

### 'Macbeth': Key Quotations

**1.2.16, Captain:** 'For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name...unseamed him from the knave to th'chaps...'

**1.2.38, Captain (about Macbeth and Banquo):** 'So they doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.'

One of our first 'double' references – link to Macbeth's 'charmed life'...

**1.2.67, Duncan:** 'What he (Thane of Cawdor) hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.'

**1.3.36, Macbeth:** 'So foul and fair a day I have not seen.'

**1.3.37, Banquo:** 'What are these/So withered and so wild in their attire,/ That look not like th'inhabitants o'th'earth/And yet are on't?'

**1.3.46, Witches:** 'All hail Macbeth, hail to thee, Thane of Glamis/Thane of Cawdor/that shalt be king hereafter.'

**1.3.63, Witches (to Banquo):** 'Lesser than Macbeth, and greater'; 'Not so happy, yet much happier'; 'Thou shalt get king, though thou be none.'

Link to Macbeth's robes 'hanging' from him – first pressure of time due to 'borrowed'.

**1.3.106, Macbeth:** 'The Thane of Cawdor lives. Why do you dress me/In borrowed robes?'

**1.3.122, Banquo:** '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.'

**1.3.127, Macbeth:** 'Two truths are told...This supernatural soliciting/Cannot be ill, cannot be good...make my seated heart knock at my ribs/Against the use of nature? Present fears/Are less than horrible imaginings./My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical/Shakes so my single state of man...Nothing is/But what is not.'

'Nature' and 'fantastical' - key themes of the play.

**1.3.42, Banquo:** 'New honours come upon him/Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould,/But with the aid of use.'

**1.4.12, Duncan:** 'There's no art/To find the mind's construction in the face.'

Irony of it being Duncan who realises this...

**1.4.48, Macbeth:** 'that is a step/On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap...Stars, hide your fires,/Let not light see my black and deep desires...'

**1.5.14, Lady Macbeth:** 'yet I do fear they nature,/It is too full o'th'milk of human kindness...Thou wouldst be great,/Art not without ambition, but without/The illness should attend it...I may pour my spirits in thine ear...Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem/To have thee crowned withal.'

Echoes Macbeth's 'nature' and 'fantastical'.

**1.5.39, Lady Macbeth:** 'unsex me here/And fill me from the crown to the toe topfull/Of direst cruelty...pall thee in the dunkest smoke of hell,/That my keen knife see not the wound it makes...'

Irony that she does see it and this drives her insane.

**1.5.63, Lady Macbeth:** 'look like th'innocent flower,/But be the serpent under't.'

**1.7.1, Macbeth:** 'If the'assassination/Could trammel up the consequence and catch/With his surcease, success...Blood instructions, which being taught, return/To plague th'inventor...this Duncan/Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been/So clear in his great office, that his

virtues/Will plead like angels..I have no spur/To prick the sides of my intent, but only/Vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself...'

Second reference to 'o'erleaps' but change in meaning.

**1.7.41, Lady Macbeth:** 'Wouldst thou have that/Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life,/And live a coward in thine own esteem...'

**1.7.49, Lady Macbeth:** 'When you durst do it, then you were a man...I would, while it was smiling in my face,/Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums/And dashed the brains out...'

**1.7.72, Macbeth (to Lady Macbeth):** 'Bring forth men children only,/For thy undaunted mettle should compose/Nothing but males.'

Echoing Duncan's earlier statement.

**1.7.82, Macbeth:** 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know.'

**2.1.33, Macbeth:** 'Is this a dagger...A dagger of the mind, a false creation...heat oppressed brain...Mine eyes are made the fool o'th'other senses...Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse/The curtained sleep...it is a knell/That summons thee to heaven or to hell.'

**2.2.1, Lady Macbeth:** 'What hath quenched them, hath given me fire.'

Contrary character, going against conventions.

**2.2.12, Lady Macbeth:** 'Had he not resembled/My father as he slept, I had done't.'

**2.2.31, Macbeth:** 'I could not say 'Amen'/When they did say 'God bless us'.'

**2.2.39, Macbeth:** 'Macbeth does murder sleep...(sleep is the) Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,/Chief nourisher in life's feast.'

This is why Lady Macbeth cannot recover.

**2.2.48, Lady Macbeth:** 'You do unbend your noble strength to think/So brain-sickly of things.'

**2.2.63, Macbeth:** 'Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood/Clean from my hand?'

Both show diverging attitudes which will switch around later.

**2.2.67, Lady Macbeth:** 'My hands are of your colour, but I shame/To wear a heart so white...A little water clears us of this deed.'

**2.3.13, Porter:** 'But this place is too cold for hell. I'll devil-porter it no further...'

**2.3.46, Lennox:** 'The night has been unruly...Some say, the earth/Was feverous, and did shake.'

Defiance of the natural order/divine right of kings.

**2.3.103, Macbeth:** 'Th'expedition of my violent love/Outran the pauser, reason.'

**2.3.133, Donaldbain:** 'There's daggers in men's smiles...'

Foreshadowing Macbeth's demise.

**2.4.28, Ross:** 'Thrifless ambition that will ravin up/Thine own life's means.'

**3.1.49, Macbeth:** 'To be thus is nothing,/but to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo/Stick deep...(the witches) put a barren sceptre in my gripe...'

**3.1.140, Macbeth:** 'Banquo, thy soul's flight,/If it find heaven, must find it out tonight.'

**3.2.13, Macbeth:** 'We have scorched the snake, not killed it...Duncan is in his grave./After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well...'

**3.2.36, Macbeth:** 'O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!'

N.B. 1.1.1 = Act One, Scene One, Line One

**3.4.29, Macbeth (about Banquo and Fleance):** 'There the grown serpent lies; the worm that's fled/Hath nature that in time will venom breed...'

**3.4.50, Macbeth (to Banquo's ghost):** 'Thou canst not say I did it; never shake/Thy gory locks at me!'

**3.4.61, Lady Macbeth:** 'This is the very painting of your fear;/This is the air-drawn dagger...'

**3.4.108, Macbeth:** 'I am a man again.'

**3.4.122, Macbeth:** 'It will have blood they say, blood will have blood.'

**3.4.136, Macbeth:** 'I am in blood/Stepped in so far that should I wade no more,/Returning were as tedious as go o'er.'

**3.4.141, Lady Macbeth:** 'You lack the season of all natures, sleep.'

Irony.

**3.4.144, Macbeth:** 'We are yet but young in deed.'

**3.6.49, Lennox:** 'return to this our suffering country/Under a hand accursed.'

**4.1.45, Witch:** 'Something wicked this way comes...'

**4.1.70, Prophecies:** 'beware Macduff/Beware the Thane of Fife...Be bloody, bold and resolute; laugh to scorn/The power of man, for none of woman born/Shall harm Macbeth...Macbeth shall never vanquished be until/Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane hill/Shall come against him.'

**4.1.97, Macbeth:** '...our high-placed Macbeth/Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath/To time and mortal custom.'

**4.1.143, Macbeth:** 'Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits...The very firstlings of my heart shall be/The very firstlings of my hand...This deed (murdering the Macduff family) I'll do before this purpose cool.'

Moving from hesitant to impulsive, knows time is against him.

**4.2.55, Son:** 'Then the liars and swearers are fools, for there are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest men and hang them up.'

**4.2.72, Lady Macduff:** 'I am in this earthly world where to do harm/Is often laudable, to do good sometime/Accounted dangerous folly.'

**4.3.39, Macduff:** 'I think our country sinks beneath the yoke;/It weeps, it bleeds...'

**4.3.57, Malcolm:** 'I grant him (Macbeth) bloody,/Luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful,/Sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin/That has a name. But there's no bottom, none,/In my voluptuousness...'

**4.3.216, Malcolm:** 'Let's make us med'cines of our great revenge/To cure this deadly grief.'

**4.3.225, Macduff:** 'But I must also feel it as a man.'

Macduff is naturally what Macbeth isn't.

**4.3.236, Malcolm:** 'Be this the whetstone of your sword, let grief/Convert to anger. Blunt not the heart, enrage it.'

**5.1.8, Doctor:** 'A great perturbation in nature, to receive at once the benefit of sleep and do the effects of watching.'

N.B. 1.1.1 = Act One, Scene One, Line One

**5.1.19, Gentlewoman:** 'She has light by her continually, 'tis her command.'

**5.1.30, Lady Macbeth:** 'Out, damned spot! ...none can call our power to account...Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?'

**5.1.37, Lady Macbeth:** 'Will these hands ne'er be clean?'

**5.1.42, Lady Macbeth:** '...all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.'

**5.1.57, Lady Macbeth:** '...what's done cannot be undone.'

**5.1.61, Doctor:** '...unnatural deeds/Do breed unnatural troubles; infected minds/To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets./More needs she the divine than the physician.'

**5.2.13, Caithness:** 'Some say he's (Macbeth) mad; others that lesser hate him/Do call it valiant fury...'

Macbeth's duality: noble soldier (start of the play) vs. tyrant.

**5.2.16, Angus:** 'Now does he fell/His secret murders sticking on his hands...Now does he feel his title/Hang loose about him, like a giant's robe/Upon a dwarfish thief.'

**5.3.9, Macbeth:** 'The mind I sway by and the heart I bear/Shall never sag with doubt nor shake with fear.'

**5.3.32, Macbeth:** 'I'll fight till from my bones my flesh be hacked.'

**5.5.9, Macbeth:** 'I have almost forgot the taste of fears...I have supped full with horrors;/Direness familiar to my slaughterous thoughts/Cannot once start me'

**5.5.18, Macbeth:** 'Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow/Creeps in this petty pace from day to day/To the last syllable of recorded time...Out, out brief candle,/Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player/That struts and frets his hour upon the stage/And then is heard no more.'

**5.5.41, Macbeth:** 'I pull in resolution and begin/To doubt th'equivocation of the fiend/That lies like truth.'

**5.7.1, Macbeth:** 'They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,/But bear-like I must fight the course.'

**5.7.9, Young Siward:** 'The devil himself could not pronounce a title (Macbeth's)/More hateful to mine ear.'

**5.8.12, Macbeth:** 'I bear a charmed life which must not yield/To one of woman born.'

**5.8.15, Macduff:** 'Macduff was from his mother's womb/Untimely ripped.'

The unnatural combatting Macbeth's unnatural deeds.

**5.8.18, Macbeth:** '...it hath cowed my better part of man;/And be these juggling fiends no more believed/That palter with us in a double sense...'

**5.8.32, Macbeth:** 'Before my body,/I throw my warlike shield.'

**5.9.35, Malcolm:** 'Producing forth the cruel ministers/Of this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen...'