

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 5, Scene 8

Chivalry

Situation: Having marched on Dunsinane, carrying boughs from Birnam Wood as camouflage, Macduff, Malcolm, and Siward drop their branches outside the castle walls. They storm the Dunsinane castle where Macbeth and young Siward have just had a duel-to-the-death, Macbeth having slain the young Siward.

MACBETH: Why should I play the Roman fool and die on mine own sword?

Macduff enters

MACDUFF: I have no words; my voice is in my sword.

They fight.

MACBETH: I must not yield to one of woman born.

MACDUFF: Let the angel whom thou still hast served tell thee Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped.

Macbeth to Macduff

As easy mayst thou wound air with thy
Keen sword as make me bleed. A charmed life I
Have borne, told not to fear one of woman
Born, yet despair hearing thou untimely
Ripped from your mother's womb. Sisters that can
Juggle false words in a double sense be
Accursed. I'll fight thee yet. I'm no coward;
To live to be the sideshow. Mark my word,
You'll not post, "Here may you see the tyrant."
I'll not kiss the ground at Malcolm's feet nor
Be baited with a mob's curse. Nay, I can't!
Though Birnam Wood be come and with thee war,
Yet I will try the last. Lay on, Macduff,
And damned be him that first cries "Hold! Enough!"

They fight and Macbeth is slain. Macduff exits with the body. Malcolm, Siward and others enter.