

## Macbeth abbreviated

Act 3, Scene 1

### Introspection

**Situation:** Macbeth has murdered King Duncan and by now has been crowned king. He reflects on the witches' prophesy that Banquo "shall get kings" but not be one. He decides to preempt that prophesy by having Banquo and Fleance murdered, Fleance being Banquo's only child.

MACBETH: Tonight we hold a solemn supper, sir, and I'll request your presence.

BANQUO: My duties are with a most indissoluble tie.

MACBETH: Ride you this afternoon?

BANQUO: Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH: Is 't far you ride?

BANQUO: I must become a borrower of the night, for a dark hour or twain.

MACBETH: We hear our bloody cousins are bestowed in England and in Ireland, not confessing their cruel parricide, filling their hearers with strange invention. But of that tomorrow. Goes Fleance with you?

BANQUO: Ay, my good lord.

Banquo exits.

MACBETH: Let every man be master of his time till seven at night.

All but Macbeth and a servant exit.

MACBETH: Attend those men our pleasure?

SERVANT: They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

MACBETH: Bring them before us.

Servant exits.

### Macbeth to himself, No. 3

To be king, must be safely thus. A king  
Would be feared, yet fear of Banquo doth sting  
Us deep. 'Tis much he dares and hath a mind  
That doth guide him in safety. He chide the  
Sisters who hailed his issue kings. I find  
Him the being I do fear. They placed a  
Barren scepter in my grip and fruitless  
Crown on my head to be wrenched, leaving us  
No son to succeed. Have I defiled my  
Mind with this murder for Banquo's issue?  
Have I here exchanged peace for rancor by  
This for them? As not to give my soul to  
The devil, all men's foe, in vain, I'll bring  
In fate to deny seeds of Banquo king.