

MACBETH

Act 5 Scene 3

Dunsinane. A room in the castle.

Enter MACBETH, 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:
'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
Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.
Enter a 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!

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 counsellors to fear. What soldiers, whey-face?

Servant: The English force, so please you.

MACBETH: Take thy face hence.

[Exit Servant.]

Seyton!--I am sick at heart,
When I behold--Seyton, I say!--this push
Will cheer me ever, or disseat me now.
I have lived long enough: my way of life
Is fall'n into the sear, the yellow leaf;
And that which should accompany old age,
As honour, love, obedience, troops of friends,
I must not look to have; but, in their stead,
Curses, not loud but deep, mouth-honour, breath,
Which the poor heart would fain deny, and dare not.
Seyton!

Enter SEYTON.

Macbeth makes clear his belief in the witches' predictions. They have all come true so far. Unfortunately for him, he continues to misinterpret them.

References to the image and language of colour.

- Black = evil
- Cream-faced=cowardly

Macbeth's words now become more philosophical as he is forced to confront the reality of death.

Would the actor playing the role of **Macbeth** want to evoke the audience's sympathy towards his situation or not?

What would the implications of this scene be if **Macbeth** is to become a 'morality play'?

How would you want **Macbeth** to deliver these lines?

Is he brave or foolish at this point?

The images are of autumn and **Macbeth's** 'withered' life.

Do you detect a change in **Macbeth's** tone? Has he become demoralised and/or weary or battered?

MACBETH

Act 5 Scene 3

Macbeth's determination and stubborn nature has returned. He has little choice but to fight in order to keep the kingship, which he has taken via wrongful means.

Macbeth is concerned about his wife.

Macbeth asks the Doctor if he can give Lady Macbeth any treatment for her mental disturbances.

The Doctor says that in these cases a patient must heal him or herself: there is no presented cure.

SEYTON: What is your gracious pleasure?

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 armour.

SEYTON: 'Tis not needed yet.

MACBETH: I'll put it on.

Send out more horses; skirr the country round;

Hang those that talk of fear. Give me mine armour.

How does your patient, doctor?

Doctor: Not so sick, my lord,

As she is troubled with thick coming fancies,

That keep her from her rest.

MACBETH: Cure her of that.

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased,

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?

Doctor: Therein the patient

Must minister to himself.

MACBETH: Throw physic to the dogs; I'll none of it.

Come, put mine armour on; give me my staff.

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

(To an attendant) I would applaud thee to the very echo,

That should applaud again.--Pull't off, I say.--

(To the Doctor) What rhubarb, senna, or what purgative drug,

Would scour these English hence? Hear'st thou of them?

The doctor points out that Lady Macbeth is not suffering from any physical disorders or illnesses. He suggests that she is very unwell, because the stress caused by mad imaginings is preventing her from sleeping.

Macbeth appears to ignore what the Doctor has just said and instead asks him if there is any cure for Scotland's disease (i.e. the forthcoming attack). Macbeth appears to have forgotten his wife completely in his preparation for battle.

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Macbeth continues to misinterpret the predictions of the witches. He thinks he is safe because he does not believe it is possible for a forest to walk towards him. Little does he know that a hoard of soldiers will chop down the forest and carry it up Dunsinane hill. They intend to use the tree materials to camouflage themselves.

The **Doctor** continues to feel very uncomfortable in the presence of **Macbeth**. He suggests that no matter what **Macbeth** pays him, he wishes that he was far away from him now.

Doctor: Ay, my good lord; your royal preparation
Makes us hear something.

MACBETH: Bring it after me. ----- (To an attendant)
I will not be afraid of death and bane,
Till Birnam forest come to Dunsinane.
[Exeunt all but Doctor]

Doctor: Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,
Profit again should hardly draw me here.
[Exit.]

The **Doctor** has heard about **Macbeth's** preparations for the battle.

Macbeth hastens away with an attendant still helping him into his armour.