

Macbeth

3.5

Thunder. Enter the three Witches meeting Hecate

FIRST WITCH

Why, how now, Hecate? You look angrily.

HECATE

Have I not reason, beldams as you are?
Saucy and over-bold, how did you dare
To trade and traffic with Macbeth
In riddles and affairs of death, 5
And I, the mistress of your charms,
The close contriver of all harms,
Was never called to bear my part
Or show the glory of our art?±±
And, which is worse, all you have done 10
Hath been but for a wayward son,
Spiteful and wrathful, who, as others do,
Loves for his own ends, not for you.
But make amends now. Get you gone,
And at the pit of Acheron 15
Meet me i'th' morning. Thither he
Will come to know his destiny.
Your vessels and your spells provide,
Your charms and everything beside.
I am for th'air. This night I'll spend 20
Unto a dismal and a fatal end.
Great business must be wrought ere noon.
Upon the corner of the moon
There hangs a vap'rous drop profound.
I'll catch it ere it come to ground, 25
And that, distilled by magic sleights,
Shall raise such artificial sprites
As by the strength of their illusion
Shall draw him on to his confusion.
He shall spurn fate, scorn death, and bear 30
His hopes 'bove wisdom, grace, and fear;
And you all know security
Is mortals' chiefest enemy.

SPIRITS *(singing dispersedly within)*

Come away, come away.

Hecate, Hecate, come away.

35

HECATE

Hark, I am called! My little spirit, see,
Sits in a foggy cloud and stays for me.

The Song

SPIRITS *[within]*

Come away, come away,
Hecate, Hecate, come away.

HECATE

I come, I come, I come, I come,
With all the speed I may,
With all the speed I may.
Where's Stadlin?

40

SPIRIT *[within]* Here.

HECATE

Where's Puckle?

ANOTHER SPIRIT *[within]*

Here.

OTHER SPIRITS *[within]*

And Hoppo, too, and Hellwain, too,
We lack but you, we lack but you.
Come away, make up the count.

45

HECATE

I will but 'noint, and then I mount.

[Spirits appear above.] A Spirit like a Cat descends

SPIRITS *[above]*

There's one comes down to fetch his dues,
A kiss, a coll, a sip of blood,
And why thou stay'st so long I muse, I muse,
Since the air's so sweet and good.

50

HECATE

O, art thou come? What news, what news?

SPIRIT LIKE A CAT

All goes still to our delight.
Either come, or else refuse, refuse.

HECATE

Now I am furnished for the flight.
She ascends with the spirit and sings
Now I go, now I fly,

55

Malkin my sweet spirit and I.
[SPIRITS AND HECATE]
 O what a dainty pleasure 'tis
 To ride in the air
 When the moon shines fair, 60
 And sing, and dance, and toy, and kiss.
 Over woods, high rocks and mountains,
 Over seas and misty fountains,
 Over steeples, towers and turrets,
 We fly by night 'mongst troops of spirits. 65
 No ring of bells to our ears sounds,
 No howls of wolves, no yelps of hounds.
 No, not the noise of waters-breach
 Or cannons' throat our height can reach.
SPIRITS *[above]*
 No ring of bells to our ears sounds, 70
 No howls of wolves, no yelps of hounds.
 No, not the noise of waters-breach
 Or cannons' throat our height can reach.
Exeunt into the heavens the
Spirit like a Cat and Hecate
FIRST WITCH
 Come, let's make haste. She'll soon be back again.
Exeunt