

Scene 28 (V vi)

A little later, in open country close to the castle.

(V vi 2-4) *Drum and colours. Enter ...* The allied armies come marching onto the stage, with the soldiers still hidden behind their camouflage, as at the end of scene 26.

(V vi 6) *Your leavy screens throw down ...* At the word of command, the branches are thrown down, and Malcolm's army -- ten thousand English and an unknown number of Scots, glinting with armour and bristling with weapons -- becomes suddenly visible. (How to get rid of the branches is a problem for the actors to deal with.)

(V vi 7) *You, worthy uncle, ...* Malcolm coolly announces that he is going to let the English soldiers do all the hard fighting. But probably that is what Seyward was expecting, and what he would prefer.

(V vi 13-14) *Do we but find ...* There is something not quite right about this couplet of Seyward's. He does not need to "find the tyrant's power": the tyrant's power is heading straight for him, at this very moment. And what does he mean by "tonight"?

(V vi 15-16) *Make all our trumpets ...* If Seyward's couplet was bad, Macduff's is unspeakably bad.

(V vi 17) *Alarums continued.* Competing trumpet-calls from either side of the stage. They let the audience know that a battle is in progress. They are to be repeated at suitable moments throughout the next few scenes.

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