

Macbeth

4.1

A Cauldron. Thunder. Enter the three Witches

FIRST WITCH

Thrice the brinded cat hath mewed.

SECOND WITCH

Thrice, and once the hedge-pig whined.

THIRD WITCH

Harpier cries `Tis time, 'tis time.'

FIRST WITCH

Round about the cauldron go,
In the poisoned entrails throw.
Toad that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one
Sweltered venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first i'th' charmeÁd pot.

5

ALL

Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

10

SECOND WITCH

Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the cauldron boil and bake.
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

15

ALL

Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

20

THIRD WITCH

Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravined salt-sea shark,
Root of hemlock digged i'th' dark,
Liver of blaspheming Jew,
Gall of goat, and slips of yew
Slivered in the moon's eclipse,

25

Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips,
 Finger of birth-strangled babe 30
 Ditch-delivered by a drab,
 Make the gruel thick and slab.
 Add thereto a tiger's chaudron
 For th'ingredience of our cauldron.

ALL
 Double, double, toil and trouble, 35
 Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

SECOND WITCH
 Cool it with a baboon's blood,
 Then the charm is firm and good.
Enter Hecate and the other three Witches

HECATE
 O, well done! I commend your pains,
 And everyone shall share i'th' gains. 40
 And now about the cauldron sing
 Like elves and fairies in a ring,
 Enchanting all that you put in.
Music and a song

HECATE
 Black spirits and white, red spirits and grey,
 Mingle, mingle, mingle, you that mingle may. 45

FOURTH WITCH
 Titty, Tiffin, keep it stiff in;
 Firedrake, Puckey, make it lucky;
 Liard, Robin, you must bob in.

ALL
 Round, around, around, about, about,
 All ill come running in, all good keep out. 50

FOURTH WITCH
 Here's the blood of a bat.

HECATE
 Put in that, O put in that!

FIFTH WITCH
 Here's leopard's bane.

HECATE
 Put in a grain.

FOURTH WITCH
 The juice of toad, the oil of adder. 55

FIFTH WITCH

Those will make the younker madder.

HECATE

Put in, there's all, and rid the stench.

A WITCH

Nay, here's three ounces of a red-haired wench.

ALL

Round, around, around, about, about,
All ill come running in, all good keep out. 60

SECOND WITCH

By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.

[Knock within]

Open, locks, whoever knocks.

Enter Macbeth

MACBETH

How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags,
What is't you do?

ALL THE WITCHES A deed without a name. 65

MACBETH

I conjure you by that which you profess,
Howe'er you come to know it, answer me.
Though you untie the winds and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yeasty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up, 70
Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down,
Though castles topple on their warders' heads,
Though palaces and pyramids do slope
Their heads to their foundations, though the treasure
Of nature's germens tumble all together 75
Even till destruction sicken, answer me
To what I ask you.

FIRST WITCH Speak.

SECOND WITCH Demand.

THIRD WITCH We'll answer.

FIRST WITCH

Say if thou'dst rather hear it from our mouths
Or from our masters.

MACBETH Call 'em, let me see 'em.

FIRST WITCH

Pour in sow's blood that hath eaten 80
Her nine farrow; grease that's sweaten

From the murderer's gibbet throw
Into the flame.

ALL THE WITCHES Come high or low,
Thyself and office deftly show.

Thunder. First Apparition: an armed head

MACBETH

Tell me, thou unknown power±±

FIRST WITCH

He knows thy thought. 85

Hear his speech, but say thou naught.

FIRST APPARITION

Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, beware Macduff,
Beware the Thane of Fife. Dismiss me. Enough.

Apparition descends

MACBETH

Whate'er thou art, for thy good caution thanks.
Thou hast harped my fear aright. But one word
more±±

90

FIRST WITCH

He will not be commanded. Here's another,
More potent than the first.

Thunder. Second Apparition: a bloody child

SECOND APPARITION Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth.

MACBETH Had I three ears I'd hear thee.

SECOND APPARITION

Be bloody, bold, and resolute. Laugh to scorn
The power of man, for none of woman born
Shall harm Macbeth.

95

Apparition descends

MACBETH

Then live, Macduff±±what need I fear of thee?
But yet I'll make assurance double sure,
And take a bond of fate thou shalt not live,
That I may tell pale-hearted fear it lies,
And sleep in spite of thunder.

100

*Thunder. Third Apparition: a child crowned, with a
tree in his hand*

What is

this

That rises like the issue of a king,
And wears upon his baby-brow the round
And top of sovereignty?

ALL THE WITCHES Listen, but speak not to't. 105

THIRD APPARITION

Be lion-mettled, proud, and take no care
Who chafes, who frets, or where conspirers are.
Macbeth shall never vanquished be until
Great Birnam Wood to high Dunsinane Hill
Shall come against him.

Apparition descends

MACBETH That will never be. 110

Who can impress the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? Sweet bodements, good!
Rebellious dead, rise never till the wood
Of Birnam rise, and on's high place Macbeth
Shall live the lease of nature, pay his breath 115
To time and mortal custom. Yet my heart
Throbs to know one thing. Tell me, if your art
Can tell so much, shall Banquo's issue ever
Reign in this kingdom?

ALL THE WITCHES Seek to know no more.

MACBETH

I will be satisfied. Deny me this, 120
And an eternal curse fall on you! Let me know.

The cauldron sinks. Hautboys

Why sinks that cauldron? And what noise is this?

FIRST WITCH Show.

SECOND WITCH Show.

THIRD WITCH Show. 125

ALL THE WITCHES

Show his eyes and grieve his heart,
Come like shadows, so depart.

*A show of eight kings, the last with a glass in his
hand; and Banquo*

MACBETH

Thou art too like the spirit of Banquo. Down!
Thy crown does sear mine eyeballs. And thy hair,
Thou other gold-bound brow, is like the first. 130
A third is like the former. Filthy hags,
Why do you show me this?±±A fourth? Start, eyes!
What, will the line stretch out to th' crack of doom?
Another yet? A seventh? I'll see no more±±

And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass 135
Which shows me many more; and some I see
That twofold balls and treble sceptres carry.
Horrible sight! Now I see 'tis true,
For the blood-baltered Banquo smiles upon me,
And points at them for his.
Exeunt kings and Banquo

What, is this

so? 140

[HECATE]

Ay, sir, all this is so. But why
Stands Macbeth thus amazedly?
Come, sisters, cheer we up his sprites,
And show the best of our delights.
I'll charm the air to give a sound 145
While you perform your antic round,
That this great king may kindly say
Our duties did his welcome pay.

Music. The Witches dance, and vanish

MACBETH

Where are they? Gone? Let this pernicious hour
Stand aye accursed in the calendar. 150
Come in, without there.

Enter Lennox

LENNOX What's your grace's will?

MACBETH

Saw you the weird sisters?

LENNOX No, my lord.

MACBETH

Came they not by you?

LENNOX No, indeed, my lord.

MACBETH

Infected be the air whereon they ride,
And damned all those that trust them. I did hear 155
The galloping of horse. Who was't came by?

LENNOX

'Tis two or three, my lord, that bring you word
Macduff is fled to England.

MACBETH Fled to England?

LENNOX Ay, my good lord.

MACBETH *(aside)*

Time, thou anticipat'st my dread exploits. 160

The flighty purpose never is o'ertook
Unless the deed go with it. From this moment
The very firstlings of my heart shall be
The firstlings of my hand. And even now,
To crown my thoughts with acts, be it thought and
done: 165

The castle of Macduff I will surprise,
Seize upon Fife, give to th'edge o'th' sword
His wife, his babes, and all unfortunate souls
That trace him in his line. No boasting like a fool;
This deed I'll do before this purpose cool. 170
But no more sights! (To Lennox) Where are these
gentlemen?

Come bring me where they are.

Exeunt