



The Tragedy of Macbeth

THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY

KING DUNCAN of Scotland
MALCOLM } his sons
DONALBAIN }
A CAPTAIN in Duncan's army
MACBETH, Thane of Glamis, later Thane of Cawdor, then King
of Scotland
A PORTER at Macbeth's castle
Three MURDERERS attending on Macbeth
SEYTON, servant of Macbeth
LADY MACBETH, Macbeth's wife
A DOCTOR of Physic } attending on Lady Macbeth
A Waiting-GENTLEWOMAN }
BANQUO, a Scottish thane
FLEANCE, his son
MACDUFF, Thane of Fife
LADY MACDUFF, his wife
MACDUFF'S SON
LENNOX }
ROSS } Scottish Thanes
ANGUS }
CAITHNESS }
MENTEITH
SIWARD, Earl of Northumberland
YOUNG SIWARD, his son
An English DOCTOR
HECATE, Queen of the Witches
Six WITCHES
Three APPARITIONS, one an armed head, one a bloody child,
one a child crowned
A SPIRIT LIKE A CAT
Other SPIRITS
An OLD MAN
A MESSENGER
MURDERERS
SERVANTS
A show of eight kings; Lords and Thanes, attendants, soldiers,
drummers

1.1

Thunder and lightning. Enter three WITCHES

FIRST WITCH When shall we three meet again?

In thunder, lightning, or in rain?¹

SECOND WITCH When the hurly-burly's^o done,

When the battle's lost and won.

THIRD WITCH That will be ere the set of sun.

tumult is

1.1 Location: An open place.

1. Witches were thought to be able to cause bad weather.

FIRST WITCH Where the place?
 SECOND WITCH Upon the heath.
 THIRD WITCH There to meet with Macbeth.
 FIRST WITCH I come, Grimalkin.
 SECOND WITCH Paddock² calls.
 THIRD WITCH Anon.^o At once
 10 ALL Fair is foul, and foul is fair,
 Hover through the fog and filthy air. Exeunt

1.2

*Alarum within. Enter KING [DUNCAN], MALCOLM, DON-
 ALBAIN, LENNOX, with attendants, meeting a bleeding
 CAPTAIN^o* staff officer

KING 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^o battle
 As thou didst leave it.
 CAPTAIN Doubtful it stood,
 As two spent^o swimmers that do cling together exhausted
 And choke their art.¹ The merciless Macdonald—
 10 Worthy to be a rebel, for to that^o that end
 The multiplying villainies of nature²
 Do swarm upon him—from the Western Isles^o Hebrides and Ireland
 Of kerns and galloglasses³ is supplied,
 And fortune on his damnèd quarry⁴ smiling
 15 Showed^o like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak, Appeared
 For brave Macbeth—well he deserves that name!^o— epithet
 Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel
 Which smoked with bloody execution,
 Like valour's minion^o favorite
 20 Carved out his passage till he faced the slave,^o (Macdonald)
 Which^o ne'er shook hands nor bade farewell to him Who
 Till he unseamed him from the navel to th' chops⁵
 And fixed his head upon our battlements.
 KING DUNCAN O valiant cousin,^o worthy gentleman! kinsman
 25 CAPTAIN As whence the sun 'gins his reflection⁶
 Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break,
 So from that spring^o whence comfort seemed to come source; (season)
 Discomfort swells.^o Mark, King of Scotland, mark. wells up
 No sooner justice had, with valour armed,
 30 Compelled these skipping^o kerns to trust their heels mobile; fleeing
 But the Norwegian lord, surveying vantage,^o seeing his chance
 With furbished^o arms and new supplies of men polished
 Began a fresh assault.
 KING DUNCAN Dismayed not this our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

2. Paddock, a toad, and Grimalkin, a gray cat, are the witches' familiars, or attendant evil spirits.

1.2 Location: A camp near the battlefield.

1. And confound their skill in swimming.

2. The evil aspects of his own nature; the villainous progeny of nature (the mercenaries).

3. kerns: lightly armed Irish foot soldiers. galloglasses: ax-wielding horsemen.

4. Its condemned victim. Fortune smiled temporarily on Macdonald, although it had already marked him for destruction. Many editions emend "quarry" to "quarrel."

5. Ripped him open from the navel to the jaw, as one would rip open the seam of a garment.

6. Begins its return after the spring equinox, thought to cause turbulent weather.

35 CAPTAIN Yes, as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion!
 If I say sooth I must report they were
 As cannons overcharged with double cracks,⁷
 So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.
 Except^o they meant to bathe in reeking wounds
 Or memorize another Golgotha,⁸ Unless
 I cannot tell—
 But I am faint. My gashes cry for help.

KING DUNCAN So well thy words become thee as thy wounds:
 They smack of honour both.—Go get him surgeons.
 [Exit CAPTAIN with attendants]

Enter ROSS and ANGUS
 Who comes here?

45 MALCOLM The worthy Thane^o of Ross.
 LENNOX What haste looks through his eyes! So should he look
 That seems to^o speak things strange. *seems about to*

ROSS God save the King.
 KING DUNCAN Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?
 ROSS From Fife, great King,
 Where the Norwegian banners flout^o the sky *mock*
 And fan our people cold.^o *cold with fear*
 Norway^o himself, with terrible numbers,
 Assisted by that most disloyal traitor *The King of Norway*
 The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal^o conflict,
 Till that^o Bellona's bridegroom,¹ lapped in proof,² *an ominous*
 55 Confronted him with self-comparisons,^o *Until*
 Point^o against point, rebellious arm 'gainst arm,
 Curbing his lavish^o spirit; and to conclude, *comparable deeds*
 The victory fell on us— *Swordpoint*
wild

KING DUNCAN Great happiness.
 ROSS That now
 Sweno, the Norway's^o king, craves composition;^o *Norwegians' / a truce*
 60 Nor would we deign him burial of his men
 Till he disbursed at Saint Colum's inch³
 Ten thousand dollars⁴ to our general use.

KING DUNCAN No more that Thane of Cawdor shall deceive
 Our bosom interest.⁵ Go pronounce his present^o death, *immediate*
 65 And with his former title greet Macbeth.

ROSS I'll see it done.
 KING DUNCAN What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.
 Exeunt severally^o *separately*

1.3

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 me,' quoth I.

7. Overloaded with double charges of gunpowder.
 8. Or make the battlefield as memorable as Golgotha, the "place of skulls" where Jesus was crucified.
 9. Title of Scottish nobility.
 1. Macbeth, imagined as husband to Bellona, the Roman goddess of war.
 2. Clad in tested armor.

3. Inchcolm, the island of St. Columba in the Firth of Forth.
 4. German and Spanish coins (first minted in the sixteenth century, five hundred years after the events of the play).
 5. Our closest concerns.
 1.3 Location: An open place.

- 5 'Aroint thee,^o witch,' the rump-fed runnion¹ cries. Begone
 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
 I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.
- 10 SECOND WITCH I'll give thee a wind.
 FIRST WITCH Thou'rt kind.
 THIRD WITCH And I another.
 FIRST WITCH I myself have all the other,^o others
 And the very ports they blow,^o blow from
 15 All the quarters^o that they know directions
 I'th' shipman's card.^o compass card
 I'll drain him dry as hay.
 Sleep shall neither night nor day
 Hang upon his penthouse lid.²
- 20 He shall live a man forbid.^o cursed
 Weary sennights^o nine times nine weeks
 Shall he dwindle, peak,^o and pine. waste away
 Though his barque cannot be lost,
 Yet it shall be tempest-tossed.
 Look what I have.
- 25 SECOND WITCH Show me, show me.
 FIRST WITCH Here I have a pilot's thumb,
 Wrecked as homeward he did come.
Drum within
- THIRD WITCH A drum, a drum—
 Macbeth doth come.
- 30 ALL [*dancing in a ring*] The weird³ sisters hand in hand, Swift travelers
 Posters^o of the sea and land,
 Thus do go about, about,
 Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
 And thrice again to make up nine.
- 35 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^o to Forres?[?]—What are these, said to be
 So withered, and so wild in their attire,
 That look not like th'inhabitants o'th' earth
 40 And yet are on't?[?]—Live you, or are you aught converse with
 That man may question?^o You seem to understand me chapped
 By each at once her choppy^o finger laying
 Upon her skinny lips. You should be women,
 And yet your beards forbid me to interpret
 That you are so.
- 45 MACBETH [*to the WITCHES*] 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, that shalt be king hereafter!
- BANQUO Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear
 50 Things that do sound so fair? [*To the WITCHES*] I'th' name of truth,
 Are ye fantastical^o or that indeed imaginary

1. The fat-rumped, mangy slut.

2. Eyelid, which projects out over the eye like the sloping roof of a penthouse.

3. F: "weyward," from the Old English "wyrd," meaning "fate."

Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner
 You greet with present grace° and great prediction
 Of noble having° and of royal hope,
 55 That he seems rapt withal.⁴ To me you speak not.
 If you can look into the seeds of time
 And say which grain will grow and which will not,
 Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear
 Your favours nor your hate.

60 FIRST WITCH Hail!
 SECOND WITCH Hail!
 THIRD WITCH Hail!

FIRST WITCH Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.
 SECOND WITCH Not so happy,° yet much happier.
 65 THIRD WITCH Thou shalt get° kings, though thou be none.
 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,
 70 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
 75 Upon this blasted° heath you stop our way
 With such prophetic greeting. Speak, I charge you.
 [*The*] 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 corporeal°
 80 Melted as breath into the wind. Would they had stayed.

BANQUO Were such things here as we do speak about,
 Or have we eaten on the insane root⁵
 That takes the reason prisoner?
 MACBETH Your children shall be kings.

BANQUO You shall be king.
 85 MACBETH And Thane of Cawdor too. Went it not so?
 BANQUO To th' self-same 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' sight
 90 His wonders and his praises do contend
 Which should be thine or his; silenced with that,⁶
 In viewing o'er the rest o'th' self-same day
 He finds thee in the stout Norwegian ranks,
 Nothing° afear'd of what thyself didst make,
 95 Strange images° of death. As thick as hail
 Came post° with post, and every one did bear
 Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,
 And poured them down before him.

ANGUS [*to* MACBETH] We are sent

title
estate

fortunate
beget

incomplete
Macbeth's father

possess / information
blighted

corporeal

considers
exploits

Not at all
forms
messenger

4. He seems entranced by these predictions.

5. Of the root causing insanity, possibly hemlock.

6. *His wonders . . . that*: Duncan does not know whether

to speak of his astonishment or his admiration, and so is silent.

- To give thee from our royal master thanks;
 100 Only to herald thee into his sight,
 Not pay thee.
- ROSS And, for an earnest^o of a greater honour, a pledge
 He bade me from him call thee Thane of Cawdor,
 In which addition,^o hail, most worthy thane, title
 For it is thine.
- 105 BANQUO What, can the devil speak true?
 MACBETH The Thane of Cawdor lives. Why do you dress me
 In borrowed robes?
- ANGUS Who was the thane lives yet,
 But under heavy judgement bears that life
 Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was combined^o allied
 110 With those of Norway, or did line the rebel^o support Macdonald
 With hidden help and vantage,^o or that with both benefit
 He laboured in his country's wrack,⁷ I know not;
 But treasons capital, confessed, and proved
 Have overthrown him.
- MACBETH [*aside*] Glamis, and Thane of Cawdor.
 115 The greatest is behind.^o [*To ROSS and ANGUS*] Thanks for your pains. to come
 [*To BANQUO*] Do you not hope your children shall be kings
 When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me
 Promised no less to them?
- BANQUO That, trusted home,^o completely
 Might yet enkindle^o you unto the crown, encourage
 120 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^o betray us
 In deepest consequence.
- 125 [*To ROSS and ANGUS*] Cousins, a word, I pray you.
 MACBETH [*aside*] Two truths are told
 As happy prologues to the swelling act⁸
 Of the imperial theme [*To ROSS and ANGUS*] I thank you, gentlemen. temptation
- 130 [*Aside*] This supernatural soliciting^o
 Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,
 Why hath it given me earnest of success
 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
 135 And make my seated heart knock at my ribs
 Against the use^o of nature? Present fears
 Are less than horrible imaginings.
 My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,⁹
 Shakes so my single state of man¹ that function^o custom
 140 Is smothered in surmise,^o and nothing is capacity to act
 But what is not. speculation
- BANQUO [*to ROSS and ANGUS*]
 Look how our partner's rapt.
- MACBETH [*aside*] If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me effort
 Without my stir.^o

7. He worked to bring about his country's ruin.

8. To the developing action, or climactic dramatic action.

9. In which murder is so far only a fantasy.

1. My undivided self. Macbeth feels that his wholeness is coming apart under the pressure of his criminal thought.

BANQUO [to ROSS and ANGUS]

New honours come upon him,
Like our strange° garments, cleave not to their mould°
But with the aid of use.

new / wearer's form

145 MACBETH [*aside*] Come what come may,
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.²

BANQUO Worthy Macbeth, we stay° upon your leisure.

MACBETH Give me your favour.° My dull brain was wrought°
With things forgotten. [To ROSS and ANGUS] Kind gentlemen,
your pains

*wait; attend
pardon / agitated*

150 Are registered° where every day I turn
The leaf to read them. Let us toward the King.

recorded (in my memory)

[*Aside to BANQUO*] Think upon what hath chanced, and at
more time,

The interim having weighed it, let us speak
Our free hearts° each to other.

unconcealed thoughts

155 BANQUO Very gladly.

MACBETH Till then, enough. [To ROSS and ANGUS] Come, friends.

Exeunt

1.4

*Flourish. Enter KING [DUNCAN], LENNOX, MALCOLM,
DONALBAIN, and attendants*

KING DUNCAN Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
Those in commission¹ yet returned?

MALCOLM My liege,
They are not yet come back. But I have spoke
With one that saw him die, who did report
That very frankly he confessed his treasons,
5 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.

*practiced
owned
an uncared-for*

KING DUNCAN There's no art
To find the mind's construction in the face.
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.

Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS

[To MACBETH] O worthiest cousin,
15 The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me! Thou art so far before°
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserved,
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
20 Might have been mine.² Only I have left to say,
'More is thy due than more than all can pay'.

ahead

MACBETH The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part
Is to receive our duties, and our duties

2. *Come . . . day:* What must happen will happen one way or another.

1.4 Location: A camp near the battlefield.

1. Those charged to execute Cawdor.

2. *That . . . mine:* That the King's rewards would be generously proportional to Macbeth's desert.

25 Are to your throne and state children and servants
Which do but what they should by doing everything
Safe toward^o your love and honour.

To safeguard

KING DUNCAN Welcome hither.

I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing.—Noble Banquo,
30 That hast no less deserved, nor must be known
No less to have done so, let me enfold thee
And hold thee to my heart.

BANQUO There if I grow
The harvest is your own.

KING DUNCAN My plenteous joys,
Wanton^o in fullness, seek to hide themselves
35 In drops of sorrow. Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest,^o know
We will establish our estate³ upon
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter
The Prince of Cumberland;⁴ which honour must
40 Not unaccompanied invest him only,⁵
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deservers. [To MACBETH] From hence to Inverness,^o
And bind us further to you.⁶

Unrestrained

nearest to the throne

Macbeth's estate

MACBETH The rest is labour which is not used for you.⁷
45 I'll be myself the harbinger,⁸ and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

KING DUNCAN My worthy Cawdor.

MACBETH [aside] The Prince of Cumberland—that is a step
On which I must fall down or else o'erleap,
50 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;⁹ yet let that be^o
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

Exit

be done

KING DUNCAN True, worthy Banquo, he is full so valiant,¹
55 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.

Flourish. Exeunt

1.5

Enter [LADY MACBETH,] with a letter

LADY MACBETH [reading] "They met me in the day of success,
and I have learned by the perfect'st^o report they have more in
them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to ques-
tion them further, they made themselves air, into which they
5 vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it came missives^o
from the King, who all-hailed me "Thane of Cawdor", by
which title before these weird sisters saluted me, and referred
me to the coming on of time with "Hail, King that shalt be!"

most accurate

messengers

3. We will settle the succession of the kingdom. At the time, the Scottish crown was not hereditary.

4. Title of the Scottish heir apparent.

5. *which . . . only*: honors will not be bestowed on Malcolm alone.

6. And make me further indebted to you by your hospitality.

7. Even repose seems wearisome when it is not dedicated to your purposes.

8. Forerunner; messenger sent ahead to arrange royal lodgings.

9. Let the eye deliberately ignore what the hand does.

1. As valiant as you say.

1.5 Location: Inverness, Macbeth's castle.

10 This have I thought good to deliver° thee, my dearest partner
of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing
by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it
to thy heart, and farewell. *inform*

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be
What thou art promised. Yet do I fear° thy nature. *doubt*

15 It is too full o'th' milk of human kindness
To catch the nearest° way. Thou wouldst be great, *most expedient*
Art not without ambition, but without
The illness° should attend it. What thou wouldst highly, *wickedness (that)*
That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false,
20 And yet wouldst wrongly win. Thou'dst have, great Glamis,
That which cries 'Thus thou must do' if thou have it,
And that which rather thou dost fear to do
Than wishest should be undone. Hie° thee hither, *Hasten*
That I may pour my spirits in thine ear
25 And chastise with the valour of my tongue
All that impedes thee from the golden round°
Which fate and metaphysical° aid doth seem
To have thee crowned withal.° *crown
supernatural
with*

Enter [a SERVANT]

What is your tidings?

SERVANT The King comes here tonight.

LADY MACBETH Thou'rt mad to say it.

30 Is not thy master with him, who, were't so,
Would have informed for preparation?

SERVANT So please you, it is true. Our thane is coming,
One of my fellows had the speed of° him, *outdistanced*
Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more
Than would make up his message.

35 LADY MACBETH Give him tending;
He brings great news. *Exit [SERVANT]*

The raven¹ himself is hoarse

That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
That tend on mortal° thoughts, unsex me here, *attend deadly*
40 And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty. Make thick my blood,
Stop up th'access and passage to remorse,° *pity*
That no compunctious visitings of nature
Shake my fell° purpose, nor keep peace° between *cruel / intervene*
45 Th'effect and it.² Come to my woman's breasts,
And take my milk for° gall, you murd'ring ministers,° *in exchange for / agents*
Wherever in your sightless° substances *invisible*
You wait on° nature's mischief. Come, thick night, *assist*
And pall° thee in the dunnest° smoke of hell, *envelop / darkest*
50 That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark
To cry 'Hold, hold!'

Enter MACBETH

Great Glamis, worthy Cawdor,
Greater than both by the all-hail hereafter,

1. The raven was considered a bird of ill omen.

2. My purpose and its accomplishment.

- Thy letters have transported me beyond
 55 This ignorant present, and I feel now
 The future in the instant.
- MACBETH My dearest love,
 Duncan comes here tonight.
- LADY MACBETH And when goes hence?
- MACBETH Tomorrow, as he purposes.
- LADY MACBETH O never
 Shall sun that morrow see.
- 60 Your face, my thane, is as a book where men
 May read strange matters. To beguile the time,
 Look like the time;³ bear welcome in your eye,
 Your hand, your tongue; look like the innocent flower,
 But be the serpent under't. He that's coming
 65 Must be provided for; and you shall put
 This night's great business into my dispatch,^o *management*
 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.^o *appear innocent*
- 70 To alter favour⁴ ever is to fear.
 Leave all the rest to me. *Exeunt*

1.6

Hautboys° and torches. Enter KING [DUNCAN], MAL- Oboes
 COLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS,
 ANGUS, and attendants

- KING DUNCAN This castle hath a pleasant seat.^o The air *location*
 Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
 Unto our gentle senses.
- BANQUO This guest of summer,
 The temple-haunting martlet,¹ does approve^o *prove*
 5 By his loved mansionry^o that the heavens' breath *nest building*
 Smells wooingly here. No jutting^o frieze, *projection*
 Buttress, nor coign of vantage^o but this bird *convenient corner*
 Hath made his pendant bed and procreant^o cradle; *for breeding*
 Where they most breed and haunt I have observed
 The air is delicate.
- Enter LADY [MACBETH]*
- 10 KING DUNCAN See, see, our honoured hostess!
 The love that follows us sometime is our trouble,
 Which still we thank as love.² Herein I teach you
 How you shall bid God 'ield us for your pains,
 And thank us for your trouble.³
- LADY MACBETH All our service
 15 In every point twice done, and then done double,
 Were^o poor and single^o business to contend *Would be / small*
 Against those honours deep and broad wherewith
 Your majesty loads our house. For those of old,
 And the late dignities heaped up to them,

3. To . . . *like the time*: To deceive the world, match your expression to the occasion.

4. To alter your facial expression and thereby arouse suspicion.

1.6 Location: Outside Macbeth's castle.

1. A bird, the martin, that often built its nest in churches.
 2. *The . . . love*: Love bestowed upon us sometimes causes us inconvenience, but we are still grateful for it.
 3. *How . . . trouble*: Ask God to reward ("yield") me for the trouble I cause you.

We rest your hermits.⁴

20 KING DUNCAN Where's the Thane of Cawdor?
 We coursed him at the heels,^o and had a purpose *followed him closely*
 To be his purveyor;⁵ but he rides well,
 And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp^o him *helped*
 To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,
 We are your guest tonight.

25 LADY MACBETH Your servants ever
 Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs in count^o *in trust*
 To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,
 Still to return your own.⁶

KING DUNCAN Give me your hand.
 Conduct me to mine host. We love him highly,
 30 And shall continue our graces towards him.
 By your leave,⁷ hostess. *Exeunt*

1.7

*Hautboys. Torches. Enter a sewer^o and divers servants
 with dishes and service over the stage. Then enter MACBETH.* *builder*

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:¹ that but this blow
 5 Might be the be-all and the end-all, here,^o *in this world*
 But here upon this bank and shoal² of time,
 We'd jump^o the life to come. But in these cases *risk*
 We still have judgement³ here, that^o we but teach *in that*
 Bloody instructions which, being taught, return
 10 To plague th'inventor. This even-handed^o justice *impartial*
 Commends th'ingredience^o of our poisoned chalice *contents*
 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,
 15 Who should against his murderer shut the door,
 Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan
 Hath borne his faculties^o so meek, hath been *authority*
 So clear^o in his great office, that his virtues *blameless*
 Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued against
 20 The deep damnation of his taking-off,^o *murder*
 And pity, like a naked new-born babe,
 Striding the blast,⁴ or heaven's cherubin, horsed
 Upon the sightless couriers⁵ of the air,
 Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye

4. We remain your beadsmen (monks hired to pray for their employers).
 5. Attendant who preceded the King when he traveled and procured foodstuffs for the royal party.
 6. *Your servants . . . own*: Your servants hold all that they have in trust from you, and they are always ready to settle accounts and return to you what is yours.
 7. By your permission. A request for permission to leave or perhaps for a formal kiss.
 1.7 Location: A courtyard or an anteroom in Macbeth's castle.
 1. *If th'assassination . . . success*: If only I could gain

success with Duncan's death (his "surcease"); if only the assassination were the end of the matter. *trammel up the consequence*: restrain the subsequent sequence of events, as in a trammel, or net.
 2. Sandbar. The mortal span is seen as a narrow piece of land in the river of time. F has "Schoole," and "bank" may also mean "bench," suggesting that life is a time of instruction and probation.
 3. We are invariably punished.
 4. Astride the storm provoked by Duncan's death.
 5. The invisible runners, the winds.

25 That tears shall drown the wind.⁶ I have no spur
To prick the sides of my intent, but only
Vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself
And falls on th'other.⁷

Enter LADY [MACBETH]

How now? What news?

LADY MACBETH He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?

MACBETH Hath he asked for me?

30 LADY MACBETH Know you not he has?

MACBETH We will proceed no further in this business.

He hath honoured me of late, and I have bought^o
Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest gloss,
Not cast aside so soon.

won

35 LADY MACBETH Was the hope drunk
Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since?

And wakes it now to look so green^o and pale
At what it did so freely? From this time
Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard

sickly

40 To be the same in thine own act and valour
As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that^o
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?⁸

(the crown)

45 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^o 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,^o and yet you would make both.

broach

50 They have made themselves, and that their fitness now
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know
How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me.
55 I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums
And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn
As you have done to this.

agree

MACBETH If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH We fail!⁹

60 But screw your courage to the sticking-place¹
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep—
Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
Soundly invite him—his two chamberlains^o
Will I with wine and wassail^o so convince^o
65 That memory, the warder^o of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt^o of reason

bedroom attendants
carousing / overpower
guard
receptacle

6. Tears will fall like heavy rain, which was believed to still the wind.

7. The other side. The image is of a rider vaulting over his horse instead of into his saddle, or of a horseman who clears a high obstacle but falls on the other side.

8. Proverbial: "The cat would eat fish but does not dare to wet her feet."

9. F: "faile?"

1. The notch on a crossbow that holds the string, which is cranked or screwed taut.

A limbeck² only. When in swinish sleep
 Their drenchèd natures lies as in a death,
 What cannot you and I perform upon
 70 Th'unguarded Duncan? What not put upon
 His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
 Of our great quell?^o

MACBETH Bring forth men-children only,
 For thy undaunted mettle^o should compose
 Nothing but males. Will it not be received,^o
 75 When we have marked with blood those sleepy two
 Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,
 That they have done't?

LADY MACBETH Who dares receive it other,
 As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
 Upon his death?

MACBETH I am settled, and bend up
 80 Each corporal^o agent to this terrible feat.
 Away, and mock^o the time with fairest show.
 False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Exeunt

murder

*substance
 believed*

*bodily
 deceive*