

Wilson 1947 John Dover Wilson (ed.), *Macbeth*
(Cambridge, 1947).

1

THE TRAGEDY OF
MACBETH.

2

The Scene: Scotland and (in 4.3) England.

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY.

Duncan, King of Scotland.
Malcolm) his sons.
Donalbain) his sons.
Macbeth, at first a general, later King of Scotland.
Banquo, a general.
Macduff) noblemen of Scotland.
Lennox) noblemen of Scotland.
Ross) noblemen of Scotland.
Menteith) noblemen of Scotland.
Angus) noblemen of Scotland.
Caithness) noblemen of Scotland.
Fleance, son to Banquo.
Siward, Earl of Northumberland, general of the English
forces.
Young Siward, his son.
Seton, armour bearer to Macbeth.
A Boy, son to Macduff.
A Captain.
A Porter.
An Old Man.
An English Doctor.
A Scotch Doctor.
Three Murderers.
Lady Macbeth.
Lady Macduff.
A Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.
The Weïrd Sisters.
Hecate.
Apparitions.

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

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∅ MACBETH.

[1.1.] **Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches**

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

2 Witch. When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

3 Witch. That will be ere the set of sun.

1 Witch. Where the place?

2 Witch. Upon the heath.

3 Witch. There to meet with Macbeth.

1 Witch. I come, Graymalkin.

2 Witch. Paddock calls.

3 Witch. Anon!

All. Fair is foul, and foul is fair:
Hover through the fog and filthy air.

[they vanish in mist

[1.2.] A camp ø

**Alarum. ø Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donal-
bain, Lennox, with attendants, meeting a bleeding
Captain**

Duncan. What **bloody** man is that? He can report,
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt
The newest state.

Malcolm. This is the sergeant,
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought
'Gainst my captivity ... Hail, brave friend!
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil
As thou didst leave it.

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Captain. Doubtful it stood,
As two spent swimmers that do cling together
And choke their art ... The merciless Macdonwald
(Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying **villainies** of nature
Do swarm upon him) from the Western Isles
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied,
And Fortune, on his damnéd quarrel smiling,
Showed like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:
For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name)
Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like Valour's minion carvéd out his passage,
Till he faced the slave;

Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell
to him,
Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops,
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

Duncan. O, valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!

Captain. As whence the sun 'gins his reflection
Shipwracking storms and direful thunders break;
So from that spring whence comfort seemed to come
Discomfort swells: mark, king of Scotland, mark!
No sooner justice had, with valour armed,
Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels,
But the Norwegian lord, surveying vantage,
With furbished arms and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

Duncan. Dismayed not this
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

Captain. Yes;
As sparrows, eagles; or the hare, the lion.
If I say sooth, I must report they were
As cannons overcharged with double cracks;

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So they
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:
Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,
Or memorize another Golgotha,
I cannot tell:
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

Duncan. So well thy words become thee as thy
wounds,
They smack of honour both: Go get him surgeons.
[attendants help him thence
Who comes here?

Enter Ross and Angus

Malcolm. The worthy thane of Ross.

Lennox. What a haste looks through his eyes! So
should he look
That seems to speak things strange.

Ross. God save the king!

Duncan. Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

Ross. From Fife, great king,
Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky,
And fan our people cold.
Norway himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict,

Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapped in proof,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point, rebellious arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,
The victory fell on us.

Duncan. Great happiness!

Ross. That now
Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition;
Nor would we deign him burial of his men

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Till he disburséd, at Saint Colme's Inch,
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

Duncan. No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive
Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

Ross. I'll see it done.

Duncan. What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.
[they go

[1.3.] A barren heath.

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 chestnuts in her lap,
And munched, and munched, and munched: 'Give
me,' quoth I.

'Aroint thee, witch!' the rump-fed ronyon cries.
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'th' Tiger:
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.

1 Witch. Th'art kind.

3 Witch. And I another.

1 Witch. I myself have all the other,
And the very ports they blow,
All the quarters that they know
I'th' 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:

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Weary sev'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. Show me, show me.

1 Witch. Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wrecked as homeward he did come.

[drum within

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

They dance in a ring, whirling faster and faster

All. The Weïrd Sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
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.

[they stop suddenly, and a mist hides them

Enter Macbeth and Banquo

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

Banquo. How far is't called to Forres? [the mist
thins] What are these,
So withered, and so wild in their attire,
That look not like th'inhabitants o'th' 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,
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
That you are so.

Macbeth. Speak, if you can: what are you?

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

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

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

Banquo. Good sir, why do you start, and seem to
fear
Things that do sound so fair? i'th' name of truth,

Are ye fantastical, or that indeed
Which outwardly ye show? 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!

[the mist thickens

Macbeth. Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis,
But how of Cawdor? the thane 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

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You owe this strange intelligence, or why
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

[they disappear

Banquo. The earth hath bubbles as the water has,
And these are of them: whither are they vanished?

Macbeth. Into the air; and what seemed corporal,
melted,

As breath into the wind. Would they had stayed!

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

Macbeth. Your children shall be kings.

Banquo. You shall be king.

Macbeth. And thane of Cawdor too: went it not so?

Banquo. To th' selfsame tune and words. Who's here?

Enter Ross and Angus

Ross. The king hath happily received, Macbeth,
The news of thy success: and when he reads

Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,
His wonders and his praises do contend
Which should be thine or his: silenced with that,
In viewing o'er the rest o'th' self-same day,
He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,
Nothing afeard of what thyself didst make
Strange images of death. As thick as hail
Came post with post, and every one did bear
Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,
And poured them down before him.

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

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Ross. And for an earnest of a greater honour,
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane,
For it is thine.

Banquo. What, can the devil speak true?

Macbeth. The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you
dress me

In borrowed robes?

Angus. Who was the thane lives yet,
But under heavy judgment bears that life
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was combined
With those of Norway, or did line the rebel
With hidden help and vantage, or that with both
He laboured in his country's wreck, I know not;
But treasons capital, confessed, and proved,
Have overthrown him.

(Macbeth. Glamis, and thane of Cawdor:
The greatest is behind. -- [aloud] Thanks for your
pains --

[aside to Banquo] Do you not hope your children shall
be kings,

When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me
Promised no less to them?

Banquo. 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's
In deepest consequence.

Cousins, a word, I pray you.

[to Ross and Angus, who move towards him

(Macbeth. Two truths are told,
As happy prologues to the swelling act

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Of the imperial theme. [aloud] I thank you, gentlemen.

[aside] This supernatural soliciting
Cannot be ill; cannot be good. If ill,
Why hath it given me earnest of success,
Commencing in a truth? I amthane of Cawdor.
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
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is
But what is not.

Banquo. Look, how our partner's rapt.

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

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

(Macbeth. Come what come may,
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

Banquo. Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

Macbeth. Give me your favour: my dull brain was
wrought
With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains
Are registered where every day I turn
The leaf to read them Let us toward the king.
[aside to Banquo
Think upon what hath chanced; and at more time,
The interim having weighed it, let us speak
Our free hearts each to other.

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Banquo. Very gladly.

Macbeth. Till then, enough Come, friends.

[they go forward

[1.4.] Forres. A Room in the palace.

**Flourish. Enter King Duncan, Malcolm,
Donalbain, Lennox, and Attendants**

Duncan. Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
Those in commission yet returned?

Malcolm. 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 confessed his treasons,
Implored your highness' pardon, and set forth
A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death,
To throw away the dearest thing he owed
As 'twere a careless trifle.

Duncan. There's no art
To find the mind's construction in the face:
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.

Enter Macbeth, Banquo, Ross, and Angus

O worthiest cousin!
The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me. Thou art so far before,
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserved,
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
Might have been mine! only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

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Macbeth. 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.

Duncan. Welcome hither:
I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing. Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserved, nor must be known
No less to have done so: let me infold thee,
And hold thee to my heart.

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

Duncan. 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.

Macbeth. The rest is labour, which is not used for
you:

I'll be myself the harbinger, and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

Duncan. My worthy Cawdor!

(Macbeth. The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires!

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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. [he goes

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

[1.5.] Inverness. Before Macbeth's castle.

Enter Macbeth's wife alone, with a letter.

Lady M. [reads] 'They met me in the day of success;
and I have learned by the perfect'st report, they have
more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned
in desire to question them further, they made themselves
air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in
the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-
hailed me, 'Thane of Cawdor', by which title, before,
these Weïrd Sisters saluted me, and referred 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 mightst not lose the dues of
rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is
promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.'

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be
What thou art promised: yet do I fear thy nature,
It is too full o'th' milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great,
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness should attend it: what thou wouldst highly,
That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,

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And yet wouldst wrongly win: thou'ldst have, great
Glamis,
That which cries 'Thus thou must do', if thou have it,
And that which rather thou dost fear to do
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 crowned withal.

An attendant enters

What is your tidings?

Attendant. The king comes here to-night.

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

Attendant. 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 M. Give him tending;
He brings great news. [attendant goes] The raven
himself is hoarse
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 th' access and passage to remorse,
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
Th' effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,

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And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers,

Wherever in your sightless substances
You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
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!'

Enter Macbeth

Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!
Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!
Thy letters have transported me beyond
This ignorant present, and I feel now
The future in the instant.

Macbeth. My dearest love,
Duncan comes here to-night.

Lady M. And when goes hence?

Macbeth. To-morrow, as he purposes.

Lady M. O, 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 th'innocent flower,
But be the serpent under't. 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.

Macbeth. We will speak further.

Lady M. Only look up clear;
To alter favour ever is to fear:
Leave all the rest to me. [they go within

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[1.6.] ∅ Hautboys. ∅ Enter King Duncan, Malcolm,
Donalbain, Banquo, Lennox, Macduff, Ross,
Angus, and attendants

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

Banquo. This guest of summer,
The temple-haunting martlet, does approve,
By his loved mansionry, that the heaven's breath
Smells wooingly here: no jutty, frieze,
Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird
Hath made his pendent bed and procreant cradle:

Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed
The air is delicate.

Enter Lady Macbeth.

Duncan. See, see! our honoured 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 'ield us for your pains,
And thank us for your trouble.

Lady M. 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 heaped up to them,
We rest your hermits.

Duncan. Where's the thane of Cawdor?
We coursed 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 help him
To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,
We are your guest to-night.

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Lady M. 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.

Duncan. Give me your hand:
Conduct me to mine host; we love him highly,
And shall continue our graces towards him.
By your leave, hostess. [he conducts her into the castle

[1.7.] A court in Macbeth's castle, open to the sky, with doors to the rear, one on the left the main gate or south entry, one on the right leading to rooms within, and between them a covered recess running back, beneath a gallery, to a third door, through the which when ajar may be seen a flight of stairs to an upper chamber. A bench with a table before it against a side wall.

Hautboys. Torches. Enter a sewer directing divers servants who pass with dishes and service across the court. As they come through the door on the right a sound of feasting is heard within. Then enter Macbeth from the same door

Macbeth. If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere
well

It were done quickly: if th'assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
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 judgement here -- that we but teach
Bloody instructions, which being taught return
To plague th'inventor: this even-handed justice
Commends th'ingredience of our poisoned chalice

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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
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking-off:
And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
Striding the blast, or Heaven's cherubin, horsed
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'erleaps itself,
And falls on th'other --

Enter Lady Macbeth.

How now, what news?

Lady M. He has almost supped: why have you left
the chamber?

Macbeth. Hath he asked for me?

Lady M. Know you not he has?

Macbeth. We will proceed no further in this business:
He hath honoured 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 M. Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dressed 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 afeard

20

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'th'adage?

Macbeth. Prithee, peace:
I dare do all that may become a man;
Who dares do more is none.

Lady M. What beast was't then
That made you break this enterprise 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
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 plucked my nipple from his boneless gums,
And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you
Have done to this.

Macbeth. If we should fail?

Lady M. We fail?
But screw your courage to the sticking place,
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep
(Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
Soundly invite him) his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassail so convince,
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
A limbec only: when in swinish sleep
Their drenchéd natures lie as in a death,

21

What cannot you and I perform upon
Th'unguarded Duncan? what not put upon
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?

Macbeth. Bring forth men-children only!
For thy undaunted mettle should compose
Nothing but males. Will it not be received,

When we have marked with blood those sleepy two
Of his own chamber, and used their very daggers,
That they have done't?

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

Macbeth. I am settled, and bend up
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.

[they return to the chamber]

[2.1.] The same, one or two hours later. **Enter** from
the back **Banquo, and Fleance with a torch before him.**
They come forward, leaving the door open behind them

Banquo. How goes the night, boy?

Fleance [gazing at the sky]. The moon is down;

I have not heard the clock.

Banquo. And she goes down at twelve.

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

Banquo. Hold, take my sword There's husbandry
in heaven,

Their candles are all out

[unclasps his belt with its dagger]

Take thee that too.

A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,

22

And yet I would not sleep. Merciful powers,
Restrain in me the curséd thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose! [he starts] Give me my sword,

Enter (from the right) **Macbeth, and a servant,**
with a torch

Who's there?

Macbeth. A friend.

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

Macbeth. Being unprepared,
Our will became the servant to defect,
Which else should free have wrought.

Banquo. All's well.
I dreamt last night of the three **Weird** Sisters:
To you they have showed some truth.
Macbeth. I think not of them;
Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,
We would spend it in some words upon that business,
If you would grant the time.
Banquo. At your kind'st leisure.
Macbeth. If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis,
It shall make honour for you.
Banquo. So I lose none
In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchised and allegiance clear,
I shall be counselled.
Macbeth. Good repose the while!
Banquo. Thanks, sir: the like to you!
[Banquo and Fleance go to their chamber

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Macbeth. Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.
[the servant goes; he sits at the table
Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee:
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-oppresséd brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,
And such an instrument I was to use! [he rises
Mine eyes are made the fools o'th'other senses,
Or else worth all the rest: I see thee still;
And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,
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
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
The curtained sleep; Witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's **off'rings**; and withered Murder,
Alarumed 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,
Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,

And take the present horror from the time,
Which now suits with it. Whiles 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.

24

Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell.

[he steals out by the open door at back, and
step by step climbs the stair. A pause

[2.2.] Lady Macbeth enters from the right,
with a cup in her hand

Lady M. That which hath made them drunk hath
made me bold:
What hath quenched them hath given me fire. [she
pauses] Hark! Peace:
It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman,
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 drugged
their possets,
That death and nature do contend about them,
Whether they live or die.

Macbeth [within] Who's there? what, ho!

Lady M. Alack, I am afraid they have awaked
And 'tis not done: th'attempt and not the deed
Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready,
He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled
My father as he slept, I had done't.

She turns as if making towards the stair, to find
Macbeth standing in the door, his arms bathed
in blood and with two daggers clasped in his left
hand. He totters forward

My husband!

Macbeth [whispers]. I have done the deed Didst
thou not hear a noise?

Lady M. I heard the owl scream, and the crickets cry.
Did not you speak?

Macbeth. When?

25

Lady M.

Now.

Macbeth. As I descended?
 Lady M. Ay.
 Macbeth. Hark! [they listen
 Who lies i'th' second chamber?
 Lady M. Donalbain.
 Macbeth. This is a sorry sight.
 [stretching forth his right hand
 Lady M. A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.
 Macbeth. There's one did laugh in's sleep, and one
 cried 'Murder!'
 That they did wake each other: I stood and heard them:
 But they did say their prayers, and addressed them
 Again to sleep.
 Lady M. There are two lodged together.
 Macbeth. One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the
 other,
 As they had seen me with these hangman's hands:
 List'ning their fear, I could not say, 'Amen',
 When they did say, 'God bless us'.
 Lady M. Consider it not so deeply.
 Macbeth. But wherefore could not I pronounce
 'Amen'?
 I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'
 Stuck in my throat.
 Lady M. These deeds must not be thought
 After these ways; so, it will make us mad.
 Macbeth. Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no
 more!
 Macbeth does murder sleep' -- the innocent sleep,
 Sleep that knits up the ravelled sleeve of care,
 The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,
 Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
 Chief nourisher in life's feast, --

26

Lady M. What do you mean?
 Macbeth. Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the
 house:
 'Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor
 Shall sleep no more: Macbeth shall sleep no more!'
 Lady M. Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy
 thane,
 You do unbend your noble strength, to think
 So brainsickly 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.

Macbeth. I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on't again I dare not.

Lady M. 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,
For it must seem their guilt.

[she goes up. A knocking heard

Macbeth. 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 incarnadine,
Making the green -- one red.

Lady Macbeth returns, closing the inner door

Lady M. My hands are of your colour; but I shame
To wear a heart so white. [knocking] I hear a knocking

27

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. [knocking] Hark! more
knocking.

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us
And show us to be watchers: be not lost
So poorly in your thoughts.

Macbeth. To know my deed, 'twere best not know
myself. [knocking]
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou
couldst! [they go in

[2.3.] The knocking grows yet louder; a drunken
Porter enters the court

Porter. Here's a knocking indeed! If a man were
porter of hell-gate, he should have old turning the key.
[knocking] Knock, knock, knock! Who's there, i'th'
name of Beelzebub? Here's a farmer, that hanged him-
self on th'expectation of plenty: come in time-server;
have napkins enow about you; here you'll sweat for't.
[knocking] Knock, knock! Who's there, in th'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: O, come in, equivocator. [knocking] Knock, knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's an English tailor come hither, for stealing out of a French hose: come in, tailor; here you may roast your goose. [knocking] 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 th'everlasting

28

bonfire. [knocking] Anon, anon! I pray you, remember the porter. [opens the gate]

Enter Macduff and Lennox

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

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

Macduff. What three things does drink especially provoke?

Porter. Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep and urine. Lechery, sir, it provokes and unprovokes; it provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance. Therefore, much drink may be said to be an equivocator 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.

Macduff. I believe drink gave thee the lie last night.

Porter. That it did, sir, i'th' very throat on 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.

Macduff. Is thy master stirring?

Macbeth returns, in a dressing gown

Our knocking has awaked him; here he comes.

Lennox. Good-morrow, noble sir.

Macbeth. Good-morrow, both.

Macduff. Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

Macbeth. Not yet.

Macduff. He did command me to call timely on him; I have almost slipped the hour.

Macbeth. I'll bring you to him.

[they move towards the inner door

Macduff. I know this is a joyful trouble to you;
But yet 'tis one.

Macbeth. The labour we delight in physics pain.
This is the door. [he points

Macduff. I'll make so bold to call,
For 'tis my limited service. [he goes in

Lennox. Goes the king hence to-day?

Macbeth. He does: he did appoint so.

Lennox. The night has been unruly: where we lay,
Our chimneys were blown down, and, as they say,
Lamentings heard i'th'air, strange screams of death,
And prophesying with accents terrible
Of dire combustion and confused events
New hatched to th' woeful time. The obscure bird
Clamoured the livelong night: some say, the earth
Was feverous and did shake.

Macbeth. 'Twas a rough night.

Lennox. My young remembrance cannot parallel
A fellow to it.

Macduff returns

Macduff. O horror! horror! horror! Tongue nor
heart
Cannot conceive nor name thee!

Macbeth, Lennox. What's the matter?

Macduff. Confusion now hath made his master-
piece!

Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence
The life o'th' building!

Macbeth. What is't you say? the life?

Lennox. Mean you his majesty?

Macduff. Approach the chamber, and destroy your
sight
With a new Gorgon: do not bid me speak;
See, and then speak yourselves. [Macbeth and Lennox go up
Awake, awake!
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 sprites,
To countenance this horror! ø **[bell rings]**

Enter Lady Macbeth in a dressing gown

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

Enter Banquo half-clad

O Banquo, Banquo!
Our royal master's murdered!
Lady M. Woe, alas!
What, in our house?
Banquo. Too cruel, any where.
Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself,
And say it is not so.

Macbeth and Lennox **return**

Macbeth. Had I but died an hour before this chance,

31

I had lived 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.

Malcolm and Donalbain **come in haste through
the door on the right**

Donalbain. What is amiss?
Macbeth. You are, and do not know't:
The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood
Is stopped -- the very source of it is stopped.
Macduff. Your royal father's murdered.
Malcolm. O, by whom?
Lennox. Those of his chamber, as it seemed, had
done't:
Their hands and faces were all badged with blood,

So were their daggers, which unwiped we found
Upon their pillows:
They stared, and were distracted, no man's life
Was to be trusted with them.

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

Macduff. Wherefore did you so?

Macbeth. Who can be wise, amazed, temp'rate and
furious,
Loyal and neutral, in a moment? no man:
Th'expedition of my violent love
Outrun the pauser, reason. Here lay Duncan,
His silver skin laced with his golden blood,
And his gashed stabs looked like a breach in nature
For ruin's wasteful entrance: there, the murderers,
Steeped in the colours of their trade, their daggers
Unmannerly breeched with gore: who could refrain,

32

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

Lady M. [seeming to faint] Help me hence, ho!

Macbeth goes to her

Macduff. Look to the lady.

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

(Donalbain. What should be spoken here, where our
fate,

Hid in an auger-hole, may rush and seize us?
Let's away.

Our tears are not yet brewed.

(Malcolm. Nor our strong sorrow
Upon the foot of motion. [enter waiting-women

Banquo [directs them] Look to the lady ...
[they lead her forth

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
Against the undivulged pretence I fight
Of treasonous malice.

Macduff. And so do I.

All. So all.

Macbeth. Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And meet i'th'hall together.

All. Well contented.

[all go in but Malcolm and Donalbain

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

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

33

Donalbain. 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.

Malcolm. This murderous shaft that's shot
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.

[they go

[2.4.] Before Macbeth's castle. A day
strangely dark.

Enter Ross with an Old Man

Old Man. 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.

Ross. [looks up] Ha, good father,
Thou seest the heavens, as troubled with man's act,
Threatens his bloody stage: by th' clock 'tis day,
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp:
Is't night's predominance, or the day's shame,
That darkness does the face of earth entomb,
When living light should kiss it?

Old Man. 'Tis unnatural,
Even like the deed that's done. On Tuesday last,
A falcon towering in her pride of place
Was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed.

Ross. And Duncan's horses -- a thing most strange and
certain --
Beauteous and swift, the minions of their race,

34

Turned wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,

Contending 'gainst obedience, as they would make
War with mankind.

Old Man. 'Tis said they eat each other.

Ross. They did so, to th'amazement of mine eyes,
That looked upon't.

Macduff comes from the castle

Here comes the good Macduff.

How goes the world, sir, now?

Macduff [points at the sky]. Why, see you not?

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

Macduff. Those that Macbeth hath slain.

Ross. Alas, the day!

What good could they pretend?

Macduff. They were suborned.

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

Ross. 'Gainst nature still!

Thriftless ambition, that wilt ravin up
Thine own life's means! Then 'tis most like
The sovereignty will fall upon Macbeth.

Macduff. He is already named, and gone to Scone
To be invested.

Ross. Where is Duncan's body?

Macduff. Carried to Colme-kill,
The sacred storehouse of his predecessors
And guardian of their bones.

Ross. Will you to Scone?

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

Well, I will thither.

35

Macduff. Well, may you see things well done there:
adieu!

Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!

Ross. Farewell, father.

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

[they go]

[Some weeks pass]

[3.1.] An audience chamber in the palace at Forres

Banquo enters

Banquo. Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and I fear
Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity,
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.

**Sennet sounded. Enter Macbeth, as king, Lady
Macbeth, as Queen, Lennox, Ross, Lords, and attendants**

Macbeth. Here's our chief guest.

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

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

36

Banquo. Let your highness
Command upon me, to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

Macbeth. Ride you this afternoon?

Banquo. Ay, my good lord.

Macbeth. We should have else desired 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?

Banquo. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper. Go not my horse the better,
I must become a borrower of the night
For a dark hour or twain.

Macbeth. Fail not our feast.

Banquo. My lord, I will not.

Macbeth. We hear our bloody cousins are bestowed
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?

Banquo. Ay, my good lord: our time does call upon's.

Macbeth. I wish your horses swift and sure of foot;

And so I do commend you to their backs.

Farewell.

[Banquo goes

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!

[all **depart** but Macbeth and a **servant**

Sirrah, a word with you: attend those men

Our pleasure?

37

Attendant. They are, my lord, without the palace-gate.

Macbeth. Bring them before us. [the servant goes

To be thus is nothing,

But to be safely thus: our fears in Banquo

Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature

Reigns that which would be feared. '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 rebuked, 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 hailed him father to a line of kings:

Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,

And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,

Thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand,

No son of mine succeeding. If't be so,

For Banquo's issue have I filed my mind,

For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered,

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 th'utterance! Who's there?

The servant returns with two murderers

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

[servant goes out

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

1 Murderer. It was, so please your highness.

Macbeth.

Well then, now

38

Have you considered 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; passed in probation with you,
How you were borne in hand, how crossed, the
instruments,
Who wrought with them, and all things else that might
To half a soul and to a notion crazed
Say 'Thus did Banquo.'

1 Murderer. You made it known to us.

Macbeth. 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 gospelled,
To pray for this good man, and for his issue,
Whose heavy hand hath bowed you to the grave
And beggared yours for ever?

1 Murderer. We are men, my liege.

Macbeth. Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men,
As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels, curs,
Shoughs, water-rugs, and demi-wolves, are clept
All by the name of dogs: the valued file
Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,
The housekeeper, the hunter, every one
According to the gift which bounteous nature
Hath in him closed, 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 i'th' worst rank of manhood, say't,
And I will put that business in your bosoms,
Whose execution takes your enemy off,
Grapples you to the heart and love of us,

39

Who wear our health but sickly in his life,
Which in his death were perfect.

2 Murderer. I am one, my liege,
Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world
Hath so incensed that I am reckless what
I do to spite the world.

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

Macbeth. Both of you

Know Banquo was your enemy.

Both Murderers. True, my lord.

Macbeth. 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 barefaced 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
Who I myself struck down: and thence it is
That I to your assistance do make love,
Masking the business from the common eye,
For sundry weighty reasons.

2 Murderer. We shall, my lord,
Perform what you command us.

1 Murderer. Though our lives --

Macbeth. 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'th' 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 --

40

To leave no rubs nor botches in the work --
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.

Both Murderers. We are resolved, my lord.

Macbeth. I'll call upon you straight; abide within.

[they go

It is concluded: Banquo, thy soul's flight,
If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.

[he leaves by another door

[3.2.] Lady Macbeth enters with a servant

Lady M. Is Banquo gone from court?

Servant. Ay, madam, but returns again to-night.

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

Servant. Madam, I will.

[he goes

Lady M. 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.

Macbeth enters lost in thought

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

Macbeth. We have **scorched** the snake, not killed it:
She'll close and be herself, whilst our poor malice
Remains in danger of her former tooth.

41

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 peace, 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 M. Come on;
Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks,
Be bright and jovial among your guests to-night.

Macbeth. So shall I, love, and so I pray be you:
Let your remembrance 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 M. You must leave this.

Macbeth. O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear
wife!

Thou know'st that Banquo and his Fleance lives.

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

Macbeth. There's comfort yet, they are assailable,
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown
His cloistered flight, ere to black Hecate's summons
The shard-borne beetle with his drowsy hums
Hath rung night's yawning peal, there shall be done
A deed of dreadful note.

Lady M.

What's to be done?

42

Macbeth. Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,
Till thou applaud the deed ... Come, seeling night,
Scarf 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 **paled!** Light thickens, and the crow
Makes wing to **th'** rooky wood:
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse,
Whiles 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, prithee, go with me. [they go

[3.3.] A steep lane leading through a wood to gates of
the royal park, some way from the palace. The two
murderers come up, with a third

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

3 Murderer. Macbeth.

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

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

1 Murderer. Then stand with us.

The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day:
Now spurs the lated traveller apace
To gain the timely inn, and near approaches
The subject of our watch.

3 Murderer. Hark! I hear horses.

Banquo [**at a distance**] Give us a light there, ho!

2 Murderer. Then 'tis he: the rest

That are within the note of expectation
Already are i'**th'** court.

1 Murderer. His horses go about.

43

3 Murderer. Almost a mile: but he does usually --
So all men do -- from hence to **th'** palace-gate
Make it their walk.

Banquo and Fleance with a torch are seen
coming up the lane

2 Murderer. A light, a light!
3 Murderer. 'Tis he.

1 Murderer. Stand to't
Banquo. It will be rain to-night.

1 Murderer. Let it come down.
 [1 Murderer strikes out the torch; the
 others set upon Banquo

Banquo. O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!
Thou mayst revenge. O slave!

 [he dies; Fleance escapes.

3 Murderer. Who did strike out the light?

1 Murderer. Was't not the way?

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

2 Murderer. We have lost
Best half of our affair.

1 Murderer. Well, let's away, and say how much is
 done. [they go

[3.4.] The hall of the palace. At the upper end a dais
with doors to left and right, between which are two thrones
and a table before them, while a longer table, at right
angles, extends down the room

A banquet prepared. Enter Macbeth, Lady Mac-
beth, Ross, Lennox, Lords, and attendants

Macbeth. You know your own degrees, sit down: at
 first
And last, the hearty welcome.

44

Lords. Thanks to your majesty.

Macbeth leads Lady Macbeth to the dais; the Lords
sit on either side of the long table, leaving an empty stool
at the head

Macbeth. Ourselves will mingle with society,
And play the humble host:

 [Lady Macbeth ascends to her throne
Our hostess keeps her state, but in best time
We will require her welcome.

Lady M. Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends,
For my heart speaks they are welcome.

As Macbeth passes by the door on the left 1 Murderer
appears thereat. The Lords rise and bow to Lady

Macbeth

Macbeth. See, they encounter thee with their hearts'
thanks.

Both sides are even: here I'll sit i'th' midst:

[points to the empty stool]

Be large in mirth, anon we'll drink a measure

The table round.

[turns to the door] There's blood upon thy face.

(Murderer. 'Tis Banquo's then.

(Macbeth. 'Tis better thee without than he within.

Is he dispatched?

(Murderer. My lord, his throat is cut, that I did for
him.

(Macbeth. Thou art the best o'th' cut-throats. Yet
he's good

That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,
Thou art the nonpareil.

(Murderer. Most royal sir,
Fleance is 'scaped.

45

(Macbeth. 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 cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in
To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?

(Murderer. Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he
bides,

With twenty trenchéd gashes on his head;
The least a death to nature.

(Macbeth. Thanks for that:

There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled
Hath nature that in time will venom breed,

No teeth for th' present. Get thee gone; to-morrow
We'll hear ourselves again.

[murderer goes]

Lady M. My royal lord,

You do not give the cheer. The feast is sold

That is not often vouched, 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.

**[The Ghost of Banquo appears, and sits in
Macbeth's place**

Macbeth.

Sweet remembrancer!

Now good digestion wait on appetite,
And health on both!

Lennox. May't please your highness sit?

Macbeth. Here had we now our country's honour
roofed,

Were the graced person of our Banquo present;
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness
Than pity for mischance!

Ross. His absence, sir,

46

Lays blame upon his promise. Please't your highness
To grace us with your royal company.

Macbeth. The table's full.

Lennox. Here is a place reserved, sir.

Macbeth. Where?

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

Macbeth. Which of you have done this?

Lords. What, my good lord?

Macbeth. Thou canst not say I did it: never shake
Thy gory locks at me. [Lady Macbeth rises

Ross. Gentlemen, rise, his highness is not well.

Lady M. [coming down] 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. [aside] Are you a man?

(Macbeth. Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that
Which might appal the devil.

(Lady M. O proper stuff!
This is the very painting of your fear:
This is the air-drawn dagger which, you said,
Led you to Duncan. O, these flaws and starts
(Impostors to true fear) would well become
A woman's story at a winter's fire,
Authorized by her grandam Shame itself!
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,
You look but on a stool.

(Macbeth. Prithee, see there! behold! look! lo! how
say you?

Why what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too.

If charnel-houses and our graves must send

47

Those that we bury back, our monuments
Shall be the maws of kites. [the Ghost vanishes
(Lady M. What, quite unmanned in folly?
(Macbeth. If I stand here, I saw him.
(Lady M. Fie, for shame!
(Macbeth [paces to and fro]. Blood hath been shed ere
now, i'th'olden time,
Ere humane statute purged the gentle weal;
Ay, and since too, murders have been performed
Too terrible for the ear: the time has 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 M. [touches his arm] My worthy lord,
Your noble friends do lack you.

Macbeth. I do forget ...
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.

[as he raises his cup, the Ghost reappears
in the seat behind him

I drink to the general joy o'th' whole table,
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss;
Would he were here! to all, and him we thirst,
And all to all.

Lords [drinking]. Our duties, and the pledge.

Macbeth [turns to his seat]. Avaunt! and quit my sight!
let the earth hide thee!
Thy bones are marrowless, thy blood is cold;

48

Thou hast no speculation in those eyes
Which thou dost glare with!

Lady M. Think of this, good peers,
But as a thing of custom: 'tis no other;
Only it spoils the pleasure of the time.

Macbeth. What man dare, I dare:
Approach thou like the ruggéd Russian bear,
The armed rhinoceros, or th'Hyrcean tiger,
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 mock'ry, hence! [the Ghost vanishes

Why, so; being gone,
I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.

Lady M. You have displaced the mirth, broke the
good meeting,
With most admired disorder.

Macbeth. Can such things be,
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 cheeks,
When mine is blanched with fear.

Ross. What sights, my lord?

Lady M. 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, [they rise
But go at once.

Lennox. Good night; and better health
Attend his majesty!

49

Lady M. A kind good night to all!
[they leave

Macbeth. It will have blood; they say, blood will
have blood:
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;
Augures and understood relations have
By maggot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth
The secret'st man of blood What is the night?

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

Macbeth. How say'st thou, that Macduff denies his
person
At our great bidding?

Lady M. Did you send to him, sir?

Macbeth. 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) to the Weïrd 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
Stepped 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 scanned.

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

Macbeth. 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.

[they go

50

[3.5.] A heath

Thunder. Enter the three Witches,
meeting Hecate

1 Witch. Why, how now, Hecat, you look angerly.

Hecate. 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 called to bear my part,
Or show the glory of our art?
And, which is worse, all you have done
Hath been but for a wayward son,
Spiteful 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'th' morning: thither he
Will come to know his destiny.
Your vessels and your spells provide,
Your charms and every thing beside.
I am for th'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 vap'rous drop profound;
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:
And that distilled by magic sleights
Shall raise such artificial sprites
As by the strength of their illusion
Shall draw him on to his confusion.

51

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: 'Come away, come away,' &c.

A cloud descends

Hark! I am called; my little spirit, see,
Sits in a foggy cloud, and stays for me.

[she flies away on the cloud

1 Witch. Come, let's make haste; she'll soon be back
again. They vanish

[3.6.] A castle in Scotland

Enter Lennox and another Lord

Lennox. My former speeches have but hit your
thoughts,
Which can interpret farther: only I say
Things have been strangely borne. The gracious
Duncan
Was pitied of Macbeth: marry, he was dead:
And the right valiant Banquo walked too late --
Whom you may say (if't please you) Fleance killed,
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? damnéd 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 angered any heart alive

52

To hear the men deny't. 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 failed
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 received
Of the most pious Edward with such grace

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.

Lennox. 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'.

Lennox. And that well might
Advise him to a caution, t'hold what distance
His wisdom can provide. Some holy angel
Fly to the court of England and unfold

53

His message ere he come, that a swift blessing
May soon return to this our suffering country
Under a hand accursed!

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

[4.1.] A cavern and in the midst a fiery pit with a boiling
cauldron above it. **Thunder**, as the Weird Sisters rise,
one after the other, from the flames

1 Witch. Thrice the brinded cat hath mewed.

2 Witch. Thrice and once the hedge-pig whined.

3 Witch. Harpier cries: -- 'Tis time, 'tis time.

1 Witch. Round about the cauldron go:
In the poisoned entrails throw.

[they move leftwards about it]

Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Sweltered venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i'th' charmed pot!

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

[they stir the cauldron]

2 Witch. Fillet of a fenny snake,

In the cauldron boil and bake:
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.

[they stir

54

3 Witch. Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witch's mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravined salt-sea shark,
Root of hemlock digged i'th' dark,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat and slips of yew
Slivered in the moon's eclipse,
Nose of Turk and Tartar's lips,
Finger of birth-strangled babe
Ditch-delivered by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For the ingredients of our cauldron.

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

[they stir

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

Enter Hecate and the other three Witches

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

Music and a song: 'Black spirits, &c.' Hecate goes

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

A door flies open, showing Macbeth without

Macbeth [enters. How now, you secret, black, and
midnight hags!

What is't you do?

55

All. A deed without a name.

Macbeth. 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 lodged 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 **germens** tumble all together,
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 **th'hadst** rather hear it from our
 mouths,
Or from our masters?

Macbeth. Call 'em, let me see 'em.

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. First Apparition, an armed head like
Macbeth's, rises from the cauldron**

Macbeth. Tell me, thou unknown power, --

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

56

1 Apparition. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! beware
 Macduff,
Beware the thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

[descends

Macbeth. Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution
 thanks;
Thou hast harped my fear aright. But one word more --

1 Witch. He will not be commanded: here's another,

More potent than the first.

Thunder. Second Apparition, a bloody child

2 Apparition. Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!

Macbeth. Had I three ears, I'd hear thee.

2 Apparition. Be bloody, bold and resolute; laugh to
scorn

The power of man; for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

[descends

Macbeth. 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.

**Thunder. Third Apparition, a child crowned, with
a tree in his hand**

What is this,
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.

3 Apparition. Be lion-mettled, proud, and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are:
Macbeth shall never vanquished be until

57

Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill
Shall come against him.

[descend

Macbeth. That will never be;
Who can impress the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? Sweet bodements! good.

Rebellious dead, rise never, till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and our high-placed 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.

Macbeth. I will be satisfied: deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know

Hautboys play as the cauldron descends

Why sinks that cauldron? and what noise is this?

1 Witch. Show!

2 Witch. Show!

3 Witch. Show!

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

A show of eight kings, who pass one by one across the back of the cavern as Macbeth speaks, the b last with a glass in his hand; Banquo's Ghost following.

Macbeth. Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo:
down!

Thy crown does sear mine eye-balls. And thy hair,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first.
A third is like the former. Filthy hags!
Why do you show me this? -- A fourth? Start, eyes!
What, will the line stretch out to th' crack of doom?

58

Another yet? A seventh? I'll see no more:
And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass
Which shows me many more; and some I see
That two-fold balls and treble sceptres carry.
Horrible sight! ... Now I see 'tis true,
For the blood-boltered 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 sprites,
And show the best of our delights.
I'll charm the air to give a sound,
While you perform your antic round:
That this great king may kindly say
Our duties did his welcome pay.

Music. The Witches dance, and vanish

Macbeth. Where are they? Gone? Let this per-
nicious hour
Stand aye accurséd in the calendar_
Come in, without there!

Enter Lennox

Lennox. What's your grace's will?
Macbeth. Saw you the Weïrd Sisters?
Lennox. No, my lord.

Macbeth. Came they not by you?

Lennox. No indeed, my lord.

Macbeth. Infected be the air whereon they ride,
And damned all those that trust them! I did hear
The galloping of horse. Who was't came by?

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

Macduff is fled to England.

59

Macbeth. Fled to England!

Lennox. Ay, my good lord.

(Macbeth. Time, thou **anticipat'st** my dread exploits:
The flighty purpose never is o'ertook
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
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
done:

The castle of Macduff I will surprise;
Seize upon Fife; give to **th'edge o'th'** 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! [**aloud**] Where are these gentlemen?
Come, bring me where they are. [**they go**]

[4.2.] Fife. Macduff's castle.

Enter Macduff's Wife, her Son, and Ross

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

Ross. You must have patience, madam.

L. Macduff. He had none:
His flight was madness: when our actions do not,
Our fears do make us traitors.

Ross. You know not
Whether it was his wisdom or his fear.

L. Macduff. 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;

60

He wants the natural touch: for the poor wren,

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.

Ross. My dearest coz,
I pray you, school yourself. But, for your husband,
He is noble, wise, judicious, and best knows
The fits o'th' season. I dare not speak much further,
But cruel are the times, when we are traitors
And do not know ourselves; when we hold rumour
From what we fear, yet know not what we fear,
But float upon a wild and violent sea
† Each way and none. 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. Macduff. Fathered he is, and yet he's fatherless.

Ross. I am so much a fool, should I stay longer
It would be my disgrace and your discomfort.
I take my leave at once. [he hurries forth

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

Son. As birds do, mother.

L. Macduff. What, with worms and flies?

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

L. Macduff. Poor bird! thou'ldst never fear the net
nor lime,
The pitfall nor the gin.

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

My father is not dead, for all your saying.

61

L. Macduff. Yes, he is dead: how wilt thou do for
a father?

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

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

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

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

With wit enough for thee.

Son. Was my father a traitor, mother?

L. Macduff. Ay, that he was.

Son. What is a traitor?

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

Son. And be all traitors that do so?

L. Macduff. Every one that does so is a traitor, and must be hanged.

Son. And must they all be hanged that swear and lie?

L. Macduff. Every one.

Son. Who must hang them?

L. Macduff. Why, the honest men.

Son. Then the liars and swearers are fools; for there are liars and swearers enow to beat the honest men and hang up them.

L. Macduff. 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. Macduff. Poor prattler, how thou talk'st!

Enter a Messenger

Messenger. 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.

62

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;
To do worse to you were fell cruelty,
Which is too nigh your person. Heaven preserve you!
I dare abide no longer. [he goes

L. Macduff. 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?

Enter Murderers

What are these faces?

Murderer. Where is your husband?

L. Macduff. I hope, in no place so unsanctified
Where such as thou mayst find him.

Murderer. He's a traitor.

Son. Thou liest, thou † shag-haired villain.

Murderer. What, you egg! [stabs him
Young fry of treachery!

Son. He has killed me, mother:
Run away, I pray you! [dies]

[Lady Macduff hurries forth, **crying murder**,
pursued by the Murderers]

[4.3.] England. Before the palace of King Edward the
Confessor. Malcolm and Macduff come forth

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

63

Macduff. Let us rather
Hold fast the mortal sword, and like good men
Bestride our down-fall'n birthdom: each new morn
New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows
Strike heaven on the face, that it resounds
As if it felt with Scotland and yelled out
Like syllable of dolour.

Malcolm. 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 loved him well;
He hath not touched you yet. I am young; but some-
thing
You may deserve of him through me; and wisdom
To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb
T'appease an angry god.

Macduff. I am not treacherous.

Malcolm. 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,
Yet grace must still look so.

Macduff. I have lost my hopes.

Malcolm. 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,

64

But mine own safeties: you may be rightly just,
Whatever I shall think.

Macduff. Bleed, bleed, poor country!
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,
For goodness dares not check thee: wear thou thy
wrongs;
The title is affeered! 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,
And the rich East to boot.

Malcolm. 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.

Macduff. What should he be?

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

Macduff. Not in the legions
Of horrid hell can come a devil more damned
In evils to top Macbeth.

Malcolm. I grant him bloody,

65

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'erbear
That did oppose my will. Better Macbeth

Than such an one to reign.

Macduff. Boundless intemperance
In nature is a tyranny; it hath been
Th'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 hoodwink:
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 inclined.

Malcol With this there grows
In my most ill-composed 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.

Macduff. 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 foisons to fill up your will

66

Of your mere own. All these are portable,
With other graces weighed.

Malcolm. But I have none. The king-becoming
graces,
As justice, verity, **temp'rance**, 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.

Macduff. O Scotland! Scotland!

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

Macduff. Fit to govern!
No, not to live. O nation miserable!
With an untitled tyrant **bloody-sceptred**,
When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again,

Since that the truest issue of thy throne
By his own interdiction stands **accurst**,
And does blaspheme his breed? Thy royal father
Was a most sainted king; the queen that bore thee
Oft'ner upon her knees than on her feet,
Died every day she lived. Fare thee well!
These evils thou repeat'st upon thyself
Hath banished me from Scotland. O my breast,
Thy hope ends here!

Malcolm. Macduff, this noble passion,
Child of integrity, hath from my soul
Wiped the black scruples, reconciled my thoughts
To thy good truth and honour. Devilish Macbeth
By many of these trains hath sought to win me

67

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,
Already at a point, was setting forth:
Now we'll together, and the chance of goodness
Be like our warranted quarrel! Why are you silent?

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

A Doctor comes from the palace

Malcolm. Well, more anon. Comes the king forth,
I pray you?

Doctor. 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.

Malcolm. I thank you, doctor. [the Doctor goes
Macduff. What's the disease he means?
Malcolm. 'Tis called the evil:

68

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

Ross approaches

Macduff. See who comes here.
Malcolm. My countryman; but yet I know him not.
Macduff. My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.
Malcolm. I know him now: good God, betimes
remove
The means that makes us strangers!
Ross. Sir, amen.
Macduff. Stands Scotland where it did?
Ross. Alas, poor country!
Almost afraid to know itself! It cannot
Be called our mother, but our grave: where nothing,
But who knows nothing, is once seen to smile;
Where sighs and groans and shrieks that rend the
air,
Are made, not marked; where violent sorrow seems
A modern ecstasy: the dead man's knell
Is there scarce asked for who, and good men's lives
Expire before the flowers in their caps,
Dying or ere they sicken.

69

Macduff. O, relation
Too nice, and yet too true!
Malcolm. What's the newest grief?
Ross. That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker;
Each minute teems a new one.

Macduff. How does my wife?

Ross. Why, well.

Macduff. And all my children?

Ross. Well too.

Macduff. The tyrant has not battered at their peace?

Ross. No, they were well at peace when I did
leave 'em.

Macduff. Be not a niggard of your speech: how
goes't?

Ross. When I came hither to transport the tidings
Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumour
Of many worthy fellows that were out;
Which was to my belief witnessed 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.

Malcolm. Be't 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.

Ross. Would I could answer
This comfort with the like! But I have words
That would be howled out in the desert air,
Where hearing should not latch them.

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

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

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

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

Macduff. **Humh!** I guess at it.

Ross. Your castle is surprised; your wife and babes
Savagely slaughtered: to relate the manner,
Were, on the quarry of these murdered deer,
To add the death of you.

Malcolm. 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.

Macduff. My children too?

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

Macduff. And I must be from thence!
My wife killed too?

Ross. I have said.

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

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

Malcolm. Dispute it like a man.

Macduff. I shall do so;
But I must also feel it as a man:
I cannot but remember such things were,

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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!

Malcolm. Be this the whetstone of your sword:
let grief

Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

Macduff. O, I could play the woman with mine eyes,
And braggart with my tongue! But, gentle heavens,
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!

Malcolm. 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. [they go

[5.1.] Dunsinane. A room in the castle. **Enter a
Doctor of Physic, and a Waiting Gentlewoman**

Doctor. I have two nights watched with you, but can
perceive no truth in your report. When was it she last
walked?

Gentlewoman. 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't, read it, afterwards seal it, and again return to bed; yet all this while in a most fast sleep.

Doctor. A great perturbation in nature, to receive at once the benefit of sleep and do the effects of watching!

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In this **slumbry** agitation, besides her walking and other actual performances, what, at any time, have you heard her say?

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

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

Gentlewoman. 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.

Doctor. How came she by that light?

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

Doctor. You see, her eyes are open.

Gentlewoman. Ay, but their sense **are** shut.

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

Gentlewoman. It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands: I have known her continue in this a quarter of an hour.

Lady M. Yet here's a spot.

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

Lady M. Out, damnéd spot! out, I say! One: two: why, then 'tis time to do't. Hell is murky! Fie, my lord, fie! a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to **accompt**? Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

Doctor. Do you mark that?

Lady M. The Thane of Fife had a wife; where is she now? What, will these hands ne'er be clean? No more

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o'that, my lord, no more o'that: you mar all with this starting.

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

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

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

Doctor. What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.

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

Doctor. Well, well, well, --

Gentlewoman. Pray God it be, sir.

Doctor. This disease is beyond my practice: yet I have known those which have walked in their sleep who have died holily in their beds.

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

Doctor. Even so?

Lady M. 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.

[she goes out

Doctor. Will she go now to bed?

Gentlewoman. Directly.

Doctor. Foul **whisp'rings** 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,

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And still keep eyes upon her. So, good night: My mind she has mated and amazed my sight: I think, but dare not speak.

Gentlewoman. Good night, good doctor.

[they go

[5.2.] The country near Dunsinane. **Drum and Colours. Enter Menteith, Caithness, Angus, Lennox, Soldiers**

Menteith. The English power is near, led on by Malcolm,
His uncle Siward and the good Macduff.

Revenues burn in them: for their dear causes
Would to the bleeding and the grim alarm
Excite the mortified man.

Angus. Near Birnam wood
Shall we well meet them, that way are they coming.

Caithness. Who knows if Donalbain be with his
brother?

Lennox. 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.

Menteith. What does the tyrant?

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

Angus. 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,

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Nothing in love: now does he feel his title
Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe
Upon a dwarfish thief.

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

Caithness. Well, march we on,
To give obedience where 'tis truly owed:
Meet we the **med'cine** of the sickly weal,
And with him pour we, in our country's purge,
Each drop of us.

Lennox. Or so much as it needs
To dew the sovereign flower and drown the weeds.
Make we our march towards Birnam.

[exeunt, marching]

[5.3.] Dunsinane. A court in the castle. **Enter
Macbeth, Doctor, and Attendants**

Macbeth. 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 **consequence** have pronounced 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.

A servant enters

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!
Where got'st thou that goose look?

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Servant. There is ten thousand --
Macbeth. Geese, villain?
Servant. Soldiers, sir.
Macbeth. Go prick thy face and over-red thy fear,
Thou lily-livered boy. What soldiers, patch?
Death of thy soul! those linen cheeks of thine
Are counsellors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face?
Servant. The English force, so please you.
Macbeth. Take thy face hence. [servant goes
Seton! -- [brooding] I am sick at heart,
When I behold -- Seton, I say! -- This push
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.
I have lived long enough: my way of life
Is fall'n into the **sere**, 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.
Seton!

Seton enters

Seton. What's your gracious pleasure?
Macbeth. What news more?
Seton. All is confirmed, my lord, which was
reported.
Macbeth. I'll fight, till from my bones my flesh be
hacked.
Give me my armour.
Seton. 'Tis not needed yet.
Macbeth. I'll put it on.
Send out moe horses, skirr the country round,
Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armour
[Seton goes to fetch it

How does your patient, doctor?

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Doctor. Not so sick, my lord,
As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies,
That keep her from her rest.

Macbeth. Cure her of that:
Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain,
And with some sweet oblivious antidote
† Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?

Doctor. Therein the patient
Must minister to himself.

Seton returns with armour and an armourer, who
presently begins to equip Macbeth

Macbeth. Throw physic to the dogs, I'll none of it.
Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff;
Seton, send out; doctor, the thanes fly from me;
Come, sir, dispatch. -- If thou couldst, 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? Hear'st thou
of them?

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

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

[he goes; Seton follows with armourer

Doctor. Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,
Profit again should hardly draw me here. [he goes

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[5.4.] Country near Birnam. **Drum and Colours.**
Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, Siward's Son,
Menteith, Caithness, Angus, Lennox, Ross, and
Soldiers, marching

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

Menteith. We doubt it nothing.

Siward. What wood is this before us?

Menteith. The wood of Birnam.

Malcolm. 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.

Soldier. It shall be done.

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

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

Macduff. Let our just censures
Attend the true event, and put we on
Industrious soldiership.

Siward. 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

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[5.5.] Dunsinane. The court of the castle as before.

**Enter Macbeth, Seton, and Soldiers with Drum
and Colours**

Macbeth. 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 forced with those that should be ours,
We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,
And beat them backward home.

[a cry within of women

What is that noise?

Seton. It is the cry of women, my good lord. [goes

Macbeth. I have almost forgot the taste of fears:
The time has been, my senses would have cooled
To hear a night-shriek, and my fell of hair
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir
As life were in't: I have supped full with horrors;
Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,

Cannot once start me.

Seton returns

Wherefore was that cry?

Seton. The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macbeth. She should have died hereafter;
There would have been a time for such a word.
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
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,

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And then is heard no more: it is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

Enter a messenger

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

Messenger. Gracious my lord,
I should report that which I say I saw,
But know not how to do't.

Macbeth. Well, say, sir.

Messenger. As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I looked toward Birnam, and anon methought
The wood began to move.

Macbeth. Liar and slave!

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

Macbeth. If thou speak'st false,
Upon the next tree shalt thou hang alive,
Till famine cling thee: if thy speech be sooth,
I care not if thou dost for me as much.
† I pall in resolution, and begin
To doubt th'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,
There is nor flying hence nor tarrying here.
I 'gin to be aweary of the sun,
And wish th'estate o'th' world were now undone.

Ring the alarum-bell! Blow, wind! come, wrack!
At least we'll die with harness on our back.

[they hurry forth

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[5.6.] Dunsinane. Before the castle gate. **Drum and Colours. Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, and their army, with boughs**

Malcolm. Now near enough: your leavy screens throw
down,
And show 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's what else remains to do,
According to our order.

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

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

They go forward, their trumpets sounding.

[5.7.] Macbeth comes from the castle

Macbeth. They have tied 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.

Young Siward comes up

Young Siward. What is thy name?
Macbeth Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.
Young Siward. No; though thou call'st thyself a
hotter name
Than any is in hell.

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Macbeth. My name's Macbeth.
Young Siward. The devil himself could not pro-
nounce a title
More hateful to mine ear.
Macbeth. No, nor more fearful.

Young Siward. Thou liest, abhorréd tyrant, with my
sword
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

[they **fight**, and young Siward is slain

Macbeth. Thou wast born of woman.
But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,
Brandished by man that's of a woman born.

He passes on and presently a sound of more fighting
is heard. Macduff comes up

Macduff. That way the noise is. Tyrant, show thy
face!

If thou **beest** slain and with no stroke of mine,
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.
I cannot strike at wretched kerns, whose arms
Are hired to bear their staves; either thou, Macbeth,
Or else my sword with an unbattered edge
I sheathe again undeeded. There thou shouldst be;
By this great clatter, one of greatest note
Seems bruted. Let me find him, fortune!
And more I beg not. [he follows Macbeth. **Alarums.**

Malcolm and old Siward come up

Siward. This way, my lord; the castle's gently
rendered:
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.

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

Siward. Enter, sir, the castle_
[they pass in at the gate. **Alarum**

[5.8.] Macbeth returns

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

Macduff returns, following him

Macduff. Turn, hell-hound, turn.

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

Macduff. I have no words:
My voice is in my sword, thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out! [they fight. Alarum

Macbeth. Thou lovest labour.
As easy mayst thou the intrenchant air
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.

Macduff. Despair thy charm,
And let the angel whom thou still hast served
Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
Untimely ripped.

Macbeth. Accurséd be that tongue that tells
me so,
For it hath cowed my better part of man!
And be these juggling fiends no more believed,
That palter with us in a double sense,

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That keep the word of promise to our ear,
And break it to our hope. I'll not fight with thee.

Macduff. Then yield thee, coward,
And live to be the show and gaze o'th' time.
We'll have thee, as our rarer monsters are,
Painted upon a pole, and underwrit,
'Here may you see the tyrant'.

Macbeth. 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 opposed, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield: lay on, Macduff,
And damned be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough'.

[they fight to and fro beneath the castle wall,
until at length **Macbeth is slain**

[5.9] Within the castle.

**Retreat and flourish. Enter, with Drum and Colours,
Malcolm, Siward, Ross, Thanes and Soldiers**

Malcolm. I would the friends we miss were safe

arrived.

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

Malcolm. Macduff is missing, and your noble son.

Ross. Your son, my lord, has paid a soldier's debt:
He only lived but till he was a man,
The which no sooner had his prowess confirmed
In the unshrinking station where he fought,
But like a man he died.

Siward. Then he is dead?

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

Siward. Had he his hurts before?

Ross. Ay, on the front.

Siward. 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 knolled.

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

Siward. He's worth no more.
They say he parted well and paid his score:
And so God be with him! Here comes newer comfort.

**Enter Macduff, with Macbeth's head
on a pole**

Macduff. Hail, king! for so thou art. Behold, where
stands
Th'usurper's curséd head: the time is free:
I see thee compassed with thy kingdom's pearl,
That speak my salutation in their minds;
Whose voices I desire aloud with mine:
Hail, King of Scotland!

All. Hail, King of Scotland! **[flourish**

Malcolm. We shall not spend a large expense of time
Before we reckon with your several loves,
And make us even with you. My thanes and kinsmen,
Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland
In such an honour named. What's more to do,
Which would be planted newly with the time,
As calling home our exiled 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 crowned at Scone.

[flourish.] They march away