

MACBETH

Written by

William Shakespeare

Abridged and written for the screen by

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation

1 EXT - A DESERTED PLACE - DAY

1

We see three WITCHES.

WITCH 1

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

WITCH 2

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

WITCH 3

That will be ere the set of sun.

WITCH 1

Where the place?

WITCH 2

Upon the heath.

WITCH 3

There to meet with Macbeth.

ALL WITCHES

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

Scene 2

2 EXT - A MILITARY CAMP NEAR THE ROYAL PALACE AT FORRES - LATER

We see KING DUNCAN - King of Scotland, MALCOLM - his eldest son, DONALBAIN - his younger son, and LENNOX - a Scottish noble.

Ross, another Scottish noble, enters fresh from fighting. He is greeted immediately by his King.

DUNCAN

God save King Duncan!
Whence cam'st thou, worthythane?

ROSS

From Fife, great king,
Where that most disloyal traitor
Thethane of Cawdor began a dismal
conflict,
Till brave Macbeth - well he
deserves that name -
Confronted him with brandished
steel,

(MORE)

ROSS (CONT'D)

Point against point, rebellious arm
'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to
conclude,
The victory fell on us.

DUNCAN

Great happiness!
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.

3

EXT. A HEATH - LATER

3

We see the three witches and hear the sound of a drum.

WITCH 1

A drum, a drum!
Macbeth doth come.

Approaching the witches we see MACBETH, a warrior and
Duncan's most trusted general, and BANQUO, another warrior
and general.

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not
seen.

Banquo notices the witches.

BANQUO

What are these,
So withered, and so wild in their
attire,
That look not like th'inhabitants
o'the earth,
And yet are on't? Live you? Or are
you aught
That man may question?

MACBETH

Speak, if you can: what are you?

The witches ignore his question.

WITCH 1

All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee,
thane of Glamis!

WITCH 2

All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee,
thane of Cawdor!

WITCH 3

All hail, Macbeth! That shalt be
king hereafter.

BANQUO

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.

WITCH 1

Hail!

WITCH 2

Hail!

WITCH 3

Hail!

WITCH 1

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

WITCH 2

Not so happy yet much happier.

WITCH 3

Thou shalt get kings, though thou
be none:
So all hail Macbeth and Banquo!

Macbeth is shocked.

MACBETH

I know I am thane of Glamis;
But how of Cawdor? The thane of
Cawdor lives;
And to be king
Stands not within the prospect of
belief,
No more than Cawdor.
Speak I charge you

The Witches vanish, leaving the generals to discuss their predictions.

BANQUO
Whither are they vanished?

MACBETH
Your children shall be kings.

BANQUO
You shall be king.

MACBETH
And thane of Cawdor too: went it
not so?

Their recollection is interrupted, as they are joined on the heath by ROSS and ANGUS, two Scottish nobles sent by the King.

ROSS
The king hath happily received,
Macbeth,
The news of thy success .
He bade me, from him, call thee
thane of Cawdor.

Banquo is taken aback that one of the witches predictions has come true so quickly.

He speaks to everyone and no-one, perhaps directly to the audience. The other characters can not hear him. From hereon to be referred to as (ASIDE).

BANQUO
What, can the devil speak true?

Macbeth responds directly to Ross, he doesn't believe it possible.

MACBETH
The thane of Cawdor lives: why do
you dress me
In borrowed robes?

ANGUS
Treasons capital, confessed, and
proved;
Have overthrown him.

MACBETH
(ASIDE)
Glamis, and thane of Cawdor:
The greatest is behind.

Banquo talks to Macbeth, trying to make sense of events.

BANQUO
 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.

Scene 4

4

INT. THE PALACE AT FORRES - LATER

4

IN a communal room the King is celebrating his battle victory with his two sons and Lennox. Attendants wait to serve.

They are quickly joined by Macbeth, Banquo, Ross and Angus.

DUNCAN
 O worthiest cousin! Noble Banquo!
 We will establish our estate upon
 Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name
 hereafter
 The prince of Cumberland.

The King turns his attention to Macbeth.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 My worthy Cawdor!
 From hence to Inverness.

MACBETH
 I'll make joyful the hearing of my
 wife with your approach; so humbly
 take my leave.

Macbeth turns to leave, and shares his thoughts with us as he does.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
 (ASIDE)
 The Prince of Cumberland! That is
 a step
 On which I must fall down, or else
 o'er-leap,
 For in my way it lies. Stars, hide
 your fires!
 Let not light see my black and deep
 desires.

5

INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - LATER

5

LADY MACBETH, Macbeth's wife, is alone and reading aloud from a letter.

LADY MACBETH

'This have I thought good to
deliver thee, my dearest partner of
greatness. Lay it to thy heart,
and farewell.'

She finishes her reading and thinks aloud to herself.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)

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.

A MESSENGER enters.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)

What is your tidings?

MESSENGER

The king comes here to-night.

The messenger leaves, Lady Macbeth continues to voice the thoughts she is fully immersed in.

LADY MACBETH

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! Come to my
woman's breasts,
And take my milk for gall, you
murdering ministers.
Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunkest smoke
of hell,

(MORE)

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)
 That my keen knife see not the
 wound it makes,
 Nor heaven peep through the blanket
 of the dark,
 To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Macbeth enters to a rapturous greeting from his wife.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)
 Great Glamis! Worthy Cawdor!
 Greater than both, by the all-hail
 hereafter!

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

LADY MACBETH
 And when goes hence?

MACBETH
 To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH
 O, never
 Shall sun that morrow see!
 Look like the innocent flower,
 But be the serpent under't.

6 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - THE NEXT DAY

6

King Duncan has just arrived with his sons, Banquo, Lennox, Ross, Angus and their Attendants. They are joined by MACDUFF - a legendarily heroic nobleman, totally devoted to his King. Duncan addresses his company.

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

Lady Macbeth comes to greet Duncan, who is eager to be taken to Macbeth.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)
 Conduct me to mine host; we love
 him highly,
 And shall continue our graces
 towards him.

7

INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - LATER

7

Macbeth is alone. He thinks aloud, wrestling with what he should do next.

MACBETH

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

Lady Macbeth enters, she has been looking for her husband.

MACBETH (CONT'D)

How now! What news?

LADY MACBETH

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

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this
business.

She does not like his answer.

LADY MACBETH

Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and
valour
As thou art in desire?

MACBETH

I dare do all that may become a
man;
Who dares do more is none.

She remains unimpressed.

LADY MACBETH

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.
I have given suck, and know
(MORE)

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)

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 is being won over.

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail.
But screw your courage to the
sticking place,
And we'll not fail.
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?

And now is fully onboard.

MACBETH

Bring forth men-children only!
For thy undaunted mettle should
compose
Nothing but males.
Away, and mock the time with
fairest show:
False face must hide what the false
heart doth know

8

INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - NIGHT

8

Macbeth is alone, contemplating a dagger, he talks to himself, preparing himself for the treasonous act that is to come.

MACBETH

Is this a dagger which I see before
me,
The handle toward my hand? Or art
thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false
creation,

(MORE)

MACBETH (CONT'D)

Proceeding from the heat-oppressed
brain?
Thou marshall'st me the way that I
was going,
And such an instrument I was to
use!
I see thee still;
It is the bloody business which
informs
Thus to mine eyes.
A bell rings.
I go, and it is done: the bell
invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a
knell
That summons thee to heaven, or to
hell.

He leaves with intent.

9 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - A SHORT TIME LATER 9

Lady Macbeth is alone, listening to the world around her
intently.

LADY MACBETH [PAUSES TO LISTEN]

Hark! Peace!
It was the owl that shrieked. He is
about it :

MACBETH

(O.C. - Off camera)
Who's there? What, ho!

LADY MACBETH

(to herself)
Alack! I am afraid they have
awaked,
And 'tis not done.

Macbeth enters, his hands red with blood, he has killed the
King and is still carrying the weapons he used to do so.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)

My husband!

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

I heard the owl scream.

MACBETH
 Methought I heard a voice cry
 'Sleep no more!...'

LADY MACBETH
 What do you mean?

MACBETH
 '...Glamis hath murdered sleep, and
 therefore Cawdor
 Shall sleep no more: Macbeth shall
 sleep no more!'

Lady Macbeth notices Macbeth is still carrying the weapons,
 this is an urgent problem.

LADY MACBETH
 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.

Macbeth's fear angers his wife.

LADY MACBETH
 Infirm of purpose!
 Give me the daggers. If he do
 bleed,
 I'll gild the faces of the grooms
 withal,
 For it must seem their guilt.

Lady Macbeth leaves to finish her husbands task.

We hear a knocking, Macbeth looks around but cannot see where
 it is coming from. It fills him with fear.

MACBETH
 Whence is that knocking?
 How is't with me, when every noise
 appals me?
 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, her hands now bloody.

LADY MACBETH
My hands are of your colour ; but I
shame
To wear a heart so white.

We once again hear knocking, Macbeth can hear it, but it seems his wife cannot.

Lady Macbeth decides she must wash her hands.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)
A little water clears us of this
deed.

We and Macbeth once again hear knocking. It is driving him to despair.

MACBETH
Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I
would thou couldst!

10 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - MOMENTS LATER 10

We see an empty room with multiple doors leading from it, and hear knocking again, a PORTER enters and speaks directly to camera.

PORTER
Here's a knocking indeed!
If a man were porter of hell-gate
he should have old turning the key.

More knocking.

PORTER (CONT'D)
Knock, knock, knock! Who's there
'th' name of Beelzebub ?

More knocking.

PORTER (CONT'D)
Knock, knock! Never at quiet! What
are you?
But this place is too cold for
hell. I'll devil-porter it no
further.

More knocking.

PORTER (CONT'D)
Anon, anon!
I pray you, remember the porter.

The PORTER opens a door to Macduff and Lennox.

MACDUFF
Is thy master stirring?

Macbeth enters, and the Porter leaves.

MACDUFF (CONT'D)
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 leads Macduff and Lennox to the Kings door.

MACBETH
This is the door.

Macduff enters the King's chamber.

Lennox and Macbeth continue to talk outside in the hallway.

LENNOX
The night has been unruly. Some say
the Earth
Was feverous and did shake.

MACBETH
'Twas a rough night.

Macduff rushes out of the King's chamber, horrified.

MACDUFF
O horror! horror! horror!

MACBETH
What's the matter?

LENNOX
What's the matter?

MACBETH (CONT'D)
What is't you say?

LENNOX
Mean you his majesty?

MACDUFF
Approach the chamber.

Macbeth and Lennox enter the chamber, Macduff frantically tries to alert the castle.

MACDUFF (CONT'D)
Awake! Awake!
Ring the alarum bell! Murder and
treason!
Banquo and Donalbain! Malcolm!
awake!

The alarm bell rings.

As a shocked Lennox returns from the King's chamber, Lady Macbeth rushes in, responding to Macduff's cries.

LADY MACBETH
What's the business? Speak, speak!

MACDUFF
O, gentle lady,
Tis not for you to hear what I can
speak.

Enter Bnaquo.

MACDUFF (CONT'D)
O Banquo! Banquo!
Our royal master's murdered!

LADY MACBETH
Woe, alas!
What, in our house?

As Macbeth returns from the King's chamber, Duncan's sons Donalbain and Malcolm enter the room.

DONALBAIN
What is amiss?

MACDUFF
Your royal father's murdered.

MALCOLM

By whom?

LENNOX

Those of his chamber, as it seemed,
had done't.

MACBETH

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

MACDUFF

Wherefore did you so?

MACBETH

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

Lady Macbeth appears unsteady on her feet, as if about to faint.

LADY MACBETH

Help me hence, ho!

MACDUFF

Look to the lady.

Everybody leaves aside Malcolm and Donalbain, they recognise that they could be the next victims of this plot.

MALCOLM

I'll to England.

DONALBAIN

To Ireland, I. Where we are
There's daggers in men's smiles:
the near in blood
The nearer bloody.

11 INT. THE ROYAL PALACE AT FORRES - SEVERAL DAYS LATER 11

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth enter, they are clearly now King and Queen of Scotland. Also present are Lennox and Ross and their attendants.

It is a scene of many Lords, Ladies and attendance.

Banquo enters and watches the royal party from a distance, he talks as if addressing Macbeth directly but he cannot hear him.

BANQUO

(ASIDE)

Thou has 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. But hush no more.

Macbeth sees Banquo and calls to him.

MACBETH

Here's our chief guest.
To-night we hold a solemn supper,
sir,
And I'll request your presence.

BANQUO

Let you highness command upon me.

MACBETH

Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO

Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH

Is't far you ride?

BANQUO

As far, my lord, as will fill up
the time
'Twixt this and supper.

MACBETH

Fail not our feast.

BANQUO

My lord, I will not.

MACBETH

Goes Fleance with you?

BANQUO

Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH
I wish your horses swift and sure
of foot. Farewell.

Banquo leaves. Macbeth addresses his Lords.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night; God be with
you!

The room empties, leaving just Macbeth and his SERVANT.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
Sirrah, a word with you: attend
those men
Our pleasure? Bring them before us.

The Servant leaves, Macbeth ponders his next move aloud.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
(ASIDE)
To be thus is nothing, But to be
safely thus...
Our fears in Banquo stick deep.
The Sisters hailed him father to a
line of kings.
If't be so,
For Banquo's issue have I filed my
mind,
For them the gracious Duncan have I
murdered,
To make them kings, the seed of
Banquo kings!
Who's there?

Two MURDERERS enter, Macbeth hands them some money.

MURDERER ONE
We shall, my lord,
Perform what you command us.

The pair take the money and leave.

Macbeth concludes his thoughts.

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

12 INT. THE PALACE AT FORRES - LATER

12

Lady Macbeth talks to a servant.

LADY MACBETH
Is Banquo gone from court?

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

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

SERVANT
Madam, I will.

The Servant leaves to deliver this message to the King. Now alone, Lady Macbeth grimly contemplates all that has happened, it has not delivered the satisfaction she anticipated.

LADY MACBETH
(ASIDE)
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 and immediately tells his wife of his plan.

MACBETH
We have scotched the snake, not
killed it.
Come on;
Gentle my lord, sleek o'er your
rugged looks.
Be bright and jovial among your
guests tonight.
So shall I, love, and so I pray be
you.
Let your remembrance apply to
Banquo.
Ere the bat hath flown his
cloistered flight,
There shall be done a deed of
dreadful note.

LADY MACBETH
What's to be done?

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!

13 EXT. A PLACE SOME DISTANCE FROM THE PALACE - LATER 13

Three murderers enter the scene, followed soon after by
Banquo and FLEANCE, his son.

BANQUO
It will be rain tonight.

MURDERER
Let it come down.

The Murderers set upon Banquo, who's only thought is for the
safety of his son.

BANQUO
O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance,
fly, fly, fly!

All the Murderers remain occupied by Banquo, allowing Fleance
to reluctantly flee.

Banquo dies.

14 INT. THE PALACE AT FORRES - EVENING 14

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are hosting a banquet, Ross and
Lennox are present alongside other Lords and Ladies and their
attendants.

Macbeth addresses all.

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

LORDS

Thanks to your majesty.

The Lords sit to begin the feast.

One of the Murderers appears by the door, he is bloodied.
Macbeth approaches him and they speak secretly.

MACBETH

There's blood upon thy face.

MURDERER

'Tis Banquo's then.

MACBETH

Is he dispatched ?

MURDERER

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

This good news lifts Macbeth.

MACBETH

Thou art the best o'th' cut-
throats. Yet he's good
That did the like for Fleance.

MURDERER

Most royal sir, Fleance is 'scaped.

The lift didn't last long.

MACBETH

Then comes my fit again: I had
else been perfect.
But Banquo's safe?

MURDERER

Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch
he bides,
With twenty trenched gashes on his
head.

MACBETH

Get thee gone; to-morrow we'll hear
ourselves again .

After the Murderer leaves, Lady Macbeth calls to her husband.

LADY MACBETH

My royal lord, you do not give the
cheer.

As Macbeth starts back to his seat, the ghost of Banquo enters the banquet and sits in the new King's place.

LENNOX
(to Macbeth)
May't please your highness sit?

Macbeth can see the ghost, and takes it to be the real Banquo. He points to the ghost and accuses the room.

MACBETH
Which of you have done this?

LORDS
What, my good lord?

Macbeth turns his attention to the ghost and becomes defensive when talking to it.

MACBETH
Thou canst not say I did it: never
shake thy gory locks at me

Ross rises from his seat.

ROSS
Gentlemen, rise, his highness is
not well.

LADY MACBETH
Pray you, keep seat,
The fit is momentary; upon a
thought
He will again be well:

She subtly addresses Macbeth.

LADY MACBETH (CONT'D)
Are you a man?

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

LADY MACBETH
Why do you make such faces? When
all's done,
You look but on a stool.

Indeed he does, even to him Banquo's ghost is now gone, much to Macbeth's frustration.

MACBETH
If I stand here, I saw him.

LADY MACBETH
Fie, for shame!

Macbeth attempts to summon his courage.

MACBETH
Give me some wine, fill full.

As Macbeth addresses the Lords and Ladies, Banquo's ghost returns unseen.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
I drink to th'general joy
o'th'whole table,
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom
we miss;
Would he were here!

Macbeth catches sight of the ghost.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
Avaunt! And quit my sight!

Banquo's ghost leaves.

LADY MACBETH
Stand not upon the order of your
going,
But go at once.

The guests get up to leave.

LENNOX
Good night, and better health
Attend his majesty!

LADY MACBETH
A kind good night to all!

The room clears, leaving just Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

MACBETH
It will have blood; they say, blood
will have blood.
I will to-morrow, to the Weird
Sisters:
More shall they speak; for now I
am bent to know,
By the worst means, the worst. I am
in blood

(MORE)

MACBETH (CONT'D)

Stepped in so far that, should I
wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as go
o'er.

15 INT. THE PALACE AT FORRES - THE NEXT DAY

15

Lennox and another LORD are subtly discussing the latest news.

LORD

The son of Duncan lives in the
English court.
Thither Macduff is gone to pray the
holy king,
That by the help of him,
We may again sleep to our nights.
Exeunt.

16 INT. CAVERN - DAY

16

The three witches are gathered around a cauldron.

WITCH 1

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

ALL

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

WITCH 2

By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.

Enter MACBETH, he wastes no time.

MACBETH

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

WITCH 3

Speak.

WITCH 1

Demand.

WITCH 2

We'll answer.

WITCH 3

Say if thou'dst rather hear it from
our mouths,
Or from our masters.

MACBETH

Call 'em, let me see 'em!

We hear thunder.

The 1ST APPARITION appears before Macbeth, taking the form of
an armed head.

APPARITION

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

The apparition disappears.

We hear more thunder.

The 2ND APPARITION appears before Macbeth, taking the form of
a bloody child .

APPARITION 2

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

The apparition disappears, but Macbeth is relieved at the
news.

MACBETH

Then live, Macduff: what need I
fear of thee?

We hear more thunder.

The 3RD APPARITION appears before Macbeth, taking the form of
a child wearing a crown, with a tree in his hand.

APPARITION 3

Macbeth shall never vanquished be
until
Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane
hill
Shall come against him.

The apparition disappears.

It's news has left Macbeth filled with confidence - with just a single note of caution.

MACBETH
That will never be; sweet
bodements! Good.
Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing: shall
Banquo's issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?

ALL
Seek to know no more.

MACBETH
Deny me this,
And an eternal curse fall on you!

The Witches vanish.

Macbeth calls out for them.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
Where are they? Gone?

Enter LENNOX.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
Did you see the weird sisters?

LENNOX [CONFUSED]
No, my lord.
My Lord, Macduff is fled to
England.

MACBETH
Fled to England!

LENNOX
Ay, my good lord.

Buoyed by the news, Macbeth begins to think through the next part of his plan aloud.

MACBETH
(ASIDE)
Time, thou anticipat'st my dread
exploits.
The castle of Macduff I will
surprise,
Seize upon Fife, give to the edge
o'th'sword
(MORE)

MACBETH (CONT'D)
 His wife, his babes, and all
 unfortunate souls
 That trace him in his line.

17 EXT. THE LAND IN FRONT OF A PALACE - DAY

17

Malcolm and Macduff are in conversation, Ross enters and joins them, he clearly carries bad news.

MACDUFF
 My ever-gentle cousin, welcome
 hither.

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.

MALCOLM
 Be't their comfort
 We are coming thither: gracious
 England hath
 Lent us good Siward and ten
 thousand men.

ROSS
 Would I could answer
 This comfort with the like! But I
 have words
 That would be howled out in the
 desert air.

MACDUFF
 What concern they?

ROSS
 Your castle is surprised; your wife
 and babes
 Savagely slaughtered.

Malcolm and Macduff are stunned.

MALCOLM
 Merciful heaven!

MACDUFF
My children too?

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

MACDUFF
My wife killed too?

ROSS
I have said.

MACDUFF
All my pretty ones?
Did you say all? O, hell-kite !
All?
What, all my pretty chickens and
their dam
At one fell swoop?
Sinful Macduff, they were all
struck for thee!

MALCOLM
Be this the whetstone of your
sword: let grief
Convert to anger.

MACDUFF
Gentle heavens, front to front
Bring thou this fiend of Scotland
and myself ;
Within my sword's length set him.

MALCOLM
Macbeth is ripe for shaking.

18 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - EVENING

18

Lady Macbeth is alone in a candlelit room. She smells her hand as she starts to think aloud. Her mind clearly racing.

LADY MACBETH
Out, damned spot! Here's the smell
of the blood still: all the
perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten
this little hand. Oh! oh! Oh. Wash
your hands, look not so pale: I
tell you yet again, Banquo's
buried; he cannot come out on's
grave. Give me your hand: what's
done cannot be undone. To bed, to
bed, to bed.

19 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE NEAR MACBETH'S CASTLE AT DUNSINANE - DAY 19

Angus, Lennox and some soldiers are planning with MENTIETH, a Scottish noble

MENTIETH

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

ANGUS

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

20 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - LATER

20

Macbeth is issuing orders to his Attendants, and to SETON, his man servant.

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.

He addresses Seton directly

MACBETH (CONT'D)

Come, put mine armour on; give me
my staff;
I will not be afraid of death and
bane
Till Birnam forest come to
Dunsinane.

21 EXT. NEAR BIRNHAM WOOD - DAY

21

Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, Mentieth, Angus, Lennox, Ross and some Soldiers are surveying the scene ahead of them.

SIWARD

What wood is this before us?

MENTIETH

The wood of Birnam.

MALCOLM
 Let every soldier hew him down a
 bough,
 And bear't before him.

They march out of the scene.

22

INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - DAY

22

Macbeth, Seton and some soldiers survey the scene ahead of
 them, Macbeth is ready for battle.

MACBETH
 Hang out our banners on the outward
 walls!

We hear a cry of women, it draws Macbeth's attention.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
 What is that noise?

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

Seton leaves. Macbeth reminisces to himself.

MACBETH
 The time has been, my senses would
 have cooled
 To hear a night-shriek.

Seton comes back in.

MACBETH (CONT'D)
 Wherefore was that cry?

SETON
 The queen, my lord, is dead.

Macbeth takes a moment before mourning his wife.

MACBETH
 (ASIDE)
 Out, out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow, a poor
 player
 That struts and frets his hour upon
 the stage,
 And then is heard no more: it is a
 tale

(MORE)

MACBETH (CONT'D)

Told by an idiot, full of sound and
fury,
Signifying nothing.

There is a pause as Macbeth contemplates this new situation,
when a shocked MESSENGER enters and relays his news to
Macbeth without delay.

MESSENGER

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

This news compounds the last, Macbeth is shaken.

MACBETH

I 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 towards Dunsinane. Blow,
wind! come, wrack !
At least we'll die with harness on
our back .

Macbeth is ready for battle, and ready to die.

23

INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - LATER

23

We see Macbeth, hot from fighting. He is followed by an angry
Macduff.

MACDUFF

Turn hell-hound, turn!

MACBETH

Of all men else I have avoided
thee:
My soul is too charged with blood
of thine already.

MACDUFF

Thou bloodier villain
Than terms can give thee out!

They fight and MACBETH appears to be winning.

MACBETH
 I bear a charmed life, which must
 not yield
 To one of woman born.

MACDUFF
 Despair thy charm,
 Macduff was from his mother's womb
 Untimely ripped.

MACBETH
 Lay on , Macduff,
 And damned be him that first cries
 'Hold, enough'.

They continue fighting.

24 INT. MACBETH'S CASTLE, DUNSINANE - CONTINUOUS 24

Malcolm and Siward, who have been in the fight, are
 discussing the days action.

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 -

Macduff enters the scene, he has clearly been in a major
 fight. He is carrying Macbeth's head. He turns to Malcolm.

MACDUFF
 Hail, king! For so thou art.
 Behold where stands
 Th'usurper's cursed head. The time
 is free.
 Hail, king of Scotland!

ALL
 Hail, king of Scotland!

FADE TO BLACK.