Macbeth

by William Shakespeare

DUNCAN, King of Scotland.

MALCOLM, his Son.

DONALBAIN, his Son.

MACBETH, General in the King's Army.

BANQUO, General in the King's Army.

MACDUFF, Nobleman of Scotland.

LENNOX, Nobleman of Scotland.

ROSS, Nobleman of Scotland.

MENTEITH, Nobleman of Scotland.

ANGUS, Nobleman of Scotland.

CAITHNESS, Nobleman of Scotland.

FLEANCE, Son to Banquo.

SIWARD, Earl of Northumberland, General of the English Forces.

YOUNG SIWARD, his Son.

SEYTON, an Officer attending on Macbeth.

BOY, Son to Macduff.

An English Doctor. A Scotch Doctor. A Soldier. A Porter. An Old Man.

LADY MACBETH.

LADY MACDUFF.

Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth.

HECATE, and three Witches.

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

ACT 1

**Act 1 Scene 1**

*Thunder and Lightning. Enter three Witches.*

FIRST WITCH

When shall we three meet again?

In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

SECOND WITCH

When the hurly-burly’s done,

When the battle’s lost and won.

THIRD WITCH

That will be ere the set of sun. 5

FIRST WITCH

Where the place?

SECOND WITCH Upon the heath.

THIRD WITCH

There to meet with Macbeth.

FIRST WITCH I come, Graymalkin.

editorial emendationSECONDWITCHeditorial emendation Paddock calls. 10

editorial emendationTHIRD WITCHeditorial emendation Anon.

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair;

Hover through the fog and filthy air.

*They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 2**

*Alarum within. Enter King* editorial emendation*Duncan,*editorial emendation *Malcolm,*

*Donalbain, 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 5

’Gainst my captivity.—Hail, brave friend!

Say to the King the knowledge of the broil

As thou didst leave it.

CAPTAIN Doubtful it stood,

As two spent swimmers that do cling together 10

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 editorial editorial emendationgallowglasseseditorial emendation is supplied; 15

And Fortune, on his damnèd editorial emendationquarreleditorial emendation 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, 20

Like Valor’s minion, carved 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. 25

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman!

CAPTAIN

As whence the sun ’gins his reflection

Shipwracking storms and direful thunders editorial emendationbreak,editorial emendation

So from that spring whence comfort seemed to

come 30

Discomfort swells. Mark, King of Scotland, mark:

No sooner justice had, with valor armed,

Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels,

But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,

With furbished arms and new supplies of men, 35

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 40

As cannons overcharged with double cracks,

So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.

Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds

Or memorize another Golgotha,

I cannot tell— 45

But I am faint. My gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN

So well thy words become thee as thy wounds:

They smack of honor both.—Go, get him surgeons.

editorial emendation*The Captain is led off by Attendants.*editorial emendation

*Enter Ross and Angus.*

Who comes here?

MALCOLM The worthy Thane of Ross. 50

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? 55

ROSS From Fife, great king,

Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky

And fan our people cold.

Norway himself, with terrible numbers,

Assisted by that most disloyal traitor, 60

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, 65

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 70

Till he disbursèd 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, 75

And with his former title greet Macbeth.

ROSS I’ll see it done.

DUNCAN

What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.

*They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 3**

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches.*

FIRST WITCH Where hast thou been, sister?

SECOND WITCH Killing swine.

THIRD WITCH Sister, where thou?

FIRST WITCH

A sailor’s wife had chestnuts in her lap

And munched and munched and munched. “Give 5

me,” quoth I.

“Aroint thee, witch,” the rump-fed runnion 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, 10

I’ll do, I’ll do, and I’ll do.

SECOND WITCH

I’ll give thee a wind.

FIRST WITCH

Th’ art kind.

THIRD WITCH

And I another.

FIRST WITCH

I myself have all the other, 15

And the very ports they blow;

All the quarters that they know

I’ th’ shipman’s card.

I’ll drain him dry as hay.

Sleep shall neither night nor day 20

Hang upon his penthouse lid.

He shall live a man forbid.

Weary sev’n nights, nine times nine,

Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine.

Though his bark cannot be lost, 25

Yet it shall be tempest-tossed.

Look what I have.

SECOND WITCH Show me, show me.

FIRST WITCH

Here I have a pilot’s thumb,

Wracked as homeward he did come. *Drum within.* 30

THIRD WITCH

A drum, a drum!

Macbeth doth come.

ALL, *editorial emendationdancing in a circleeditorial emendation*

The Weïrd Sisters, hand in hand,

Posters of the sea and land,

Thus do go about, about, 35

Thrice to thine and thrice to mine

And thrice again, to make up nine.

Peace, the charm’s wound up.

*Enter Macbeth and Banquo*.

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO

How far is ’t called to editorial emendationForres?editorial emendation—What are these, 40

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 45

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? 50

FIRST WITCH

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

SECOND WITCH

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

THIRD 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, 55

Are you fantastical, or that indeed

Which outwardly you 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. 60

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 favors nor your hate.

FIRST WITCH Hail! 65

SECOND WITCH Hail!

THIRD WITCH Hail!

FIRST WITCH

Lesser than Macbeth and greater.

SECOND WITCH

Not so happy, yet much happier.

THIRD WITCH

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none. 70

So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

FIRST WITCH

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

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 75

A prosperous gentleman, and to be king

Stands not within the prospect of belief,

No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence

You owe this strange intelligence or why

Upon this blasted heath you stop our way 80

With such prophetic greeting. Speak, I charge you.

*Witches vanish*.

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! 85

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. 90

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, 95

His wonders and his praises do contend

Which should be thine or his. Silenced with that,

In viewing o’er the rest o’ th’ selfsame day

He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,

Nothing afeard of what thyself didst make, 100

Strange images of death. As thick as tale

editorial emendationCameeditorial emendation post with post, and every one did bear

Thy praises in his kingdom’s great defense,

And poured them down before him.

ANGUS We are sent 105

To give thee from our royal master thanks,

Only to herald thee into his sight,

Not pay thee.

ROSS

And for an earnest of a greater honor,

He bade me, from him, call thee Thane of Cawdor, 110

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? 115

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 120

With hidden help and vantage, or that with both

He labored in his country’s wrack, I know not;

But treasons capital, confessed and proved,

Have overthrown him.

MACBETH, editorial emendation*aside*editorial emendation Glamis and Thane of Cawdor! 125

The greatest is behind. editorial emendation*To Ross and Angus.*editorial emendation Thanks

for your pains.

editorial emendation*Aside to Banquo.*editorial emendation Do you not hope your children

shall be kings,

When those that gave the Thane of Cawdor to me 130

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, 135

The instruments of darkness tell us truths,

Win us with honest trifles, to betray ’s

In deepest consequence.—

Cousins, a word, I pray you editorial emendation*They step aside.*editorial emendation

MACBETH, editorial emendation*aside*editorial emendation Two truths are told 140

As happy prologues to the swelling act

Of the imperial theme.—I thank you, gentlemen.

editorial emendation*Aside.*editorial emendation This supernatural soliciting

Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,

Why hath it given me earnest of success 145

Commencing in a truth? I am Thane 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 150

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. 155

BANQUO Look how our partner’s rapt.

MACBETH, editorial emendation*aside*editorial emendation

If chance will have me king, why, chance may

crown me

Without my stir.

BANQUO New honors come upon him, 160

Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mold

But with the aid of use.

MACBETH, editorial emendation*aside*editorial emendation Come what come may,

Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

BANQUO

Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure. 165

MACBETH

Give me your favor. 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.

editorial emendation*Aside to Banquo.*editorial emendation Think upon what hath chanced, 170

and at more time,

The interim having weighed it, let us speak

Our free hearts each to other.

BANQUO Very gladly.

MACBETH Till then, enough.—Come, friends. 175

*They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 4**

*Flourish. Enter King* editorial emendation*Duncan*editorial emendation *Lennox, Malcolm,*

*Donalbain, and Attendants.*

DUNCAN

Is execution done on Cawdor? editorial emendationAreeditorial emendation 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 5

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 10

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 15

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 20

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.

MACBETH

The service and the loyalty I owe 25

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 everything

Safe toward your love and honor. 30

DUNCAN Welcome hither.

I have begun to plant thee and will labor

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 enfold thee 35

And hold thee to my heart.

BANQUO There, if I grow,

The harvest is your own.

DUNCAN My plenteous joys, 40

Wanton in fullness, 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 honor must 45

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 labor which is not used for you. 50

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, editorial emendation*aside*editorial emendation

The Prince of Cumberland! That is a step 55

On which I must fall down or else o’erleap,

For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;

Let not light see my black and deep desires.

The eye wink at the hand, yet let that be

Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see. 60

*He exits.*

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. 65

*Flourish. They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 5**

*Enter Macbeth’s Wife, alone, with a letter.*

LADY MACBETH, editorial emendation*reading the letter*editorial emendation *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.* 5

*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* 10

*thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou*

*might’st 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 15

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 20

highly,

That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false

And yet wouldst wrongly win. Thou ’dst have, great

Glamis,

That which cries “Thus thou must do,” if thou have 25

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 valor of my tongue 30

All that impedes thee from the golden round,

Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem

To have thee crowned withal.

*Enter Messenger.*

What is your tidings?

MESSENGER

The King comes here tonight. 35

LADY MACBETH Thou ’rt mad to say it.

Is not thy master with him, who, were ’t so,

Would have informed for preparation?

MESSENGER

So please you, it is true. Our thane is coming.

One of my fellows had the speed of him, 40

Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more

Than would make up his message.

LADY MACBETH Give him tending.

He brings great news. *Messenger exits.*

The raven himself is hoarse 45

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. 50

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

And take my milk for gall, you murd’ring ministers, 55

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 60

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 65

The future in the instant.

MACBETH My dearest love,

Duncan comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH And when goes hence?

MACBETH

Tomorrow, as he purposes. 70

LADY MACBETH 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, 75

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, 80

Which shall to all our nights and days to come

Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

MACBETH

We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH Only look up clear.

To alter favor ever is to fear. 85

Leave all the rest to me.

*They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 6**

*Hautboys and Torches. Enter King* editorial emendation*Duncan*editorial emendation *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 editorialeditorial emendationmartlet,editorial emendationdoes approve, 5

By his loved editorial emendationmansionry,editorial emendation that the heaven’s breath

Smells wooingly here. No jutty, frieze,

Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird

Hath made his pendant bed and procreant cradle.

Where they editorial emendationmosteditorial emendationbreed and haunt, I have 10

observed,

The air is delicate.

*Enter Lady editorial emendationMacbetheditorial emendation*

DUNCAN See, see our honored hostess!—

The love that follows us sometime is our trouble,

Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you 15

How you shall bid God ’ild us for your pains

And thank us for your trouble.

LADY MACBETH All our service,

In every point twice done and then done double,

Were poor and single business to contend 20

Against those honors 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? 25

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 helped

him

To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess, 30

We are your guest tonight.

LADY MACBETH 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. 35

DUNCAN Give me your hand.

editorial emendation*Taking her hand.*editorial emendation

Conduct me to mine host. We love him highly

And shall continue our graces towards him.

By your leave, hostess.

*They exit.*

**Act 1 Scene 7**

*Hautboys. Torches. Enter a Sewer and divers Servants*

*with dishes and service over the stage. Then 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 andeditorial emendationshoaleditorial emendation of time,

We’d jump the life to come. But in these cases

We still have judgment here, that we but teach

Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return

To plague th’ inventor. This even-handed justice 10

Commends th’ ingredience 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 newborn 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 editorial emendationMacbeth*editorial emendation

How now, what news?

LADY MACBETH

He has almost supped. Why have you left the 30

chamber?

MACBETH

Hath he asked for me?

LADY MACBETH Know you not he has?

MACBETH

We will proceed no further in this business.

He hath honored me of late, and I have bought 35

Golden opinions from all sorts of people,

Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,

Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH Was the hope drunk

Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since? 40

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

To be the same in thine own act and valor

As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that 45

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. 50

I dare do all that may become a man.

Who dareseditorial emendationdoeditorial emendation more is none.

LADY MACBETH What beast was ’t,

then,

That made you break this enterprise to me? 55

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 60

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 65

And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you

Have done to this.

MACBETH If we should fail—

LADY MACBETH We fail?

But screw your courage to the sticking place 70

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, 75

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

Th’ unguarded Duncan? What not put upon 80

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, 85

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 clamor roar 90

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 95

know.

*They exit.*

ACT 2

**Act 2 Scene 1**

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

BANQUO How goes the night, boy?

FLEANCE

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. editorial emendation*He gives his sword to Fleance*.editorial emendation 5

There’s husbandry in heaven;

Their candles are all out. Take thee that too.

A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,

And yet I would not sleep. Merciful powers,

Restrain in me the cursèd thoughts that nature 10

Gives way to in repose.

*Enter Macbeth, and a Servant with a torch.*

Give me my sword.—Who’s

there?

MACBETH A friend.

BANQUO

What, sir, not yet at rest? The King’s abed. 15

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. 20

editorial emendation*He gives Macbeth a jewel*.editorial emendation

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 Weïrd Sisters. 25

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 30

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 honor for you. 35

BANQUO So I lose none

In seeking to augment it, but still keep

My bosom franchised and allegiance clear,

I shall be counseled.

MACBETH Good repose the while. 40

BANQUO Thanks, sir. The like to you.

*Banquo* editorial emendation*and Fleance*editorial emendation *exit.*

MACBETH

Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready,

She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

*editorial emendationServant*editorial emendation exits.

Is this a dagger which I see before me,

The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch 45

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 50

Proceeding from the heat-oppressèd brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw. *editorial emendationHe draws his dagger.*editorial emendation

Thou marshal’st me the way that I was going,

And such an instrument I was to use. 55

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 60

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, 65

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

With Tarquin’s ravishing *editorial emendationstrides,*editorial emendation towards his

design

Moves like a ghost. Thou *editorial emendationsure*editorial emendation and firm-set earth,

Hear not my steps, which *editorial emendationway they*editorial emendation walk, for fear 70

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. 75

Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell

That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

*He exits.*

**Act 2 Scene 2**

*Enter Lady editorial emendationMacbeth.editorial emendation*

LADY MACBETH

That which hath made them drunk hath made me

bold.

What hath quenched them hath given me fire.

Hark!—Peace.

It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman, 5

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 10

Whether they live or die.

MACBETH, *editorial emendationwithin*editorial emendation Who’s there? what, ho!

LADY MACBETH

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; 15

He could not miss ’em. Had he not resembled

My father as he slept, I had done ’t.

*Enter Macbeth* *editorial emendation*with *bloody daggers.*editorial emendation

My husband?

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry. 20

Did not you speak?

MACBETH When?

LADY MACBETH Now.

MACBETH As I descended?

LADY MACBETH Ay. 25

MACBETH Hark!—Who lies i’ th’ second chamber?

LADY MACBETH Donalbain.

MACBETH This is a sorry sight.

LADY MACBETH

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

MACBETH

There’s one did laugh in ’s sleep, and one cried 30

“Murder!”

That they did wake each other. I stood and heard

them.

But they did say their prayers and addressed them

Again to sleep. 35

LADY MACBETH 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.” 40

LADY MACBETH 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 MACBETH These deeds must not be thought 45

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 raveled sleave of care,

The death of each day’s life, sore labor’s bath, 50

Balm of hurt minds, great nature’s second course,

Chief nourisher in life’s feast.

LADY MACBETH What do you mean?

MACBETH

Still it cried “Sleep no more!” to all the house.

“Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore 55

Cawdor

Shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more.”

LADY MACBETH

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 60

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. 65

I am afraid to think what I have done.

Look on ’t again I dare not.

LADY MACBETH Infirm of purpose!

Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead

Are but as pictures. ’Tis the eye of childhood 70

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 exits editorial emendationwith the daggers.editorial emendation Knock within.*

MACBETH Whence is that

knocking? 75

How is ’t with me when every noise appalls 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, 80

Making the green one red.

*Enter Lady* *editorial emendationMacbeth.editorial emendation*

LADY MACBETH

My hands are of your color, but I shame

To wear a heart so white. *Knock.*

I hear a knocking

At the south entry. Retire we to our chamber. 85

A little water clears us of this deed.

How easy is it, then! Your constancy

Hath left you unattended. *Knock.*

Hark, more knocking.

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us 90

And show us to be watchers. Be not lost

So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH

To know my deed ’twere best not know myself.

*Knock.*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking. I would thou

couldst. 95

*They exit.*

**Act 2 Scene 3**

*Knocking within. Enter a Porter.*

PORTER Here’s a knocking indeed! If a man were

porter of hell gate, he should have old turning the

key. (*Knock.*) Knock, knock, knock! Who’s there, i’

th’ name of Beelzebub? Here’s a farmer that hanged

himself on th’ expectation of plenty. Come in time! 5

Have napkins enough about you; here you’ll sweat

for ’t. (*Knock.*) 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 10

sake yet could not equivocate to heaven. O, come in,

equivocator. (*Knock.*) 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. (*Knock.*) Knock, knock! 15

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 bonfire. (*Knock.*)

Anon, anon! 20

*editorial emendationThe Porter opens the door toeditorial emendation Macduff and Lennox.*

I pray you, remember the porter.

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 25

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 30

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 35

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 40

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?

*Enter Macbeth.*

Our knocking has awaked him. Here he comes. 45

*editorial emendationPorter exitseditorial emendation*

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. 50

I have almost slipped the hour.

MACBETH I’ll bring you to him.

MACDUFF

I know this is a joyful trouble to you,

But yet ’tis one.

MACBETH

The labor we delight in physics pain. 55

This is the door.

MACDUFF I’ll make so bold to call,

For ’tis my limited service. *Macduff exits*.

LENNOX Goes the King hence today?

MACBETH He does. He did appoint so. 60

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, 65

Of dire combustion and confused events

New hatched to th’ woeful time. The obscure bird

Clamored the livelong night. Some say the Earth

Was feverous and did shake.

MACBETH ’Twas a rough night. 70

LENNOX

My young remembrance cannot parallel

A fellow to it.

*Enter Macduff.*

MACDUFF O horror, horror, horror!

Tongue nor heart cannot conceive nor name thee!

MACBETH AND LENNOX What’s the matter? 75

MACDUFF

Confusion now hath made his masterpiece.

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? 80

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 exit.*

Awake, awake! 85

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, 90

As from your graves rise up and walk like sprites

To countenance this horror.—Ring the bell.

*Bell rings.*

*Enter Lady editorial emendationMacbetheditorial emendation*

LADY MACBETH What’s the business,

That such a hideous trumpet calls to parley

The sleepers of the house? Speak, speak! 95

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.*

O Banquo, Banquo, 100

Our royal master’s murdered.

LADY MACBETH Woe, alas!

What, in our house?

BANQUO Too cruel anywhere.—

Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself 105

And say it is not so.

Enter Macbeth, Lennox, and Ross.

MACBETH

Had I but died an hour before this chance,

I had lived a blessèd time; for from this instant

There’s nothing serious in mortality.

All is but toys. Renown and grace is dead. 110

The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees

Is left this vault to brag of.

Enter Malcolm and Donalbain.

DONALBAIN What is amiss?

MACBETH You are, and do not know ’t.

The spring, the head, the fountain of your blood 115

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. 120

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. 125

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, 130

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 colors of their trade, their daggers

Unmannerly breeched with gore. Who could refrain 135

That had a heart to love, and in that heart

Courage to make ’s love known?

LADY MACBETH Help me hence, ho!

MACDUFF

Look to the lady.

MALCOLM, *editorial emendationaside to Donaldbaineditorial emendation* Why do we hold our 140

tongues,

That most may claim this argument for ours?

DONALBAIN, *editorial emendationaside to Malcolmeditorial emendation*

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. 145

MALCOLM, *editorial emendationaside to Donaldbaineditorial emendation*

Nor our strong sorrow upon the foot of motion.

BANQUO Look to the lady.

*editorial emendationLady Macbeth is assisted to leaveeditorial emendation*

And when we have our naked frailties hid,

That suffer in exposure, let us meet

And question this most bloody piece of work 150

To know it further. Fears and scruples shake us.

In the great hand of God I stand, and thence

Against the undivulged pretense I fight

Of treasonous malice.

MACDUFF And so do I. 155

ALL So all.

MACBETH

Let’s briefly put on manly readiness

And meet i’ th’ hall together.

ALL Well contented.

*editorial emendationAll but Malcolm and Donalbaineditorial emendation exit.*

MALCOLM

What will you do? Let’s not consort with them. 160

To show an unfelt sorrow is an office

Which the false man does easy. I’ll to England.

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, 165

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 170

But shift away. There’s warrant in that theft

Which steals itself when there’s no mercy left.

*They exit.*

**Act 2 Scene 4**   
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. 5

ROSS 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 traveling lamp.

Is ’t night’s predominance or the day’s shame 10

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, tow’ring in her pride of place, 15

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,

Turned wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out, 20

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 25

That looked upon ’t.

Enter Macduff.

Here comes the good

Macduff.—

How goes the world, sir, now?

MACDUFF Why, see you not? 30

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. 35

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 will ravin up 40

Thine own lives’ 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? 45

MACDUFF Carried to Colmekill,

The sacred storehouse of his predecessors

And guardian of their bones.

ROSS Will you to Scone?

MACDUFF

No, cousin, I’ll to Fife. 50

ROSS Well, I will thither.

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 55

That would make good of bad and friends of foes.

*All exit.*

ACT 3

**Act 3 Scene 1**

*Enter Banquo.*

BANQUO

Thou hast it now—king, Cawdor, Glamis, all

As the Weïrd Women promised, and I fear

Thou played’st most foully for ’t. Yet it was said

It should not stand in thy posterity,

But that myself should be the root and father 5

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. 10

*Sennet sounded. Enter Macbeth as King, Lady*

*editorial emendationMacbeth,editorial emendationLennox, Ross, Lords, and Attendants.*

MACBETH

Here’s our chief guest.

LADY MACBETH If he had been forgotten,

It had been as a gap in our great feast

And all-thing unbecoming.

MACBETH

Tonight we hold a solemn supper, sir, 15

And I’ll request your presence.

BANQUO Let your Highness

Command upon me, to the which my duties

Are with a most indissoluble tie

Forever knit. 20

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 tomorrow. 25

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. 30

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 35

With strange invention. But of that tomorrow,

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. 40

MACBETH

I wish your horses swift and sure of foot,

And so I do commend you to their backs.

Farewell. *Banquo exits.*

Let every man be master of his time

Till seven at night. To make society 45

The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself

Till suppertime alone. While then, God be with you.

*Lords editorial emendationand all but Macbeth and a Servanteditorial emendation exit.*

Sirrah, a word with you. Attend those men

Our pleasure?

SERVANT

They are, my lord, without the palace gate. 50

MACBETH

Bring them before us. *Servant exits.*

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 55

dares,

And to that dauntless temper of his mind

He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor

To act in safety. There is none but he

Whose being I do fear; and under him 60

My genius is rebuked, as it is said

Mark Antony’s was by Caesar. 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. 65

Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown

And put a barren scepter in my grip,

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; 70

For them the gracious Duncan have I murdered,

Put rancors 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 seeds of Banquo kings. 75

Rather than so, come fate into the list,

And champion me to th’ utterance.—Who’s there?

*Enter Servant and two Murderers.*

*editorial emendationTo the Servant*.*editorial emendation* Now go to the door, and stay there

till we call. *Servant exits.*

Was it not yesterday we spoke together? 80

*editorial emendation*MURDERERS,*editorial emendation*

It was, so please your Highness.

MACBETH Well then, now

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 85

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 90

might

To half a soul and to a notion crazed

Say “Thus did Banquo.”

FIRST MURDERER You made it known to us.

MACBETH

I did so, and went further, which is now 95

Our point of second meeting. Do you find

Your patience so predominant in your nature

That you can let this go? Are you so gospeled

To pray for this good man and for his issue,

Whose heavy hand hath bowed you to the grave 100

And beggared yours forever?

FIRST MURDERER We are men, my liege.

MACBETH

Ay, in the catalogue you go for men,

As hounds and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels,

curs, 105

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 110

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, 115

And I will put that business in your bosoms

Whose execution takes your enemy off,

Grapples you to the heart and love of us,

Who wear our health but sickly in his life,

Which in his death were perfect. 120

SECOND 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.

FIRST MURDERER And I another 125

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. 130

*editorial emendation*MURDERERS*editorial emendation* 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 135

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, 140

Masking the business from the common eye

For sundry weighty reasons.

SECOND MURDERER We shall, my lord,

Perform what you command us.

FIRST MURDERER Though our lives— 145

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 tonight

And something from the palace; always thought 150

That I require a clearness. And with him

(To leave no rubs nor botches in the work)

Fleance, his son, that keeps him company,

Whose absence is no less material to me 155

Than is his father’s, must embrace the fate

Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart.

I’ll come to you anon.

*editorial emendation*MURDERERS*editorial emendation* We are resolved, my lord.

MACBETH

I’ll call upon you straight. Abide within. 160

editorial emendation*Murderers exit.editorial emendation*

It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul’s flight,

If it find heaven, must find it out tonight.

editorial emendation*He exits.editorial emendation*

**Act 3 Scene 2**

*Enter Macbeth’s Lady and a Servant.*

LADY MACBETH Is Banquo gone from court?

SERVANT

Ay, madam, but returns again tonight.

LADY MACBETH

Say to the King I would attend his leisure

For a few words.

SERVANT Madam, I will. *He exits*. 5

LADY MACBETH Naught’s had, all’s spent,

Where our desire is got without content.

’Tis safer to be that which we destroy

Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

*Enter Macbeth.*

How now, my lord, why do you keep alone, 10

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. 15

She’ll close and be herself whilst our poor malice

Remains in danger of her former tooth.

But let the frame of things disjoint, both the worlds

suffer,

Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep 20

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. 25

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 MACBETH Come on, gentle my lord, 30

Sleek o’er your rugged looks. Be bright and jovial

Among your guests tonight.

MACBETH So shall I, love,

And so I pray be you. Let your remembrance

Apply to Banquo; present him eminence 35

Both with eye and tongue: unsafe the while that we

Must lave our honors in these flattering streams

And make our faces vizards to our hearts,

Disguising what they are.

LADY MACBETH You must leave this. 40

MACBETH

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

Thou know’st that Banquo and his Fleance lives.

LADY MACBETH

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 45

His cloistered flight, ere to black Hecate’s summons

The shard-born beetle with his drowsy hums

Hath rung night’s yawning peal, there shall be done

A deed of dreadful note.

LADY MACBETH What’s to be done? 50

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 55

Which keeps me pale. 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.— 60

Thou marvel’st at my words, but hold thee still.

Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.

So prithee go with me.

*They exit.*

**Act 3 Scene 3**

*Enter three Murderers.*

FIRST MURDERER

But who did bid thee join with us?

THIRD MURDERER Macbeth.

SECOND MURDERER, editorial emendation*to the First Murderereditorial emendation*

He needs not our mistrust, since he delivers

Our offices and what we have to do

To the direction just. 5

FIRST MURDERER Then stand with us.—

The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day.

Now spurs the lated traveler apace

To gain the timely inn, editorial emendationand*editorial emendation* near approaches

The subject of our watch. 10

THIRD MURDERER Hark, I hear horses.

BANQUO, *within* Give us a light there, ho!

SECOND MURDERER Then ’tis he. The rest

That are within the note of expectation

Already are i’ th’ court. 15

FIRST MURDERER His horses go about.

THIRD MURDERER

Almost a mile; but he does usually

(So all men do) from hence to th’ palace gate

Make it their walk.

*Enter Banquo and Fleance, with a torch.*

SECOND MURDERER A light, a light! 20

THIRD MURDERER ’Tis he.

FIRST MURDERER Stand to ’t.

BANQUO, editorial emendation*to Fleannceeditorial emendation* It will be rain tonight.

FIRST MURDERER Let it come down!

editorial emendation*The three Murderers attack.editorial emendation*

BANQUO

O treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly! 25

Thou mayst revenge—O slave!

editorial emendation*He dies. Fleance exits.editorial emendation*

THIRD MURDERER

Who did strike out the light?

FIRST MURDERER Was ’t not the way?

THIRD MURDERER There’s but one down. The son is

fled. 30

SECOND MURDERER We have lost best half of our

affair.

FIRST MURDERER

Well, let’s away and say how much is done.

*They exit.*

**Act 3 Scene 4**

*Banquet prepared. Enter Macbeth, Lady editorial emendationMacbeth.editorial emendation  
Ross, Lennox, Lords, and Attendants.*

MACBETH

You know your own degrees; sit down. At first

And last, the hearty welcome. editorial emendation*They sit.editorial emendation*

LORDS Thanks to your Majesty.

MACBETH

Ourself will mingle with society

And play the humble host. 5

Our hostess keeps her state, but in best time

We will require her welcome.

LADY MACBETH

Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends,

For my heart speaks they are welcome.

*Enter First Murderer editorial emendationto the door.editorial emendation*

MACBETH

See, they encounter thee with their hearts’ thanks. 10

Both sides are even. Here I’ll sit i’ th’ midst.

Be large in mirth. Anon we’ll drink a measure

The table round. editorial emendation*He approaches the Murderer*.editorial emendation There’s

blood upon thy face.

MURDERER ’Tis Banquo’s then. 15

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’ cutthroats,

Yet he’s good that did the like for Fleance. 20

If thou didst it, thou art the nonpareil.

MURDERER

Most royal sir, Fleance is ’scaped.

MACBETH, editorial emendation*aside.editorial emendation*

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. 25

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 trenchèd gashes on his head,

The least a death to nature. 30

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. Tomorrow

We’ll hear ourselves again. *Murderer exits.* 35

LADY MACBETH 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; 40

Meeting were bare without it.

*Enter the Ghost of Banquo, and sits in Macbeth’s place.*

MACBETH, editorial emendation*to Lady Macbetheditorial emendation*  Sweet remembrancer!—

Now, good digestion wait on appetite

And health on both!

LENNOX May ’t please your Highness sit. 45

MACBETH

Here had we now our country’s honor roofed,

Were the graced person of our Banquo present,

Who may I rather challenge for unkindness

Than pity for mischance.

ROSS His absence, sir, 50

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. 55

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? 60

MACBETH, editorial emendation*to the Ghosteditorial emendation*

Thou canst not say I did it. Never shake

Thy gory locks at me.

ROSS

Gentlemen, rise. His Highness is not well.

LADY MACBETH

Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often thus

And hath been from his youth. Pray you, keep seat. 65

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. editorial emendation*Drawing Macbeth aside.editorial emendation*

Are you a man? 70

MACBETH

Ay, and a bold one, that dare look on that

Which might appall the devil.

LADY MACBETH O, proper stuff!

This is the very painting of your fear.

This is the air-drawn dagger which you said 75

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, 80

You look but on a stool.

MACBETH

Prithee, see there. Behold, look! editorial emendationTo the Ghost.*editorial emendation* Lo,

how say you?

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

If charnel houses and our graves must send 85

Those that we bury back, our monuments

Shall be the maws of kites. editorial emendationGhost exits.*editorial emendation*

LADY MACBETH What, quite unmanned in folly?

MACBETH

If I stand here, I saw him.

LADY MACBETH Fie, for shame! 90

MACBETH

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 editorial emendationtime*editorial emendation* has been

That, when the brains were out, the man would die, 95

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 MACBETH My worthy lord, 100

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 105

all.

Then I’ll sit down.—Give me some wine. Fill full.

Enter Ghost.

I drink to th’ 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, 110

And all to all.

LORDS Our duties, and the pledge.

editorial emendation*They raise their drinking cups.editorial emendation*

MACBETH, editorial emendationto the Ghost*editorial emendation*

Avaunt, and quit my sight! Let the earth hide thee.

Thy bones are marrowless; thy blood is cold;

Thou hast no speculation in those eyes 115

Which thou dost glare with.

LADY MACBETH Think of this, good

peers,

But as a thing of custom. ’Tis no other;

Only it spoils the pleasure of the time. 120

MACBETH, editorial emendation*to the Ghosteditorial emendation* What man dare, I dare.

Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,

The armed rhinoceros, or th’ Hyrcan tiger;

Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves

Shall never tremble. Or be alive again 125

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! editorial emendation*Ghost exitseditorial emendation*

Why so, being gone, 130

I am a man again.—Pray you sit still.

LADY MACBETH

You have displaced the mirth, broke the good

meeting

With most admired disorder.

MACBETH Can such things be 135

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 140

When mine is blanched with fear.

ROSS What sights, my

lord?

LADY MACBETH

I pray you, speak not. He grows worse and worse.

Question enrages him. At once, good night. 145

Stand not upon the order of your going,

But go at once.

LENNOX Good night, and better health

Attend his Majesty.

LADY MACBETH A kind good night to all. 150

Lords editorial emendation*and all but Macbeth and Lady Macbetheditorial emendation* *exit*

MACBETH

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

Stones have been known to move, and trees to

speak.

Augurs and understood relations have

By maggot pies and choughs and rooks brought 155

forth

The secret’st man of blood.—What is the night?

LADY MACBETH

Almost at odds with morning, which is which.

MACBETH

How say’st thou that Macduff denies his person

At our great bidding? 160

LADY MACBETH 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 tomorrow

(And betimes I will) to the Weïrd Sisters. 165

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. 170

Strange things I have in head that will to hand,

Which must be acted ere they may be scanned.

LADY MACBETH

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. 175

We are yet but young in deed.

*They exit.*

**Act 3 Scene 5**

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches, meeting Hecate.*

FIRST WITCH

Why, how now, Hecate? 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, 5

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 10

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 15

Meet me i’ th’ morning. Thither he

Will come to know his destiny.

Your vessels and your spells provide,

Your charms and everything beside.

I am for th’ air. This night I’ll spend 20

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, 25

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.

He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear 30

His hopes ’bove wisdom, grace, and fear.

And you all know, security

Is mortals’ chiefest enemy.

*Music and a song.*

Hark! I am called. My little spirit, see,

Sits in a foggy cloud and stays for me. editorial emendation*Hecate exits.editorial emendation* 35

*Sing within “Come away, come away,” etc.*

FIRST WITCH

Come, let’s make haste. She’ll soon be back again.

*They exit.*

**Act 3 Scene 6**

*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. 5

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 10

To kill their gracious father? Damnèd 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, 15

For ’twould have angered any heart alive

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 20

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 25

Macduff lives in disgrace. Sir, can you tell

Where he bestows himself?

LORD The editorial emendation*soneditorial emendation* of Duncan

(From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth)

Lives in the English court and is received 30

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 35

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 honors, 40

All which we pine for now. And this report

Hath so exasperate editorial editorial emendationthe*editorial emendation* King that he

Prepares for some attempt of war.

LENNOX Sent he to Macduff?

LORD

He did, and with an absolute “Sir, not I,” 45

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 editorial emendation*t’ holdeditorial emendation* what distance 50

His wisdom can provide. Some holy angel

Fly to the court of England and unfold

His message ere he come, that a swift blessing

May soon return to this our suffering country

Under a hand accursed. 55

LORD I’ll send my prayers with him.

*They exit.*

ACT 4

**Act 4 Scene 1**

*Thunder. Enter the three Witches.*

FIRST WITCH

Thrice the brinded cat hath mewed.

SECOND WITCH

Thrice, and once the hedge-pig whined.

THIRD WITCH

Harpier cries “’Tis time, ’tis time!”

FIRST WITCH

Round about the cauldron go;

In the poisoned entrails throw. 5

Toad, that under cold stone

Days and nights has thirty-one

Sweltered venom sleeping got,

Boil thou first i’ th’ charmèd pot.

*editorial emendationThe Witches circle the cauldron.editorial emendation*

ALL

Double, double toil and trouble; 10

Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

SECOND 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, 15

Adder’s fork and blindworm’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; 20

Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

THIRD 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, 25

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 30

Ditch-delivered by a drab,

Make the gruel thick and slab.

Add thereto a tiger’s chaudron

For th’ ingredience of our cauldron.

ALL

Double, double toil and trouble; 35

Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

SECOND WITCH

Cool it with a baboon’s blood.

Then the charm is firm and good.

*Enter Hecate editorial emendationtoeditorial emendation the other three Witches.*

HECATE

O, well done! I commend your pains,

And everyone shall share i’ th’ gains. 40

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,” etc. editorial emendationHecate exits.editorial emendation*

SECOND WITCH

By the pricking of my thumbs,

Something wicked this way comes. 45

Open, locks,

Whoever knocks.

*Enter Macbeth.*

MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags?

What is ’t you do?

ALL A deed without a name. 50

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 yeasty waves

Confound and swallow navigation up, 55

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 60

treasure

Of nature’s editorial emendation*germseditorial emendation* tumbleeditorial emendation*all togethereditorial emendation*

Even till destruction sicken, answer me

To what I ask you.

FIRST WITCH Speak. 65

SECOND WITCH Demand.

THIRD WITCH We’ll answer.

FIRST WITCH

Say if th’ hadst rather hear it from our mouths

Or from our masters’.

MACBETH Call ’em. Let me see ’em. 70

FIRST WITCH

Pour in sow’s blood that hath eaten

Her nine farrow; grease that’s sweaten

From the murderers’ gibbet throw

Into the flame.

ALL Come high or low; 75

Thyself and office deftly show.

*Thunder. First Apparition, an Armed Head.*

MACBETH

Tell me, thou unknown power—

FIRST WITCH He knows thy

thought.

Hear his speech but say thou naught. 80

FIRST APPARITION

Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth! Beware Macduff!

Beware the Thane of Fife! Dismiss me. Enough.

*He descends.*

MACBETH

Whate’er thou art, for thy good caution, thanks.

Thou hast harped my fear aright. But one word

more— 85

FIRST WITCH

He will not be commanded. Here’s another

More potent than the first.

Thunder. Second Apparition, a Bloody Child.

SECOND APPARITION Macbeth! Macbeth! Macbeth!—

MACBETH Had I three ears, I’d hear thee.

SECOND APPARITION

Be bloody, bold, and resolute. Laugh to scorn 90

The power of man, for none of woman born

Shall harm *editorial emendationHeeditorial emendation 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, 95

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 100

And top of sovereignty?

ALL Listen but speak not to ’t.

THIRD APPARITION

Be lion-mettled, proud, and take no care

Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are.

Macbeth shall never vanquished be until 105

Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill

Shall come against him. *editorial emendationHeeditorial emendation descends.*

MACBETH That will never be.

Who can impress the forest, bid the tree

Unfix his earthbound root? Sweet bodements, good! 110

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 115

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! 120

*editorial emendationCauldron sinkseditorial emendation Hautboys.*

Why sinks that cauldron? And what noise is this?

FIRST WITCH Show.

SECOND WITCH Show.

THIRD WITCH Show.

ALL

Show his eyes and grieve his heart. 125

Come like shadows; so depart.

A show of eight kings, editorial emendationthe eighth kingeditorial emendation with a glass in

his hand, and Banquo last.

MACBETH

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo. Down!

Thy crown does sear mine eyeballs. And thy hair,

Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first.

A third is like the former.—Filthy hags, 130

Why do you show me this?—A fourth? Start, eyes!

What, will the line stretch out to th’ crack of doom?

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 135

That twofold balls and treble scepters carry.

Horrible sight! Now I see ’tis true,

For the blood-boltered Banquo smiles upon me

And points at them for his.

*editorial emendationThe Apparitions disappear.editorial emendation*

What, is this so? 140

FIRST 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 145

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 pernicious hour

Stand aye accursèd in the calendar!— 150

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? 155

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 160

Macduff is fled to England.

MACBETH Fled to England?

LENNOX Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH, *editorial emendationasideeditorial emendation*

Time, thou anticipat’st my dread exploits.

The flighty purpose never is o’ertook 165

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: 170

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. 175

But no more sights!—Where are these gentlemen?

Come bring me where they are.

*They exit.*

**Act 4 Scene 2**

Enter Macduff’s Wife, her Son, and Ross.

LADY MACDUFF

What had he done to make him fly the land?

ROSS

You must have patience, madam.

LADY MACDUFF He had none.

His flight was madness. When our actions do not,

Our fears do make us traitors. 5

ROSS You know not

Whether it was his wisdom or his fear.

LADY 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; 10

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 15

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 20

further;

But cruel are the times when we are traitors

And do not know ourselves; when we hold rumor

From what we fear, yet know not what we fear,

But float upon a wild and violent sea 25

Each way and move—I take my leave of you.

Shall not be long but I’ll be here again.

Things at the worst will cease or else climb upward

To what they were before.—My pretty cousin,

Blessing upon you. 30

LADY 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. *Ross exits.*

LADY MACDUFF Sirrah, your father’s dead. 35

And what will you do now? How will you live?

SON

As birds do, mother.

LADY MACDUFF What, with worms and flies?

SON

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

LADY MACDUFF

Poor bird, thou ’dst never fear the net nor lime, 40

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.

LADY MACDUFF

Yes, he is dead. How wilt thou do for a father? 45

SON Nay, how will you do for a husband?

LADY MACDUFF

Why, I can buy me twenty at any market.

SON Then you’ll buy ’em to sell again.

LADY MACDUFF Thou speak’st with all thy wit,

And yet, i’ faith, with wit enough for thee. 50

SON Was my father a traitor, mother?

LADY MACDUFF Ay, that he was.

SON What is a traitor?

LADY MACDUFF Why, one that swears and lies.

SON And be all traitors that do so? 55

LADY MACDUFF Every one that does so is a traitor

and must be hanged.

SON And must they all be hanged that swear and lie?

LADY MACDUFF Every one.

SON Who must hang them? 60

LADY MACDUFF Why, the honest men.

SON Then the liars and swearers are fools, for there

are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest

men and hang up them.

LADY MACDUFF Now God help thee, poor monkey! But 65

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.

LADY MACDUFF Poor prattler, how thou talk’st! 70

Enter a Messenger.

MESSENGER

Bless you, fair dame. I am not to you known,

Though in your state of honor I am perfect.

I doubt some danger does approach you nearly.

If you will take a homely man’s advice,

Be not found here. Hence with your little ones! 75

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. *Messenger exits.* 80

LADY 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, 85

Do I put up that womanly defense

To say I have done no harm?

Enter Murderers.

What are these faces?

MURDERER Where is your husband?

LADY MACDUFF

I hope in no place so unsanctified 90

Where such as thou mayst find him.

MURDERER He’s a traitor.

SON

Thou liest, thou shag-eared villain!

MURDERER What, you egg?

*editorial emendationStabbing him.editorial emendation* Young fry of treachery! 95

SON He has killed

me, mother.

Run away, I pray you.

*editorial emendationLady Macduffeditorial emendation exits, crying “Murder!” editorial emendationfollowed by the*

*Murderers bearing the Son’s body.*editorial emendation

**Act 4 Scene 3**

*Enter Malcolm and Macduff.*

MALCOLM

Let us seek out some desolate shade and there

Weep our sad bosoms empty.

MACDUFF Let us rather

Hold fast the mortal sword and, like good men,

Bestride our *editorial emendation*downfall’neditorial emendation birthdom. Each new morn 5

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 dolor.

MALCOLM What I believe, I’ll wail; 10

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. 15

He hath not touched you yet. I am young, but

something

You may *editorial emendation*deserveeditorial emendation of him through me, and wisdom

To offer up a weak, poor, innocent lamb

T’ appease an angry god. 20

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. 25

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. 30

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, 35

Let not my jealousies be your dishonors,

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, 40

For goodness dare 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, 45

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 50

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 55

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? 60

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 65

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, 70

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 75

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 80

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 85

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. 90

MALCOLM 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; 95

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 100

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

Of your mere own. All these are portable, 105

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, 110

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 115

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? 120

No, not to live.—O nation miserable,

With an untitled tyrant bloody-sceptered,

When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again,

Since that the truest issue of thy throne

By his own interdiction stands editorial *editorial emendation*accursededitorial emendation 125

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 130

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 135

To thy good truth and honor. Devilish Macbeth

By many of these trains hath sought to win me

Into his power, and modest wisdom plucks me

From overcredulous haste. But God above

Deal between thee and me, for even now 140

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, 145

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 150

Is thine and my poor country’s to command—

Whither indeed, before *editorial emendation*thy here-approach,editorial emendation

Old Siward with ten thousand warlike men,

Already at a point, was setting forth.

Now we’ll together, and the chance of goodness 155

Be like our warranted quarrel. Why are you silent?

MACDUFF

Such welcome and unwelcome things at once

’Tis hard to reconcile.

Enter a Doctor.

MALCOLM Well, more anon.—

Comes the King forth, I pray you? 160

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. 165

MALCOLM I thank you, doctor.

*editorial emendationDoctoreditorial emendation exits.*

MACDUFF

What’s the disease he means?

MALCOLM ’Tis called the evil:

A most miraculous work in this good king,

Which often since my here-remain in England 170

I have seen him do. How he solicits heaven

Himself best knows, but strangely visited people

All swoll’n and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,

The mere despair of surgery, he cures,

Hanging a golden stamp about their necks, 175

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 180

That speak him full of grace.

Enter Ross.

MACDUFF See who comes here.

MALCOLM

My countryman, but yet I know him *editorial emendation*not.editorial emendation

MACDUFF

My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

MALCOLM

I know him now.—Good God betimes remove 185

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 190

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 rent the air

Are made, not marked; where violent sorrow seems

A modern ecstasy. The dead man’s knell 195

Is there scarce asked for who, and good men’s lives

Expire before the flowers in their caps,

Dying or ere they sicken.

MACDUFF

O relation too nice and yet too true!

MALCOLM What’s the newest grief? 200

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? 205

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 210

Which I have heavily borne, there ran a rumor

Of many worthy fellows that were out;

Which was to my belief witnessed the rather

For that I saw the tyrant’s power afoot.

Now is the time of help. Your eye in Scotland 215

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; 220

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, 225

Where hearing should not latch them.

MACDUFF What concern

they—

The general cause, or is it a fee-grief

Due to some single breast? 230

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. 235

ROSS

Let not your ears despise my tongue forever,

Which shall possess them with the heaviest sound

That ever yet they heard.

MACDUFF Hum! I guess at it.

ROSS

Your castle is surprised, your wife and babes 240

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. 245

Give sorrow words. The grief that does not speak

Whispers the o’erfraught 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? 250

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? 255

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, 260

But I must also feel it as a man.

I cannot but remember such things were

That were most precious to me. Did heaven look on

And would not take their part? Sinful Macduff,

They were all struck for thee! Naught that I am, 265

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 270

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. 275

MALCOLM This *editorial emendation*tuneeditorial emendation 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 280

may.

The night is long that never finds the day.

*They exit.*

ACT 5

**Act 5 Scene 1**

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 nightgown 5

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 10

once the benefit of sleep and do the effects of

watching. In this slumb’ry 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 15

her.

DOCTOR You may to me, and ’tis most meet you

should.

GENTLEWOMAN Neither to you nor anyone, having no

witness to confirm my speech. 20

Enter Lady editorial emendationMacbetheditorial emendation 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. 25

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 30

seem thus washing her hands. I have known her

continue in this a quarter of an hour.

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 35

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 40

account? Yet who would have thought the old man

to have had so much blood in him?

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 45

more 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, 50

I am sure of that. Heaven knows what she has

known.

LADY MACBETH Here’s the smell of the blood still. All

the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little

hand. O, O, O! 55

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. 60

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 MACBETH Wash your hands. Put on your nightgown. 65

Look not so pale. I tell you yet again, Banquo’s

buried; he cannot come out on ’s grave.

DOCTOR Even so?

LADY MACBETH To bed, to bed. There’s knocking at the

gate. Come, come, come, come. Give me your 70

hand. What’s done cannot be undone. To bed, to

bed, to bed. *Lady editorial emendationMacbetheditorial emendation exits.*

DOCTOR Will she go now to bed?

GENTLEWOMAN Directly.

DOCTOR

Foul whisp’rings are abroad. Unnatural deeds 75

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 80

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 exit.*

**Act 5 Scene 2**

*Drum and Colors. Enter Menteith, Caithness, Angus,*

*Lennox, editorial emendationand editorial emendation Soldiers.*

MENTEITH

The English power is near, led on by Malcolm,

His uncle Siward, and the good Macduff.

Revenges burn in them, for their dear causes

Would to the bleeding and the grim alarm

Excite the mortified man. 5

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 10

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 15

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. 20

Now minutely revolts upbraid his faith-breach.

Those he commands move only in command,

Nothing in love. Now does he feel his title

Hang loose about him, like a giant’s robe

Upon a dwarfish thief. 25

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 30

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 35

To dew the sovereign flower and drown the weeds.

Make we our march towards Birnam.

*They exit marching.*

**Act 5 Scene 3**

Enter Macbeth, editorial emendationtheeditorial emendation 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 consequences have pronounced me thus: 5

“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 10

Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.

Enter Servant.

The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon!

Where got’st thou that goose-look?

SERVANT There is ten thousand—

MACBETH Geese, villain? 15

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 counselors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face? 20

SERVANT The English force, so please you.

MACBETH

Take thy face hence. *editorial emendationServant exits.*editorial emendation

Seyton!—I am sick at heart

When I behold—Seyton, I say!—This push

Will cheer me ever or *editorial emendation*disseateditorial emendation me now. 25

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 honor, love, obedience, troops of friends,

I must not look to have, but in their stead 30

Curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honor, breath

Which the poor heart would fain deny and dare

not.—

Seyton!

Enter Seyton.

SEYTON

What’s your gracious pleasure? 35

MACBETH What news more?

SEYTON

All is confirmed, my lord, which was reported.

MACBETH

I’ll fight till from my bones my flesh be hacked.

Give me my armor.

SEYTON ’Tis not needed yet. 40

MACBETH I’ll put it on.

Send out more horses. Skirr the country round.

Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine

armor.—

How does your patient, doctor? 45

DOCTOR Not so sick, my lord,

As she is troubled with thick-coming fancies

That keep her from her rest.

MACBETH Cure *editorial emendation*hereditorial emendation of that.

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased, 50

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? 55

DOCTOR Therein the patient

Must minister to himself.

MACBETH

Throw physic to the dogs. I’ll none of it.—

Come, put mine armor on. Give me my staff.

*editorial emendationAttendants begin to arm him.*editorial emendation

Seyton, send out.—Doctor, the thanes fly from 60

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 65

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 70

Makes us hear something.

MACBETH Bring it after me.—

I will not be afraid of death and bane

Till Birnam Forest come to Dunsinane.

DOCTOR, *editorial emendationaside*editorial emendation

Were I from Dunsinane away and clear, 75

Profit again should hardly draw me here.

*They exit.*

**Act 5 Scene 4**

*Drum and Colors. Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff,*

*Siward’s son, Menteith, Caithness, Angus, 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. 5

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. 10

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 given, 15

Both more and less have given him the revolt,

And none serve with him but constrainèd things

Whose hearts are absent too.

MACDUFF Let our just censures

Attend the true event, and put we on 20

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, 25

But certain issue strokes must arbitrate;

Towards which, advance the war.

*They exit marching.*

**Act 5 Scene 5**

*Enter Macbeth, Seyton, and Soldiers, with Drum and*

*Colors.*

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 5

ours,

We might have met them dareful, beard to beard,

And beat them backward home.

*A cry within of women.*

What is that noise?

SEYTON

It is the cry of women, my good lord. *editorial emendationHe exits.*editorial emendation10

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. 15

Direness, familiar to my slaughterous thoughts,

Cannot once start me.

*editorial emendationEnter Seyton.editorial emendation*

Wherefore was that cry?

SEYTON The Queen, my lord, is dead.

MACBETH She should have died hereafter. 20

There would have been a time for such a word.

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow

Creeps in this petty pace from day to day

To the last syllable of recorded time,

And all our yesterdays have lighted fools 25

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

And then is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, 30

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. 35

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! 40

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 shall thou hang alive 45

Till famine cling thee. If thy speech be sooth,

I care not if thou dost for me as much.—

I pull in resolution and begin

To doubt th’ equivocation of the fiend,

That lies like truth. “Fear not till Birnam Wood 50

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 55

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 exit.*

**Act 5 Scene 6**

*Drum and Colors. Enter Malcolm, Siward, Macduff, and*

*their army, with boughs.*

MALCOLM

Now near enough. Your leafy 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, 5

According to our order.

SIWARD Fare you well.

Do we but find the tyrant’s power tonight,

Let us be beaten if we cannot fight.

MACDUFF

Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath, 10

Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

*They exit.*

*Alarums continued.*

**Act 5 Scene 7**

*Enter Macbeth.*

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.

Enter young Siward.

YOUNG SIWARD What is thy name? 5

MACBETH Thou ’lt be afraid to hear it.

YOUNG SIWARD

No, though thou call’st thyself a hotter name

Than any is in hell.

MACBETH My name’s Macbeth.

YOUNG SIWARD

The devil himself could not pronounce a title 10

More hateful to mine ear.

MACBETH No, nor more fearful.

YOUNG SIWARD

Thou liest, abhorrèd tyrant. With my sword

I’ll prove the lie thou speak’st.

*Theyeditorial emendation fight, and young Siward editorial emendationiseditorial emendation slain.*



MACBETH Thou wast born of 15

woman.

But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,

Brandished by man that’s of a woman born.

*He exits.*

Alarums. Enter Macduff.

MACDUFF

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

If thou beest slain, and with no stroke of mine, 20

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; 25

By this great clatter, one of greatest note

Seems bruited. Let me find him, Fortune,

And more I beg not. *He exits. Alarums.*

Enter Malcolm and Siward.

SIWARD

This way, my lord. The castle’s gently rendered.

The tyrant’s people on both sides do fight, 30

The noble thanes do bravely in the war,

The day almost itself professes yours,

And little is to do.

MALCOLM We have met with foes

That strike beside us. 35

SIWARD Enter, sir, the castle.

*They exit. Alarum.*

**Act 5** *editorial emendation***Scene 8**editorial emendation   
*Enter Macbeth.*

MACBETH

Why should I play the Roman fool and die

On mine own sword? Whiles I see lives, the gashes

Do better upon them.

Enter Macduff.

MACDUFF Turn, hellhound, turn!

MACBETH

Of all men else I have avoided thee. 5

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. *Fight. Alarum.* 10

MACBETH Thou losest labor.

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 charmèd life, which must not yield 15

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. 20

MACBETH

Accursèd 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,

That keep the word of promise to our ear 25

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 30

“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 35

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 exit fighting. Alarums.*

*editorial emendationThey*editorial emendation *enter fighting, and Macbeth editorial emendationis*editorial emendation *slain. editorial emendationMacduff*

*exits carrying off Macbeth’s body.*editorial emendation *Retreat and flourish.*

*Enter, with Drum and Colors, Malcolm, Siward, Ross,*

*Thanes, and Soldiers.*

MALCOLM

I would the friends we miss were safe arrived. 40

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, 45

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?

ROSS

Ay, and brought off the field. Your cause of sorrow 50

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! 55

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. 60

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.

MACDUFF

Hail, King! for so thou art. Behold where stands 65

Th’ usurper’s cursèd 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! 70

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, 75

Henceforth be earls, the first that ever Scotland

In such an honor 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, 80

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, 85

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. All exit.*