

Macbeth – Act III

Scene i

Forres. A room in the palace.

Banquo expresses his suspicion of Macbeth, and wonders if the witches' predictions will come true for himself, as they have for Macbeth. Macbeth questions Banquo about the ride he's taking and insists he return in time for a banquet that night. Macbeth persuades two Murderers that Banquo is their enemy, then sends them out to kill Banquo and his son, Fleance.

Scene ii

The same. Another room.

Lady Macbeth and Macbeth both envy the peaceful dead, who sleep in peace, while they, who have everything, live in constant fear of losing everything. Macbeth reassures Lady Macbeth that their problems will be solved by a terrible deed to be done in the night.

Scene iii

The same. A park, with a road leading to the palace.

A third Murderer joins the first two. Banquo is killed, but Fleance escapes.

Scene iv

A room of state in the palace.

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth welcome the guests to their banquet. Macbeth hears from First Murderer that Banquo is dead, but Fleance has escaped. The bloody Ghost of Banquo—which only Macbeth can see—appears among the guests. When his guests are gone, Macbeth tells his wife he's going to find out why Macduff didn't attend their banquet. Then he hints that he may have to shed more blood, and decides he will speak to the witches again.

Scene v

The heath.

The three witches appear with Hecate, who scolds them for having dealings with Macbeth without including her. Hecate tells them that Macbeth is coming to see them the next morning, and then they will show him some magic that will mislead him to his own destruction.

Scene vi

Somewhere in Scotland.

Lennox and another Lord have a conversation which shows that they have seen through Macbeth's lies and know that he is responsible for the murder of Banquo and King Duncan. They also wish Macduff well, because he has gone to England for help in freeing Scotland from the tyrant Macbeth.