thou oppos'd, being of no woman born,  
 Yet I will try the last: Before my body  
 I throw my warlike shield: lay on, Macduff;  
 And damn'd be him that first cries, *Hold, enough.*  
 [Exeunt, fighting. Alarums.]

Re-enter fighting, and Macbeth is slain.

Retreat and flourish. Enter with Drum and Colours,  
 Malcolm, Old Siward, Rosse, Thanes, and Soldiers.

Mal. I would the friends we miss, were safe arriv'd.

Siw. Some must go off: and yet, by these I see,  
 So great a day as this is cheaply bought.

Mal. Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

Rosse. Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt:  
 He only liv'd but 'till he was a man;  
 The which no sooner had his prowess confirm'd

609 sig 2R

In the unshrinking station where he fought,  
 But like a man he dy'd.

Siw. Then he is dead?

Rosse. Ay, and brought off the field: your cause  
 of sorrow  
 Must not be measur'd by his worth, for then  
 It hath no end.

Siw. Had he his hurts before?

Rosse. Ay, on the front.

Siw. Why then, God's soldier be he!  
 Had I as many sons as I have hairs,  
 I would not wish them to a fairer death:  
 And so his knell is knoll'd.

Mal. He's worth more sorrow,  
 And that I'll spend for him.

Siw. He's worth no more;  
 They say, he parted well, and paid his score:  
 And so, God be with him! -- Here comes newer com-  
 fort.

Re-enter Macduff, with Macbeth's head.

Macd. Hail, king! for so thou art: Behold, where  
stands  
The usurper's cursed head: the time is free:  
I see thee compass'd with thy kingdom's pearl,

610

That speak my salutation in their minds;  
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine, --  
Hail, king of Scotland!

All. Hail, king of Scotland! [Flourish.

Mal. We shall not spend a large expence of time,  
Before we reckon with your several loves,  
And make us even with you. My thanes and kins-  
men,

Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland  
In such an honour nam'd. What's more to do,  
Which would be planted newly with the time, --  
As calling home our exil'd friends abroad,  
That fled the snares of watchful tyranny;  
Producing forth the cruel ministers  
Of this dead butcher, and his fiend-like queen;  
Who, as 'tis thought, by self and violent hands  
Took off her life; -- This, and what needful else  
That calls upon us, by the grace of Grace,  
We will perform in measure, time, and place:  
So thanks to all at once, and to each one,  
Whom we invite to see us crown'd at Scone.

[Flourish. Exeunt.