

# Macbeth abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 7

## Introspection

**Situation:** Having deferred to his wife's plan to murder King Duncan, Macbeth questions himself and the serious implications associated with the plan. He worries over his proposed role. She's strong and confident. He's cautious and skeptical.

MACBETH: If it were done when 'tis done, then, 'twere well it were done quickly.

Macbeth to himself, No. 1

If we know th' assassination might  
Be the be-all and end-all here this night,  
In this brief shoal of time, we'd jump the life  
To come. Teaching a bloody lesson can  
Return to plague th' teacher, being rife  
With risk. He's here in double trust: kinsman  
I, his subject and his host. O, what's more  
I should 'gainst his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife! Duncan hath borne his skill  
So meek and hath been in his office so  
Clear. Rushing tears from this horrid deed will  
Drown the wind; trumpet-tongued angels will crow  
His virtues. Vaulting ambition may be  
Here my intent, but could fall back on me.

MACBETH: I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition.

Lady Macbeth enters.

LADY MACBETH: He hath almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?

MACBETH: Hath he asked for me?

LADY MACBETH: Know you not he has?

MACBETH: We will proceed no further in this business. He hath honored me of late, and I have bought golden opinions from all sorts of people, which would be worn now in their newest gloss, not cast aside so soon.