

**ACT III.**

**SCENE I.** Forres. A Room in the Palace.

Posterity- future generations	<u>Lineal- in succession</u>
<u>Verity- truth</u>	Rancor- ill will
Oracle- foreteller	<u>Probation- test of character or</u>
Indissoluble- firm	<u>truth</u>
Parricide- killing one's father	Predominant- having
Dauntless- brave	ascendancy over
Scepter- a rod that is a symbol of royalty	others
	Buffet- strike
	Sundry- various

[Enter Banquo.]

BANQUO.

Thou hast it now, king, Cawdor, Glamis, all,  
As the weird women promis'd; 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.  
[Sennet sounded. Enter Macbeth as King, Lady  
Macbeth as Queen; Lennox, Ross, Lords,  
Ladies, 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.

To-night we hold a solemn supper, sir,  
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.

MACBETH.

Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO.

Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH.

We should have else desir'd your good advice,  
Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,  
In this day's council; but we'll take to-morrow.  
Is't far you ride?

BANQUO.

As far, my lord, as will fill up the time  
'Twillt this and supper: go not my horse the better,  
I must become a borrower of the night,  
For a dark hour or twain.

MACBETH.

Fail not our feast.

BANQUO.

**What does Banquo believe about the way Macbeth gained the throne?**

D. What does Banquo hope for?

A. Does Banquo make any statement about possible actions he may take?

B. What is this friendly exchange about?

C. What kind of quality time is Banquo planning with Fleance, his son.

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  
With strange invention: but of that to-morrow;  
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.

MACBETH.

I wish your horses swift and sure of foot;  
And so I do commend you to their backs.  
Farewell.

[Exit Banquo.]

Let every man be master of his time  
Till seven at night; to make society  
The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself  
Till supper time alone: while then, God be with  
you!

[Exeunt Lady Macbeth, Lords, Ladies,

&c.]

Sirrah, a word with you: attend those men  
Our pleasure?

ATTENDANT.

They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

MACBETH.

Bring them before us.

[Exit Attendant.]

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  
dares;

And, to that dauntless temper of his mind,  
He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour  
To act in safety. There is none but he  
Whose being I do fear: and under him,  
My genius is rebuk'd; 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 hail'd him father to a line of kings:  
Upon my head they plac'd a fruitless crown,  
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,  
Thence to be wrench'd with an unlineal hand,  
No son of mine succeeding. If't be so,  
For Banquo's issue have I fill'd my mind;  
For them the gracious Duncan have I murder'd;  
Put rancours 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 seed of Banquo kings!  
Rather than so, come, fate, into the list,

D. What news does Macbeth tell us?

A. Come back to this little speech after reading a page or two farther. Why does Macbeth really want people to spend time on their own?

**What is Macbeth deciding upon in this speech?**

B. What is "thus"? What does Macbeth want now that he is king?

C. What two qualities does Banquo possess that make Macbeth fear him?

D. What angers Macbeth about what the witches told Banquo?

A. What precious things has Macbeth given up by killing Duncan?

B. What is Macbeth willing to fight to get the best of Banquo?

And champion me to the utterance! Who's there?

[Re-enter Attendant, with two Murderers.]

Now go to the door, and stay there till we call.

[Exit Attendant.]

Was it not yesterday we spoke together?

FIRST MURDERER.

It was, so please your highness.

MACBETH.

Well then, now

Have you consider'd of my speeches? Know

That it was he, in the times past, which held you

So under fortune; which you thought had been

Our innocent self: this I made good to you

In our last conference, pass'd in probation with you

How you were borne in hand, how cross'd, the

instruments,

Who wrought with them, and all things else that

might

To half a soul and to a notion craz'd

Say, "Thus did Banquo."

FIRST MURDERER.

You made it known to us.

MACBETH.

I did so; and went further, which is now

Our point of second meeting. Do you find

Your patience so predominant in your nature,

That you can let this go? Are you so gospell'd,

To pray for this good man and for his issue,

Whose heavy hand hath bow'd you to the grave,

And beggar'd yours forever?

FIRST MURDERER.

We are men, my liege.

MACBETH.

Ay, in the catalogue ye go for men;

As hounds, and greyhounds, mongrels, spaniels,

curs,

Shoughs, water-rugs, and demi-wolves are cleft

All by the name of dogs: the valu'd file

Distinguishes the swift, the slow, the subtle,

The house-keeper, the hunter, every one

According to the gift which bounteous nature

Hath in him clos'd; 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' the worst rank of manhood, say it;

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.

SECOND MURDERER.

I am one, my liege,

Whom the vile blows and buffets of the world

Have so incens'd that I am reckless what

C. In an effort to convince these men to murder Banquo, what did Macbeth tell them in their conference yesterday?

D. What is Macbeth asking about the murderers' characters in this speech?

A. What lines in Act I Scene III does this line recall? How is the situation of this scene similar to an earlier one between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth?

B. What earlier line by Lady Macbeth helps us understand why Macbeth should choose dogs for his extended metaphor in this speech?

C. What argument is Macbeth using on the two murderers? With what argument does the second murderer respond?

I do to spite the world.  
**FIRST MURDERER.**  
 And I another,  
 So weary with disasters, tugg'd 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.

**BOTH MURDERERS.**  
 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 barefac'd power sweep him from my sight,  
 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;  
 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.

**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' the time,  
 The moment on't; for't must be done to-night  
 And something from the palace; always thought  
 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  
 Than is his father's, must embrace the fate  
 Of that dark hour. Resolve yourselves apart:  
 I'll come to you anon.

**BOTH MURDERERS.**  
 We are resolv'd, my lord.

**MACBETH.**  
 I'll call upon you straight: abide within.  
 [Exeunt Murderers.]  
 It is concluded: Banquo, thy soul's flight,  
 If it find heaven, must find it out to-night.  
 [Exit.]

D. Why does Macbeth explain to the murderers why he does not just kill Banquo himself?

**What are the details of the plan?**

A. How is this murder different from the murder of Duncan in its motives, planning, and execution? What do these differences suggest about Macbeth?

B. If Macbeth kills every man with Banquo's qualities, what sort of people will fill the nation he rules? What are the implications of this idea?

**ACT III SCENE II.** Another Room in the Palace.

Affliction- misery

Assail- attack

Eminence- high rank

Cloistered- hidden

Vizard- mask

Levy- mercenary army

[Enter Lady Macbeth and a Servant.]

LADY MACBETH.

Is Banquo gone from court?

SERVANT.

Ay, madam, but returns again to-night.

LADY MACBETH.

Say to the king, I would attend his leisure

For a few words.

SERVANT.

Madam, I will.

[Exit.]

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,

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 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. Duncan is in his grave;

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;

Gently my lord, sleek o'er your rugged looks;

Be bright and jovial 'mong your guests to-night.

MACBETH.

So shall I, love; and so, I pray, be you:

Let your remembrance apply to Banquo;

Present him eminence, 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,

**Though Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have gained what they wanted, they are not happy. What do they say in this scene is the reason for their discontent?**

C. Compare Lady Macbeth's thoughts about having nothing and spending all to what she proclaimed to her husband in Act I Scene VII. What is she learning about desire?

D. What does Lady Macbeth mean by "that which we destroy" and by "doubtful joy"?

A. You and the audience know what Macbeth had been doing for the last few minutes. It was not what Lady Macbeth thinks. Why does she think this, and what does her presumption suggest about her own state of mind?

B. Where have you heard this before?

C. How do these lines prove that Macbeth and Lady Macbeth think alike?

D. What "both worlds" is Macbeth willing to have suffer?

A. How does this news remind us of Macbeth's experiences immediately after killing Duncan?

B. What lines earlier in this scene do these echo? What is the significance of the repetition?

C. Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth to honor a person whom Macbeth knows will not be at the banquet. What does this suggest about the nature of their relationship? Why does Macbeth not share with her what he has done?

Disguising what they are.

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;  
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown  
His cloister'd flight, ere to black Hecate's summons,  
The shard-borne 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?

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  
Which keeps me pale! Light thickens; and the crow  
Makes wing to the rooky wood:  
Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;  
Whiles night's black agents to their preys do rouse.  
Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still;  
Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill:  
So, pr'ythee, go with me.

[Exeunt.]

**ACT III SCENE III.** The same. A Park or Lawn, with  
a gate leading to the Palace.

[Enter three Murderers.]

FIRST MURDERER.

But who did bid thee join with us?

THIRD MURDERER.

Macbeth.

SECOND MURDERER.

He needs not our mistrust; since he delivers  
Our offices and what we have to do  
To the direction just.

FIRST MURDERER.

Then stand with us.  
The west yet glimmers with some streaks of day:  
Now spurs the lated traveller apace,  
To gain the timely inn; and near approaches  
The subject of our watch.

THIRD MURDERER.

Hark! I hear horses.

BANQUO.

[eterne- eternal.]

D. How is the language of this passage and the next different?  
What is Lady Macbeth's reaction to this? What is Macbeth  
feeling?

A. What two meanings of the word "innocent" apply here?  
What two things, then, does this line mean?

B. How has Lady Macbeth been reacting to her husband?

**How are Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's thoughts about  
themselves and about each other different from what they  
were in Act I?**

C. What does the second murderer believe about the third  
murderer? If the second murderer is right, what does it suggest  
about Macbeth?

[Within.] Give us a light there, ho!  
**SECOND MURDERER.**  
 Then 'tis he; the rest  
 That are within the note of expectation  
 Already are i' the court.  
**FIRST MURDERER.**  
 His horses go about.  
**THIRD MURDERER.**  
 Almost a mile; but he does usually,  
 So all men do, from hence to the palace gate  
 Make it their walk.  
**SECOND MURDERER.**  
 A light, a light!  
**THIRD MURDERER.**  
 'Tis he.  
**FIRST MURDERER.**  
 Stand to't.  
 [Enter Banquo, and Fleance with a torch.]  
**BANQUO.**  
 It will be rain to-night.  
**FIRST MURDERER.**  
 Let it come down.  
 [Assaults Banquo.]  
**BANQUO.**  
 O, treachery! Fly, good Fleance, fly, fly, fly!  
 Thou mayst revenge. O slave!  
 [Dies. Fleance escapes.]  
**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.  
**SECOND MURDERER.**  
 We have lost best half of our affair.  
**FIRST MURDERER.**  
 Well, let's away, and say how much is done.  
 [Exeunt.]

**SCENE IV.** The same. A Room of state in the Palace.  
 A banquet prepared.

Degree- rank	Kite- hawk
Casing- covering	Purge- cleanse by emptying
Venom- poison	Weal- prosperity of the state
Vouch- provide proof	Infirmity- weakness
Maw - mouth, throat, and stomach	<u>Initiate- beginner</u>

[Enter Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Ross, Lennox, Lords, and Attendants.]

**MACBETH.**  
 You know your own degrees: sit down. At first  
 And last the hearty welcome.  
**LORDS.**  
 Thanks to your majesty.  
**MACBETH.**

**Why must Fleance escape? What does his escape say about Macbeth's attempt to challenge fate?**

**What prevents Macbeth and Lady Macbeth from enjoying one of the greatest pleasures of being king and queen, the chance to be the highest people at a festive gathering?**

D. How do people know where to sit at such occasions, and what earlier speeches does this simple announcement recall?

<p>Ourself will mingle with society,  And play the humble host.  Our hostess keeps her state; but, in best time,  We will require her welcome.</p> <p>LADY MACBETH.  Pronounce it for me, sir, to all our friends;  For my heart speaks they are welcome.</p> <p>MACBETH.  See, they encounter thee with their hearts' thanks.  Both sides are even: here I'll sit i' the midst:  [Enter first Murderer to the door.]  Be large in mirth; anon we'll drink a measure  The table round. There's blood upon thy face.</p> <p>MURDERER.  'Tis Banquo's then.</p> <p>MACBETH.  'Tis better thee without than he within.  Is he dispatched?</p> <p>MURDERER.  My lord, his throat is cut; that I did for him.</p> <p>MACBETH.  Thou art the best o' the cut-throats; yet he's good  That did the like for Fleance: if thou didst it,  Thou art the nonpareil.</p> <p>MURDERER.  Most royal sir,  Fleance is 'scap'd.</p> <p>MACBETH.  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:  But now I am cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in  To saucy doubts and fears. But Banquo's safe?</p> <p>MURDERER.  Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he bides,  With twenty trenched gashes on his head;  The least a death to nature.</p> <p>MACBETH.  Thanks for that:  <u>There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled</u>  <u>Hath nature that in time will venom breed,</u>  <u>No teeth for the present.</u> Get thee gone; to-morrow  We'll hear, ourselves, again.  [Exit Murderer.]</p> <p>LADY MACBETH.  My royal lord,  You do not give the cheer: the feast is sold  That is not often vouch'd, while 'tis a-making,  'Tis given with welcome; to feed were best at home;  From thence the sauce to meat is ceremony;  Meeting were bare without it.</p> <p>MACBETH.  Sweet remembrancer!  Now, good digestion wait on appetite,  And health on both!</p>	<p>A How is Macbeth showing humility by sitting with his thanes?</p> <p>B. How does the entrance make plain the falseness of Macbeth's playing the host?</p> <p>C. What metaphor does Macbeth use to express his feelings after learning that Fleance is escaped?</p> <p>D. <u>What metaphor in the last scene do we return to here?</u></p> <p>A. What, in simple terms, is Lady Macbeth asking Macbeth to do?</p>
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LENNOX.

May't please your highness sit.

[The Ghost of Banquo rises, and sits in Macbeth's place.]

MACBETH.

Here had we now our country's honor roof'd,  
Were the grac'd person of our Banquo present;  
Who may I rather challenge for unkindness  
Than pity for mischance!

ROSS.

His absence, sir,  
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 reserv'd, sir.

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?

MACBETH.

Thou canst not say I did it: never shake  
Thy gory locks at me.

ROSS.

Gentle men, 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;  
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. Are you a man?

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,  
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,  
Authoriz'd by her grandam. Shame itself!  
Why do you make such faces? When all's done,  
You look but on a stool.

MACBETH.

Pr'ythee, see there! behold! look! lo! how say you?  
Why, what care I? If thou canst nod, speak too.

B. Though Lennox and Ross point to an empty seat, what is Macbeth seeing?

C. Clearly, what happens at this moment?

D. Why is this Macbeth's first reaction?

**How is this hallucination different from the earlier ones?**

A. What follows is another installment in Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's ongoing argument about what makes a man. What is this one about?

B. Now brave enough to talk to the ghost, what does Macbeth say he will do with the dead from now on?

If charnel houses and our graves must send  
Those that we bury back, our monuments  
Shall be the maws of kites.

[Ghost disappears.]

LADY MACBETH.

What, quite unmann'd in folly?

MACBETH.

If I stand here, I saw him.

LADY MACBETH.

Fie, for shame!

MACBETH.

Blood hath been shed ere now, i' the olden time,  
Ere humane statute purg'd the gentle weal;  
Ay, and since too, murders have been perform'd  
Too terrible for the ear: the time has been,  
That, when the brains were out, the man would die,  
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,  
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  
all;  
Then I'll sit down. Give me some wine, fill full.  
I drink to the general joy o' the whole table,  
And to our dear friend Banquo, whom we miss:  
Would he were here! to all, and him, we thirst,  
And all to all.

LORDS.

Our duties, and the pledge.  
[Ghost rises again.]

MACBETH.

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  
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.

MACBETH.

What man dare, I dare:  
Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear,  
The arm'd rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger;  
Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves  
Shall never tremble: or be alive again,  
And dare me to the desert with thy sword;  
If trembling I inhabit then, protest me  
The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow!

C. What does Macbeth complain about the world he has helped create with his murders?

D. How does Macbeth explain his behavior to the assembled guests?

A. How is this speech a variation on the earlier lines, "Present fears are less than horrible imaginings" (I.iii – pages 7-8)?

Unreal mockery, hence!

[Ghost disappears.]

Why, so; being gone,

I am a man again. Pray you, sit still.

LADY MACBETH.

You have displaced the mirth, broke the good meeting,

With most admir'd disorder.

MACBETH.

Can such things be,

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,

When mine are blanch'd 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:

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!

[Exeunt all Lords and Attendants.]

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 magot-pies, and choughs, and rooks, brought 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?

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 to-morrow,

(And betimes I will) to the weird sisters:

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

Step't in so far that, should I wade no more,

Returning were as tedious as go o'er:

[Note how the ghost obeys Macbeth throughout the scene.]

B. What addition to the list of things Macbeth cannot do is this?

C. Why must Lady Macbeth interrupt at this moment?

D. What does this pithy saying mean?

A. How does Macbeth run his kingdom?

B. Sketch out the metaphor Macbeth uses here. What resolution has Macbeth come to after the experience of this evening?

Strange things I have in head, that will to hand;  
Which must be acted ere they may be scann'd.

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:  
We are yet but young in deed.

[Exeunt.]

**ACT III SCENE V.** The heath.

[Thunder. Enter the three Witches, meeting Hecate.]

FIRST WITCH.

Why, how now, Hecate? you look angrily.

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;  
And I, the mistress of your charms,  
The close contriver of all harms,  
Was never call'd to bear my part,  
Or show the glory of our art?  
And, which is worse, all you have done  
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  
Meet me i' the morning: thither he  
Will come to know his destiny.  
Your vessels and your spells provide,  
Your charms, and everything beside.  
I am for the air; this night I'll spend  
Unto a dismal and a fatal end.  
Great business must be wrought ere noon:  
Upon the corner of the moon  
There hangs a vaporous drop profound;  
I'll catch it ere it come to ground:  
And that, distill'd 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  
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear:  
And you all know, security  
Is mortals' chiefest enemy.

[Music and song within, "Come away, come away" &c.]

Hark! I am call'd; my little spirit, see,  
Sits in a foggy cloud and stays for me.

[Exit.]

C. At the end of the evening, how does Macbeth explain to himself the reason for his hallucination, and, therefore, what is the cure?

[Many editors believe someone other than Shakespeare wrote this scene. They point to the awkward verse and to the lack of substance. They believe such a scene gave the company a chance for the kind of spectacle the audience liked. All we have done with this scene is to underline a few lines that seem to outline the remaining scenes in the play. You might want to consider them.]

FIRST WITCH.

Come, let's make haste; she'll soon be back again.

[Exeunt.]

ACT III SCENE VI. Forres. A Room in the Palace.

Thrall- slave                      Homage- honor  
Bestows- gives as a gift      Pine- wish for

[Enter Lennox and another Lord.]

LENNOX.

My former speeches have but hit your thoughts,  
Which can interpret further: only, I say,  
Things have been strangely borne. The gracious  
Duncan

Was pitied of Macbeth: marry, he was dead:  
And the right valiant Banquo walk'd too late;  
Whom, you may say, if't please you, Fleance kill'd,  
For Fleance fled. Men must not walk too late.  
Who cannot want the thought, how monstrous  
It was for Malcolm and for Donalbain  
To kill their gracious father? Damned 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;  
For 'twould have anger'd 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  
find

What 'twere to kill a father; so should Fleance.  
But, peace! for from broad words, and 'cause he  
fail'd

His presence at the tyrant's feast, I hear,  
Macduff lives in disgrace. Sir, can you tell  
Where he bestows himself?

LORD.

The son of Duncan,  
From whom this tyrant holds the due of birth,  
Lives in the English court and is receiv'd  
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:  
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,  
All which we pine for now: and this report  
Hath so exasperate the king that he  
Prepares for some attempt of war.

LENNOX.

**Like the scene that closes Act II, this scene shows us the political climate in Scotland. What do these thanes believe about Macbeth's reign?**

D. What is the tone of Lennox's speech as he reviews the events of the play?

A. Who is Macbeth's next victim?

B. What has Malcolm been doing in England? Why is Macduff going to England?

C. How do these lines suggest that what the king suffers the country suffers?

Sent he to Macduff?

LORD.

He did: and with an absolute "Sir, not I,"  
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, to hold what distance  
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 accurs'd!

LORD.

I'll send my prayers with him.  
[Exeunt.]

**How did Macduff respond to the messenger who carried Macbeth's request for help in preparing for war?**

[Note how the restoring of the Scottish throne to its rightful heir, Malcolm, is talked of in religious terms throughout the rest of the play.]

**What, in addition to his guilt, will Macbeth have to deal with soon?**