Macbeth

ACT 1.1, 1.3

Three Witches, Macbeth, Banquo

First Witch

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

Second Witch

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

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

First Witch

Where hast thou been, sister?

Second Witch

Killing swine.

Third Witch

Sister, where thou?

First Witch

A drum, a drum!

Macbeth doth come.

ALL

The weird sisters, hand in hand, Posters of the sea and land, Thus do go about, about: Thrice to thine and thrice to mine And thrice again, to make up nine. Peace! the charm's wound up.

[Enter MACBETH and BANQUO]

MACBETH

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

BANQUO

What are these So wither'd and so wild in their attire, That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth, And yet are on't?

MACBETH

Speak, if you can: what are you?

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, thou shalt be king hereafter!

BANQUO

My noble partner
You greet with present grace and great prediction
to me you speak not.
If you can look into the seeds of time,
Speak then to me.

First Witch

Hail!

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: So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

First Witch

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king
Stands not within the prospect of belief,
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence
You owe this strange intelligence? or why
Upon this blasted heath you stop our way
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.

[Witches vanish]

BANQUO

Whither are they vanish'd?

MACBETH

Into the air; Would they had stay'd! Your children shall be kings.

BANQUO

You shall be king.

MACBETH

And thane of Cawdor too: went it not so?

BANQUO

To the selfsame tune and words. That trusted home might yet inkindle you unto the crown, besides the thane of Cawdor. But tis strange; and oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray's in deepest consequence.

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

Macbeth

ACT 1 Scene 7

Macbeth, Lady 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 end-all here, but here, upon this bank and shoal of time, we'ld jump the life to come. I have no spur To prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself and falls on the other.

[Enter LADY MACBETH]

How now! what news?

LADY MACBETH

He has almost supp'd: why have you left the chamber?

MACBETH

Hath he ask'd for me?

LADY MACBETH

Know you not he has?

We will proceed no further in this business: He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought Golden opinions from all sorts of people, Which would be worn now in their newest gloss, Not cast aside so soon.

LADY MACBETH

Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dress'd yourself? hath it slept since?
And wakes it now, to look so green and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard
To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that
Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,
And live a coward in thine own esteem,
Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage?

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man.
And, to be more than what you were, you would
Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:
They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you.

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail! But screw your courage to the sticking-place, And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep-Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
Soundly invite him--his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassail so convince
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep
Their drenched natures lie as in a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
The unguarded Duncan?

MACBETH

Bring forth men-children only; For thy undaunted mettle should compose Nothing but males.

LADY MACBETH

We shall make our griefs and clamour roar Upon his death.

MACBETH

I am settled.

Away, and mock the time with fairest show: False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Macbeth

ACT 2 Scene 2

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth

[Enter LADY MACBETH]

LADY MACBETH

Hark! I laid their daggers ready; He could not miss 'em... Had he not resembled my father as he slept, I had done't. [Enter MACBETH] 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. Did not you speak?

MACBETH

When?

LADY MACBETH

Now.

MACBETH

As I descended?

LADY MACBETH

Ay.

MACBETH

This is a sorry sight. [Looking on his hands]

LADY MACBETH

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

MACBETH

One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the other; As they had seen me with these hangman's hands.

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 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 ravell'd sleeve of care, The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath, Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course, Chief nourisher in life's feast,--

LADY MACBETH

What do you mean?

MACBETH

Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the house: 'Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore 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, And wash this filthy witness from your hand....

[He reveals daggers]

Why did you bring these daggers from the place? They must lie there. Go carry them and smear the sleepy grooms with blood.

MACBETH

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

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers. the sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;
For it must seem their guilt.

[She exits to put the daggers in the king's chamber.]

What hands are here?
Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood
Clean from my hand? No!
[Re-enter LADY MACBETH]

LADY MACBETH

My hands are of your colour; but I shame To wear a heart so white...[Knocking within]

I hear a knocking
At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;
A little water clears us of this deed:
How easy is it, then! Your constancy
Hath left you unattended.

[more knocking]

Hark! more knocking. Be not lost so poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

[More knocking offstage]

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!

Macbeth

ACT 3 Scene 2

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth

LADY MACBETH

Nought's had, all's spent, Where our desire is got without content: 'Tis safer to be that which we destroy Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

[Enter MACBETH]

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

MACBETH

We have scotch'd the snake, not kill'd it: 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 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.

LADY MACBETH

Come on;

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

MACBETH

So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you... Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;

LADY MACBETH

You must leave this.

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; there shall be done A deed of dreadful note.

LADY MACBETH

What's to be done?

MACBETH

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling night, Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day; Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still; Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.

Macbeth

ACT 4 Scene 3

Malcolm, Macduff, Ross

MACDUFF

Each new morn
New widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows
Strike heaven on the face...

MALCOLM

This tyrant, whose sole name blisters our tongues, Was once thought honest: you have loved him well. He hath not touch'd you yet. I am young; but something You may deserve of him through me...

MACDUFF

I am not treacherous.

MALCOLM

But Macbeth is. A good and virtuous nature may recoil In an imperial charge.

MACDUFF

Bleed, bleed, poor country! Great tyranny!

MALCOLM

I think our country sinks beneath the yoke;

Here from gracious England have I offer Of goodly thousands: but, for all this, When I shall tread upon the tyrant's head, Or wear it on my sword...

MACDUFF

Not in the legions Of horrid hell can come a devil more damn'd In evils to top Macbeth.

MALCOLM

Nay, had I power, I should Pour the sweet milk of concord into hell...

MACDUFF

O Scotland, Scotland!

MALCOLM

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

MACDUFF

Fit to govern!
No, not to live. O nation miserable,
Thy hope ends here!

MALCOLM

Macduff, this noble passion, Is thine and my poor country's to command: Now we'll together; Why are you silent?

MACDUFF

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

(Enter Ross)

MACDUFF

My ever-gentle cousin, welcome hither.

ROSS

Sir, amen.

MACDUFF

Stands Scotland where it did?

ROSS

Alas, poor country!
Almost afraid to know itself. It cannot Be call'd our mother, but our grave;

MALCOLM

What's the newest grief?

MACDUFF

How does my wife?

ROSS

Why, well.

MACDUFF

And all my children?

ROSS

They were well at peace when I did leave 'em.

MACDUFF

how goes't? Keep it not from me, quickly let me have it.

ROSS

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

Your castle is surprised; your wife and babes Savagely slaughter'd:

MALCOLM

Merciful heaven!

MACDUFF

My children too?

ROSS

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

MACDUFF

And I must be from thence! My wife kill'd too?

ROSS

I have said.

MALCOLM

Be comforted:

Let's make us medicines of our great revenge, To cure this deadly grief.

MACDUFF

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

MALCOLM

Dispute it like a man.

MACDUFF

I shall do so; But I must also feel it as a man: I cannot but remember such things were, That were most precious to me. Did heaven look on, And would not take their part?

MALCOLM

Be this the whetstone of your sword: let grief Convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it.

MACDUFF

Bring thou this fiend of Scotland and myself; Within my sword's length set him; if he 'scape, Heaven forgive him too!

Macbeth

ACT 5 Scene 7&8

Macbeth, Macduff

MACDUFF

That way the noise is. Tyrant, show thy face! If thou be'st slain and with no stroke of mine, My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still. Let me find him fortune, and more I beg not.

[Exit MACDUFF, 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.

[re-enter MACDUFF]

MACDUFF

Turn, hell-hound, turn!

MACBETH

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

MACDUFF

I have no words:

My voice is in my sword: thou bloodier villain Than terms can give thee out!

[They fight, MACDUFF gets cut and falls]

Thou losest labour: I bear a charmed life, which must not yield, To one of woman born.

MACDUFF

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

MACBETH

Accursed be that tongue that tells me so, I'll not fight with thee.

MACDUFF

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

MACBETH

I will not yield,
To kiss the ground before young Malcolm's feet,
And to be baited with the rabble's curse.
Though Birnam wood be come to Dunsinane,
And thou opposed, being of no woman born,
Yet I will try the last. Before my body
I throw my warlike shield. Lay on, Macduff,
And damn'd be him that first cries, 'Hold, enough!'

[Macduff kills Macbeth]

Macbeth

ACT 2.3 "Ring the alarum"

The Porter + Macduff, Lennox, Macbeth, Banquo, Lady Macbeth

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

[Knocking within]
Knock,
knock, knock! Who's there, i' the name of
Beelzebub? Here's a farmer, that hanged
himself on the expectation of plenty: come in
time; have napkins enow about you; here
you'll sweat for't.

[Knocking within]
Knock,
knock! Who's there, in the other devil's
name? Faith, here's an equivocator, that could
swear in both the scales against either scale;
who committed treason enough for God's sake,
yet could not equivocate to heaven: O, come
in, equivocator.

[Knocking within]
Knock,
knock, knock! Who's there? Faith, here's an
English tailor come hither, for stealing out of
a French hose: come in, tailor; here you may
roast your goose.

[Knocking within]

Knock,

knock; never at quiet! What are you? But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further: I had thought to have let in some of all professions that go the primrose way to the everlasting bonfire.

[Knocking within]

Anon, anon! I pray you, remember the porter.

[Enter MACDUFF and LENNOX]

MACDUFF

Was it so late, friend, ere you went to bed, that you do lie so late?

Porter

'Faith sir, we were carousing till the second bell:

MACDUFF

I believe drink gave thee the lie last night.

Porter

That it did, sir.

MACDUFF

Is thy master stirring?

[Enter MACBETH]

Our knocking has awaked him; here he comes.

LENNOX

Good morrow, noble sir.

MACBETH

Good morrow, both.

MACDUFF

Is the king stirring, worthy thane?

MACBETH

Not yet.

MACDUFF

He did command me to call timely on him: I have almost slipp'd the hour.

MACBETH

I'll bring you to him....This is the door.

MACDUFF

I'll make so bold to call, for 'tis my limited service.

[Exit]

LENNOX

Goes the king hence to-day?

MACBETH

He does: he did appoint so.

LENNOX

The night has been unruly:

where we lay, our chimneys were blown down; and, as they say,

Lamentings heard i' the air; strange screams of death, and prophesying with accents terrible...

Of dire combustion and confused events new hatch'd to the woeful time:

the obscure bird clamour'd the livelong night:

some say, the earth was feverous and did shake.

MACBETH

'Twas a rough night.

LENNOX

My young remembrance cannot parallel a fellow to it.

[Re-enter MACDUFF]

MACDUFF

O horror, horror! Tongue nor heart cannot conceive nor name thee!

MACBETH and LENNOX

What's the matter?

MACDUFF

Most sacrilegious murder hath broke open

The Lord's anointed temple, and stole thence the life o' the building!

MACBETH

What is 't you say? the life?

LENNOX

Mean you his majesty?

MACDUFF

Approach the chamber, and destroy your sight. See, and then speak yourselves.

[Exeunt MACBETH and LENNOX]

MACDUFF

Awake, awake! Ring the alarum-bell. Murder and treason! Banquo and Ross, Malcolm! awake! Malcolm! Banquo! Ring the bell.

[Bell rings, Enter LADY MACBETH]

LADY MACBETH

What's the business? Speak, speak!

MACDUFF

O gentle lady, 'Tis not for you to hear what I can speak:

[Enter BANQUO]

O Banquo, Banquo, our royal master 's murder'd!

BANQUO

Too cruel any where. Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself, and say it is not so.

[Re-enter MACBETH and LENNOX, with ROSS]

LADY MACBETH

Woe, alas! What, in our house? O! by whom?

LENNOX

Those of his chamber, as it seem'd, had done 't: Their hands and faces were and badged with blood; So were their daggers, which unwiped we found upon their pillows: They stared, and were distracted; no man's life was to be trusted with them.

MACBETH

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

MACDUFF

Wherefore did you so?

MACBETH

Who can be wise, amazed, temperate and furious? No man: There lay Duncan, his silver skin laced with his golden blood...

LADY MACBETH

Help me hence, ho! [She pretends to faint]

MACDUFF

Look to the lady.

BANQUO

Look to the lady: let us meet, and question this most bloody piece of work, To know it further. In the great hand of God I stand; and thence Against the undivulged pretence I fight of treasonous malice.

MACDUFF

And so do I.

ALL

So all.

Let's briefly put on manly readiness, and meet i' the hall together.

ALL

Well contented.

[Exeunt all but BANQUO]

BANQUO

Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weird women promised, and, I fear,
Thou play'dst most foully for't: yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity, but that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings.

If there come truth from them-- As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine--Why, by the verities on thee made good,

May they not be my oracles as well, And set me up in hope? But hush! no more.

[EXIT]