

thoughts.

- **Macbeth:** *if it were done when tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly* – Macbeth reflects that if he is going to kill Duncan then he needs to do it quickly. The “if” is hypothetical rather than certain and initiates the soliloquy, immediately signifying uncertainty. Still cannot say murder, evasive, avoiding saying the truth.
- **Macbeth:** *if the assassination could trammel up the consequence, and catch With his surcease success* – Macbeth would commit the murder if there could be no consequences.
- **Macbeth:** *But in these cases we still have judgment here* – Macbeth realises that he will be judged (and damned) by God if he commits the murder.
- **Macbeth:** *we teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return to plague the inventor* – Macbeth realises that murder will cause revenge. Macbeth fears that, if he murders the king, when he becomes king others will do the same and he will be murdered in return.
- **Macbeth:** *this even-handed justice commends th'ingredience of our poisoned chalice to our own lips* – eye for an eye, justice will ensure there is an even-handed response to the evil you have committed.
- **Macbeth:** *hath borne his faculties so meek hath been so clear in his great office* – reflects on what a great king Duncan has been. Macbeth will face an eternity of divine punishment due to the divine right of kings.
- **Macbeth:** *blow the horrid deed in every eye* – Macbeth thinks that after killing Duncan, heavens angels will make sure that everyone knows about the horror of the murder.
- **Macbeth:** *I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent* – Macbeth realises that he has the intent to kill Duncan, but no "spur" to goad him into action.
- **Macbeth:** *only vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself* – Macbeth recognises that his ambition is excessive.
- **Macbeth:** *we will proceed no further in this business: he hath honour'd me of late* – Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth that he doesn't want to go ahead with the murder.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *Was the hope drunk / Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since? / And Wakes it now to look so green and pale* – hope = courage. Suggesting cowardice.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *Art thou afeard to be the same in thine own act and valour as thou art in desire?* – Lady Macbeth questions whether Macbeth is afraid to display the same bravery in his actions as he has in his thoughts. Correlates with Macbeth's suggestion that their ambition is 'vaulting' or excessive.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *live a coward in thine own esteem* – Lady Macbeth suggests that if Macbeth doesn't kill Duncan he will have to live with himself as a coward.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *like the poor cat I'th'adage* – Lady Macbeth accuses Macbeth of allowing fear to get the better of his desire to kill Duncan – the adage being referred to is a proverb about a cat who wanted to fish but was afraid of water.
- **Macbeth:** *I dare do all that may become a man; who dares do more is none* – willing to do everything a real man would but any more is monstrous. Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth that killing Duncan won't make him a man; it will stop him from being human.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *when you durst do it, then you were a man* – challenging Macbeth's masculinity. Two conflicting ideas of masculinity, Macbeth thinks of masculinity as honour and morality, whereas Lady Macbeth thinks of it as the ability to kill.

- **Macbeth:** *Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill* – Macbeth realises that the more evil you do, the more evil you become, and the better you become at committing evil acts.

Scene 3:

- **Stage directions:** *Fleance escapes* – Banquo's prophecy may come true.

Scene 4:

- **Macbeth:** *'Tis better thee without, than he within* – better on your face than in his body.
- **Macbeth:** *I am cabined, cribbed, confined, bound in to saucy doubts and fears* – entrapment; compounded by plosive C sound.
- **First murderer:** *twenty trenched gashes on his head* – the murderer describes Banquo's mutilated corpse. Incredibly violent.
- **Macbeth:** *There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled / Hath nature that in time will venom breed* – Banquo is the serpent, Fleance the worm. Example of scorching the snake but not killing it.
- **Stage directions:** *enter the Ghost of Banquo and sits in Macbeth's place* – Banquo's descendants will unseat Macbeth. Unlike the dagger, the fact that this is specified in the stage directions suggests that we are supposed to believe the ghost is real. In Jacobean drama characters seeing ghosts is confirmation of their guilt.
- **Macbeth:** *Thou canst not say I did it; never shake thy gory locks at me* – talking to the ghost.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *this is the very painting of your fear* – just a visual representation of your fear. Lady Macbeth tells Macbeth that the ghost is just an imaginary projection of his fear and not a real ghost.
- **Macbeth:** *our monuments shall be the maws of kites* – a graphically macabre metaphor. Kites – known for vomiting up their food – same way the grave brings up the dead.
- **Macbeth:** *Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear [...] rhinoceros [...] tiger, take any shape thou that, and my firm nerves shall never tremble* – come at me like a bear or in any savage animal form and I'll be fine. He is only afraid of Banquo because he is a ghost and/or manifestation of his guilt. The supernatural scares him.
- **Macbeth:** *When now I think you can behold such sights, / And keep the natural ruby of your cheeks, / When mine is blanched with fear.*
- **Macbeth:** *it will have blood they say: blood will have blood* – revenge – chiasmus = symmetrical sentence. Revenge is inevitable for the deeds he has done.
- **Macbeth:** *stones have been known to move and trees to speak* – his disorder is reflected in the way he sees nature.
- **Macbeth:** *I am in blood stepped in so far that should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'er* – in a metaphorical river of blood. Unemotive when talking about acts of evil. Shakespeare is saying here that Macbeth has involved himself in so many murders that it is as easy for him to carry on as to turn back. Macbeth compares his course of action with wading across a river of blood, creating a vivid image of his bloody reign. The word tedious reveals the hardening of Macbeth's heart.
- **Macbeth:** *strange things I have in head that will to hand* – his thoughts will become actions.
- **Lady Macbeth:** *you lack the season of all natures, sleep* – peculiar irony; this anticipates her next and final appearance in 5.1 when she walks and talks in her sleep.

- **Macbeth: *we are yet but young in deed*** – we’ve only just begun. Macbeth's final line suggests his acceptance that he will commit further acts of evil.
- **Lexical field of disorder: “spoils” “tremble” “unreal” “displaced” “broke” “disorder” “at odds” “lack” “self-abuse”** – reiteration of disorder – this involved Macbeth’s own inner disorder and the disorder of nature in that Banquo’s ghost is there.

Scene 5:

- Scene believed to be written later by Thomas Middleton.
- **Hecate: *he will come to know his destiny*** - Hecate knows that Macbeth will come to see her tomorrow to learn more about his future.
- **Hecate: *as by the strength of their illusion, shall draw him on to his confusion*** – they plan to purposefully mislead him.
- **Hecate: *bear his hopes ‘bove wisdom, grace, and fear*** – he will be unreasonably optimistic.
- **Hecate: *security is mortals’ chiefest enemy*** – over-confidence is what often causes man to fail.

Scene 6:

- **Lennox: *whom you may say, if’t please you, Fleance killed*** – disbelief – highlights strong atmosphere of suspicion.
- **Lennox: *did he not straight in pious rage the two delinquents tear, that were the slaves of drink and thralls of sleep?*** – Heavy implication of Macbeth’s guilt. Associating Macbeth with murder.

Act 4:

- Macbeth, disturbed, visits the three witches once more and asks them to reveal the truth of their prophecies to him.
- To answer his questions, they summon horrific apparitions, each of which offers predictions and further prophecies to put Macbeth’s fears at rest.
- They conjure an armoured head to tell Macbeth to Beware Macduff, a bloody child that tells him that none of woman born can harm him, and a crowned child holding a tree states that Macbeth will be safe until Great Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane Hill.
- Macbeth is relieved and feels secure because he knows all men are of a woman born and forests cannot move.
- Macbeth also asks whether Banquo's sons will ever reign in Scotland; the witches conjure a procession of eight crowned kings, all similar in appearance to Banquo, and the last carrying a mirror that reflects even more kings.
- Macbeth realises these are all Banquo's descendants having acquired kingship in numerous countries.
- After the witches perform a mad dance and leave, Lennox enters and tells Macbeth that Macduff has fled to England.
- Macbeth orders Macduff’s castle to be seized and sends murderers to slaughter Macduff, as well as Macduff’s wife and children.
- Although Macduff is no longer in the castle, everyone in Macduff’s castle is put to death, including Lady Macduff and their young son.

Scene 1: