

Macbeth abbreviated

Act 2, Scene 1

Fear

Situation: Sometime past midnight, Macbeth, in his castle at Inverness, on his way to murder King Duncan, unexpectedly meets up with Banquo. Increasing the stress level for Macbeth, Banquo gives him a diamond to be given to his wife, a gift to the lady from King Duncan.

Macbeth and a servant enter.

BANQUO: Give me my sword. Who goes there?

MACBETH: A friend.

BANQUO: What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's abed. This diamond he greets your wife withal, by the name of most kind hostess.

He gives Macbeth a diamond.

BANQUO: I dreamt last night of the three Weird Sisters.

MACBETH: I think not of them. Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve, we would spend it in some words upon that business.

BANQUO: At your kind'st leisure.

Banquo and Fleance exit.

MACBETH TO HIS SERVANT: Go bid thy mistress, when my drink is ready, she strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

Servant exits.

Macbeth to himself, No. 2

Is this a dagger I see before me,
The handle to my hand? Let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, or art thou an imagined
Dagger, as palpable as this I will
Now draw. Thou marshal'st me as I planned
To go, with such a tool I plan to use.
And now blood on the blade! Is this a ruse
To mine eye or a sign of the bloody
Business ahead? Hear not my sure steps; one
Loose stone tells of me. The bell invites me
To this horror. I go and it is done.
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.