

ORIGINAL TEXT

MACBETH

If we should fail?

LADY MACBETH

We fail?

60 But screw your courage to the sticking-place,
 And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep—
 Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey
 Soundly invite him—his two chamberlains
 Will I with wine and wassail so convince
 65 That memory, the warder of the brain,
 Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
 A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep
 Their drenchèd natures lie as in a death,
 What cannot you and I perform upon
 70 The unguarded Duncan? What not put upon
 His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
 Of our great quell?

MACBETH

Bring forth men-children only,

For thy undaunted mettle should compose

Nothing but males: Will it not be received,

75 When we have marked with blood those sleepy two
 Of his own chamber and used their very daggers,
 That they have done 't?

MODERN TEXT

MACBETH

But if we fail—

LADY MACBETH

We, fail? If you get your courage up, we can't fail. When
 Duncan is asleep—the day's hard journey has definitely
 made him tired—I'll get his two servants so drunk that
 their memory will go up in smoke through the chimneys
 of their brains. When they lie asleep like pigs, so drunk
 they'll be dead to the world, what won't you and I be able
 to do to the unguarded Duncan? And whatever we do,
 we can lay all the blame on the drunken servants.

MACBETH

May you only give birth to male children, because your
 fearless spirit should create nothing that isn't masculine.
 Once we have covered the two servants with blood, and
 used their daggers to kill, won't people believe that they
 were the culprits?

Lady Macbeth
 plans to make
 the guards
 drunk and
 blame the
 murder on
 them

ORIGINAL TEXT

LADY MACBETH

Who dares receive it other,

As we shall make our griefs and clamor roar
 Upon his death?

MACBETH

I am settled, and bend up

80 Each corporal agent to this terrible feat.
 Away, and mock the time with fairest show:
 False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

Exeunt

MODERN TEXT

LADY MACBETH

Who could think it happened any other way? We'll be
 grieving loudly when we hear that Duncan has died.

MACBETH

Now I'm decided, and I will exert every muscle in my
 body to commit this crime. Go now, and pretend to be a
 friendly hostess. Hide with a false pleasant face what
 you know in your false, evil heart.

They exit.

Macbeth is
 both awed
 and somewhat
 frightened of
 Lady Macbeth's
 "mettle" - her
 toughness

Macbeth decides to do the terrible act of killing Duncan
 • Once more, fair = foul → he talks about "false face"
 to hide their evil plans

ORIGINAL TEXT

Enter **BANQUO**, and **FLEANCE**, with a torch before him

BANQUO
How goes the night, boy?

FLEANCE
The moon is down. I have not heard the clock.

BANQUO
And she goes down at twelve.

FLEANCE
I take 't 'tis later, sir.

BANQUO
Hold, take my sword. There's husbandry in heaven;
Their candles are all out. Take thee that too.
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep. **Merciful powers,**
Restrain in me the cursèd thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose.

Enter **MACBETH** and a **SERVANT** with a torch

Give me my sword. Who's there?

MACBETH

A friend.

BANQUO

What, sir, not yet at rest? The king's a-bed.

He hath been in unusual pleasure, and
Sent forth great largess to your offices.

This diamond he greets your wife withal,

By **the name of most kind hostess,** and shut up
In measureless content.

MACBETH

Being unprepared,

Our will became the servant to defect,

Which else should free have wrought.

MODERN TEXT

BANQUO enters with **FLEANCE**, who lights the way with a torch.

BANQUO
How's the night going, boy?

FLEANCE
The moon has set. The clock hasn't struck yet.

BANQUO
The moon sets at twelve, right?

FLEANCE
I think it's later than that, sir.

BANQUO
Here, take my sword. The heavens are being stingy with their light. Take this, too. I'm tired and feeling heavy, but I can't sleep. Merciful powers, keep away the nightmares that plague me when I rest!

MACBETH enters with a **SERVANT**, who carries a torch.

Give me my sword. Who's there?

MACBETH

A friend.

BANQUO

You're not asleep yet, sir? The king's in bed. He's been in an unusually good mood and has granted many gifts to your household and servants. This diamond is a present from him to your wife for her boundless hospitality. (he hands **MACBETH** a diamond)

MACBETH

Because we were unprepared for the king's visit, we weren't able to entertain him as well as we would have wanted to.

No.

Date . . .

Banquo seems devout/religious - he prays for sleep without nightmares

The diamond from Duncan = ironic (because it is a gift to thank Lady Macbeth for being such a great hostess).

Macbeth says he feels unprepared to properly host Duncan. But, he may also feel unprepared for what he is about to do to Duncan.

ORIGINAL TEXT

BANQUO

All's well.

I dreamt last night of the three weird sisters:

20 To you they have showed some truth.

MACBETH

I think not of them.

Yet, when we can entreat an hour to serve,
We would spend it in some words upon that
business,
If you would grant the time.

BANQUO

At your kind'st leisure.

MACBETH

25 If you shall cleave to my consent, when 'tis,
It shall make honor for you.

BANQUO

So I lose none

In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchised and allegiance clear,
I shall be counselled.

MACBETH

Good repose the while!

BANQUO

30 Thanks, sir: the like to you!

Exeunt BANQUO and FLEANCE

MACBETH

(to the SERVANT) Go bid thy mistress, when my
drink is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.

Exit SERVANT

Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch
35 thee.

I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible

To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but

A dagger of the mind, a false creation,

40 Proceeding from the heat-oppresed brain?

I see thee yet, in form as palpable

As this which now I draw.

Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,

And such an instrument I was to use.

45 Mine eyes are made the fools o' th' other senses,

Or else worth all the rest. I see thee still,

And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood,

MODERN TEXT

BANQUO

Everything's OK. I had a dream last night about the three
witches. At least part of what they said about you was
true.

MACBETH

I don't think about them now. But when we have an hour
to spare we can talk more about it, if you're willing.

BANQUO

Whenever you like.

MACBETH

If you stick with me, when the time comes, there will be
something in it for you.

BANQUO

I'll do whatever you say, as long as I can do it with a clear
conscience.

MACBETH

Rest easy in the meantime.

BANQUO

Thank you, sir. You do the same.

BANQUO and FLEANCE exit.

MACBETH

(to the SERVANT) Go and tell your mistress to strike the
bell when my drink is ready. Get yourself to bed.

The SERVANT exits.

Is this a dagger I see in front of me, with its handle
pointing toward my hand? (to the dagger) Come, let me
hold you. (he grabs at the air in front of him without
touching anything) I don't have you but I can still see
you. Fateful apparition, isn't it possible to touch you as
well as see you? Or are you nothing more than a dagger
created by the mind, a hallucination from my fevered
brain? I can still see you, and you look as real as this
other dagger that I'm pulling out now. (he draws a
dagger) You're leading me toward the place I was going
already, and I was planning to use a weapon just like
you. My eyesight must either be the one sense that's not
working, or else it's the only one that's working right. I
can still see you, and I see blood splashes on your
blade and handle that weren't there before. (to himself)

Macbeth lies to
Banquo to
avoid suspicion

Macbeth's comment
relates both to the
subject of meeting
to talk, but also
to his future plans
of becoming king +
needing a
right-hand man

Banquo is concerned
more with loyalty
than with climbing
to a higher status

No Fear Shakespeare: Macbeth: Act 2, Scene

1/28/2017

Which was not so before. There's no such thing.
 It is the bloody business which informs
 50 Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world
 Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse
 The curtained sleep. Witchcraft celebrates
 Pale Hecate's offerings, and withered murder,
 Alarumed by his sentinel, the wolf,
 55 Whose howl's his watch, thus with his stealthy pace,
 With **Tarquin's ravishing strides**, towards his design
 Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
 Hear not my steps, which way they walk, for fear
 Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts,
 60 And take the present horror from the time,
 Which now suits with it. Whiles I threat, he lives.
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.

There's no dagger here. It's the murder I'm about to do that's making me think I see one. Now half the world is asleep and being deceived by evil nightmares. Witches are offering sacrifices to their goddess Hecate. Old man murder, having been roused by the howls of his wolf, walks silently to his destination, moving like Tarquin, as quiet as a ghost. (speaking to the ground) Hard ground, don't listen to the direction of my steps. I don't want you to echo back where I am and break the terrible stillness of this moment, a silence that is so appropriate for what I'm about to do. While I stay here talking, Duncan lives. The more I talk, the more my courage cools.

Act 2, Scene 1, Page 2

Macbeth's soliloquy:

- He thinks at first that he may be going crazy
- The dagger seems to "lead the way" to murder
- He questions his eyesight; wondering if he has supernatural abilities for a split second
- Tarquin = allusion to Sextus Tarquinius, who raped Lucretia, another man's wife (his cousin's wife), after she received him as a guest
- Apostrophe = addresses the earth (feels like he is being watched)
- Personification = the stones "prate" (talk) about where he is - he hopes they don't "give him away"
- Deeds = hot, breath (words) = cold; the more he talks, the less he wants to kill Duncan.

Act 2, Scene 1, Page 3

ORIGINAL TEXT

A bell rings

I go, and it is done. **The bell invites me.**
 Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
 That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

Exit

MODERN TEXT

A bell rings.

I'm going now. The murder is as good as done. The bell is telling me to do it. Don't listen to the bell, Duncan, because it summons you either to heaven or to hell.

MACBETH exits.

• Personification = bell

ORIGINAL TEXT

Enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

That which hath made them drunk hath made me bold.

What hath quenched them hath given me fire.

Hark! Peace! It was the owl that shrieked, the fatal bellman,

Which gives the stern'st good-night. He is about it.

The doors are open, and the surfeited grooms

Do mock their charge with snores. I have drugged their possets,

That death and nature do contend about them,

Whether they live or die.

MACBETH

(within) Who's there? What, ho!

LADY MACBETH

Alack, I am afraid they have awaked.

10 And 'tis not done. Th' attempt and not the deed

Confounds us. Hark! I laid their daggers ready;

He could not miss 'em. Had he not resembled

My father as he slept, I had done 't.

Enter MACBETH, with bloody daggers

My husband!

MACBETH

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

LADY MACBETH

15 I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.

Did not you speak?

MACBETH

When?

MODERN TEXT

LADY MACBETH enters.

LADY MACBETH

The alcohol that got the servants drunk has made me bold.

The same liquor that quenched their thirst has

fired me up. Listen! Quiet! That was the owl that

shrieked, with a scary "good night" like the bells they

ring before they execute people. Macbeth must be

killing the king right now. The doors to Duncan's

chamber are open, and the drunk servants make a

mockery of their jobs by snoring instead of protecting

the king. I put so many drugs in their drinks that you

can't tell if they're alive or dead.

MACBETH

(from offstage) Who's there? What is it?

LADY MACBETH

Oh no, I'm afraid the servants woke up, and the murder

didn't happen. For us to attempt murder and not

succeed would ruin us. (She hears a noise.) Listen to

that! I put the servants' daggers where Macbeth would

find them. He couldn't have missed them. If Duncan

hadn't reminded me of my father when I saw him

sleeping, I would have killed him myself.

MACBETH enters carrying bloody daggers.

My husband!

MACBETH

I have done the deed. Did you hear a noise?

LADY MACBETH

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry. Didn't you

say something?

MACBETH

When?

Act 2, Scene 2

Contrasting elements
water + fire

Lady Macbeth drugs
the guards

Lady Macbeth tells
herself she didn't
want to murder
Duncan because
he reminded her
of her father -

but what if she
just lacked
courage?

Both Lady Macbeth + Macbeth are jumpy - they hear noises

Lady Macbeth: "So, it will make us mad."

• foreshadowing: they struggle with sanity later on in the play

Macbeth talks about being unable to pray: He wants to pronounce "amen" for blessing, but can't His guilt prevents him? Or maybe nature/heaven will not allow it

Act 2, Scene 2, Page 2

ORIGINAL TEXT

LADY MACBETH

Now.

MACBETH

As I descended?

LADY MACBETH

Ay.

MACBETH

Hark! Who lies i' th' second chamber?

LADY MACBETH :

Donalbain.

MACBETH

20 (looking at his hands) This is a sorry sight.

LADY MACBETH

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

MACBETH

There's one did laugh in 's sleep, and one cried. "Murder!"

25 them. That they did wake each other. I stood and heard

But they did say their prayers, and addressed them Again to sleep.

LADY MACBETH

There are two lodged together.

MACBETH

One cried, "God bless us!" and "Amen" the other, As they had seen me with these hangman's hands. List'ning their fear I could not say "Amen," When they did say "God bless us!"

LADY MACBETH

30 Consider it not so deeply.

MACBETH

But wherefore could not I pronounce "Amen"? I had most need of blessing, and "Amen" Stuck in my throat.

LADY MACBETH

These deeds must not be thought After these ways. So, it will make us mad.

MODERN TEXT

LADY MACBETH

Just now.

MACBETH

As I came down?

LADY MACBETH

Yes.

MACBETH

Listen! Who's sleeping in the second chamber?

LADY MACBETH

Donalbain.

MACBETH

(looking at his bloody hands) This is a sorry sight.

LADY MACBETH

That's a stupid thing to say.

MACBETH

One of the servants laughed in his sleep, and one cried, "Murder!" and they woke each other up. I stood and listened to them, but then they said their prayers and went back to sleep.

LADY MACBETH

Malcolm and Donalbain are asleep in the same room.

MACBETH

One servant cried, "God bless us!" and the other replied, "Amen," as if they had seen my bloody hands. Listening to their frightened voices, I couldn't reply "Amen" when they said "God bless us!"

LADY MACBETH

Don't think about it so much.

MACBETH

But why couldn't I say "Amen"? I desperately needed God's blessing, but the word "Amen" stuck in my throat.

LADY MACBETH

We can't think that way about what we did. If we do, it'll drive us crazy.

Act 2, Scene 2, Page 2

Macbeth murdering sleep:

- Personification of sleep: like Duncan, sleep is another innocent thing that Macbeth has ended
- Personality split: Glamis vs. Cawdor shows an internal conflict → Glamis represents who he used to be, and Cawdor is who he has become.

Act 2, Scene 2, Page 3

ORIGINAL TEXT

MACBETH

35 Methought I heard a voice cry, "Sleep no more!
Macbeth does murder sleep"—the innocent sleep,
Sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labor's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
40 Chief nourisher in life's feast.

LADY MACBETH

What do you mean?

MACBETH

Still it cried, "Sleep no more!" to all the house.
"Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor
Shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more."

LADY MACBETH

Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,
45 You do unbend your noble strength to think
So brainsickly of things. Go get some water,
And wash this filthy witness from your hand.
Why did you bring these daggers from the place?
They must lie there. Go carry them and smear
50 The sleepy grooms with blood.

MACBETH

I'll go no more:
I am afraid to think what I have done;
Look on 't again I dare not.

LADY MACBETH

Infirm of purpose!
Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead
Are but as pictures. 'Tis the eye of childhood
55 That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal,
For it must seem their guilt.

Exit

Knock within

MODERN TEXT

MACBETH

I thought I heard a voice cry, "Sleep no more! Macbeth is murdering sleep." Innocent sleep. Sleep that soothes away all our worries. Sleep that puts each day to rest. Sleep that relieves the weary laborer and heals hurt minds. Sleep, the main course in life's feast, and the most nourishing.

LADY MACBETH

What are you talking about?

MACBETH

The voice kept crying, "Sleep no more!" to everyone in the house. "Macbeth has murdered sleep, and therefore Macbeth will sleep no more."

LADY MACBETH

Who said that? Why, my worthy lord, you let yourself become weak when you think about things in this cowardly way. Go get some water and wash this bloody evidence from your hands. Why did you carry these daggers out of the room? They have to stay there. Go take them back and smear the sleeping guards with the blood.

MACBETH

I can't go back. I'm afraid even to think about what I've done. I can't stand to look at it again.

LADY MACBETH

Coward! Give me the daggers. Dead and sleeping people can't hurt you any more than pictures can. Only children are afraid of scary pictures. If Duncan bleeds I'll paint the servants' faces with his blood. We must make it seem like they're guilty.

LADY MACBETH exits.

A sound of knocking from offstage.

Act 2, Scene 2, Page 3

◦ Foreshadowing:
"Macbeth shall sleep no more"

Lady Macbeth:

◦ Her tone is

angry and

reproachful,

since she

thinks he has

lost his ability

to think clearly

◦ She makes him

feel less manly

and says he is

acting like a

child.

ORIGINAL TEXT

MACBETH

Whence is that knocking?

How is 't with me when every noise appals me?

What hands are here? Ha! They pluck out mine

60 eyes.

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnadine,

Making the green one red.

Enter LADY MACBETH

LADY MACBETH

My hands are of your color, but I shame

65 To wear a heart so white.

Knock within

I hear a knocking

At the south entry. Retire we to our chamber.

A little water clears us of this deed.

How easy is it, then! Your constancy

Hath left you unattended.

Knock within

70 Hark! More knocking.

Get on your nightgown, lest occasion call us

And show us to be watchers. Be not lost

So poorly in your thoughts.

MACBETH

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

Knock within

75 Wake Duncan with thy knocking. I would thou
couldst.

Exeunt

MODERN TEXT

MACBETH

Where is that knocking coming from? What's happening to me, that I'm frightened of every noise? (*looking at his hands*) Whose hands are these? Ha! They're plucking out my eyes. Will all the water in the ocean wash this blood from my hands? No, instead my hands will stain the seas scarlet, turning the green waters red.

LADY MACBETH enters.

LADY MACBETH

My hands are as red as yours, but I would be ashamed if my heart were as pale and weak.

A sound of knocking from offstage.

I hear someone knocking at the south entry. Let's go back to our bedroom. A little water will wash away the evidence of our guilt. It's so simple! You've lost your resolve.

A sound of knocking from offstage.

Listen! There's more knocking. Put on your nightgown, in case someone comes and sees that we're awake. Snap out of your daze.

MACBETH

Rather than have to think about my crime, I'd prefer to be completely unconscious.

A sound of knocking from offstage.

Wake Duncan with your knocking. I wish you could!

They exit.

Macbeth's eyes:
 • They were responsible for imagining the dagger earlier on — now they are unable to look at Duncan's dead body, and Macbeth wants to pluck them out so he doesn't have to look at the red of blood on his hands.

Lady Macbeth's hands: red, like Macbeth's, but she calls his heart "white," which she uses as an insult
 • The color of their hands symbolize their joint guilt in the murder of Duncan.
 • Water = purification; like a baptism, perhaps?

Macbeth wishes he "did not know himself" in order to forget what he did to Duncan