

MACBETH

Act 1 Scene 7

(Enter Macbeth)

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, 5
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 10
Commends th'ingredients of our poisoned chalice
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,
Strong both against the deed: then, as his host,
Who should against his murderer shut the door, 15
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: 20
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 25
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 MACBETH

He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?
Hath he asked for me? 30

MACBETH

Know you not he has?

LADY 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, 35
Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH

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 40
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
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, 45
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.	50
LADY MACBETH	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	55
	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,	60
MACBETH	Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums, And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you Have done to this.	
LADY MACBETH	If we should fail? We fail?	65
	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,	70
	That memory, the warder of the brain, Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep Their drenchèd natures lies as in a death, What cannot you and I perform upon	75
MACBETH	Th'unguarded Duncan? What not put upon His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt Of our great quell? Bring forth men-children only, For thy undaunted mettle should compose	80
	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 MACBETH	Who dares receive it other, As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar Upon his death?	85
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.	90
	<i>(Exeunt)</i>	

	And wash this filthy witness from your hand.	55
	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:	60
	Look on't again I dare not.	
LADY MACBETH	Infirm of purpose!	
	Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead	<i>(Takes the daggers)</i>
	Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood	
	That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,	65
	I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,	
	For it must seem their guilt.	<i>(Exit)</i> <i>(Knock within)</i>
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.	70
	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.	
		<i>(Enter Lady Macbeth)</i>
LADY MACBETH	My hands are of your colour, but I shame	75
	To wear a heart so white. — <i>(Knock)</i> - I hear a knocking	
	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.— <i>(Knock)</i> - Hark! More knocking.	80
	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.	<i>(Knock)</i>
	Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!	85
		<i>(Knock)</i>

Act 5 Scene 1

(Enter a Doctor and Lady-in-Waiting)

DOCTOR	I have two nights watched with you, but can perceive no truth in your report.	
	Besides her walking what — at any time — have you heard her say?	
LADY-IN-WAITING	That, sir, which I will not report after her.	
DOCTOR	You may to me, and 'tis most meet you should.	5
LADY-IN-WAITING	Neither to you nor anyone, having no witness to confirm my speech.	
	<i>(Enter Lady Macbeth, with a taper)</i>	
	<i>(They stand aside)</i>	
DOCTOR	How came she by that light?	
LADY-IN-WAITING	Why, it stood by her. She has light by her continually: 'tis her command.	
DOCTOR	You see her eyes are open.	
LADY-IN-WAITING	Ay, but their sense are shut.	10
DOCTOR	Look how she rubs her hands.	
LADY MACBETH	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 MACBETH	Out, damned spot! Out, I say!— One: two: why then, 'tis time to do't.— Hell is murky.— Fie, my lord, fie, a soldier, and afeard? What need we fear who knows it, when none can call our power to account?— Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?	15
DOCTOR	Do you mark that?	
LADY MACBETH	The Thane of Fife had a wife: where is she now?— What, will these hands ne'er be clean?— No more o'that, my lord, no more o'that: you mar all with this starting.	20
DOCTOR	Go to, go to: you have known what you should not.	
LADY-IN-WAITING	She has spoke what she should not, I am sure of that: heaven knows what she has known.	25
LADY MACBETH	Here's the smell of the blood still. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand. O, O, O!	
DOCTOR	What a sigh is there! The heart is sorely charged.	
LADY-IN-WAITING	I would not have such a heart in my bosom for the dignity of the whole body.	
DOCTOR	Well, well, well.	30
LADY-IN-WAITING	Pray God it be, sir.	
DOCTOR	This disease is beyond my practice	
LADY MACBETH	Wash your hands, put on your nightgown, look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo's buried; he cannot come out on's grave.	
DOCTOR	Even so?	35
LADY MACBETH	To bed, to bed. There's knocking at the gate. What's done cannot be undone. To bed, to bed, to bed. <i>(Exit Lady Macbeth)</i>	
DOCTOR	Will she go now to bed?	
LADY-IN-WAITING	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!	40
	Look after her:	45
	Remove from her the means of all annoyance, And still keep eyes upon her. So, goodnight. My mind she has mated, and amazed my sight. I think, but dare not speak.	
LADY-IN-WAITING	Goodnight, good doctor. <i>(Exeunt)</i>	50