

Macbeth

Act 4



*Focus on Macbeth's
character:
sympathetic or
tragic?*

Act 4, Scene 1: A witches' haunt

What are the witches doing?

How do you know?

Witches are making for encounter with Macbeth. The charm is told using rhyming couplets in order to create a different type of language for the play. It sets off the charm from the rest of the characters' speech.

What is interesting about the contents of the potion? What is the bigger implication?

"the contents are scary to most people, and are not the things they would want to encounter in everyday life."

"contents for evilness." Kevia "body parts" fingers, neck, heart, eyes, tongue of dog, mummified witches' flesh, liver of a Jew, nose of Turk, Tartar's lips, and finger of the ditch-delivered baby."

"That Macbeth is so evil, that to curse or punish him would require ingredients that were equally disgusting and ill-gotten."

Macbeth participated in the unbalancing of nature, the witches must use ingredients that are also gotten by evil acts.

*2nd W: "By the pricking of my thumb/
something wicked this way comes"
Enter in Macbeth. This explicitly tells us
that Macbeth is the evilness.*

Act 4 Scene 1:

1st ghost: Armed Head [soldier in a helmet]

Beware Macduff. Beware the Thane of Fife.

2nd ghost: A Bloody Child

Be bloody, bold, and resolute! Laugh to scorn/the pow'r of man, for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth.

3rd ghost: Child crowned with a tree in his hand:

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 Macbeth preparing for war. M says about Macduff

M's final request of witches: What happens to Banquo? That not only does Banquo serve as the genesis for a line of kings, he has a line of 8 kings [King James]. The last king shows in a glass a line of even more kings. But Macbeth also sees that the kings carry double crowns: Kings of Scotland but England

Macbeth just stated that he would no longer worry about Macduff because of the 2nd prophecy.

[Malcolm is in England]

Macduff has the ability to uncover the truth of KD's death and gather the support to overthrow KMacbeth.

Lennox: Macduff has fled to England.

Macbeth: I will have EVERYONE in Macduff's house killed.

"The very firstlings of my **heart** shall be/
the firstlings of my **hand**."

He will no longer 'hide' his heart . His heart will dictate the actions of his hands. Lost his ability to rationalize moral thoughts; these thoughts become the driving force for his actions.

Act 4, Scene 1

What are the witches doing? How do you know?

Creating a potion for Macbeth...using it to make trouble

What is interesting about the contents of the potion? What is the bigger implication?

the liver of a blaspheming Jew, nose of Turk, Tartar's lips, finger of a birth-strangled babe ditch-delivered by a drab.

"The ingredients suggests how evil Macbeth is and what it'll take to bring him down.

2nd Witch: "By the pricking of my thumbs/something wicked this way comes"

Witch foreshadow Macbeth's entrance but she labels him as evil.

Act 4, Scene 1

M requests to speak to the witches/powers above the 3 witches

1 Apparition: [A helmeted head][warrior that he has fought, possibly]
Beware Macduff! Beware the Thane of Fife [past] Macduff is currently England

2 Apparition: [A bloody child][Child that the Macbeth's lost or the remaining body for the finger.]

Be bloody, bold, resolute. Laugh to scorn the power of man, for none of woman born shall harm Macbeth The person that finally harms Macbeth will not be borne of a woman.

3rd Apparition: [A child crowned, with a tree in his hand][Banquo line to the kings, Macbeth's son]

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...Macbeth will not fall until the woods marches to his castle.

Scene 1

M: What happens to Banquo'

Banquo not only is the genesis, but he has a line of 8 kings [King James], but within the glass, there is a line of even more. Not only that, but these kings are dual kings: England and Scotland. Macbeth will not only never see an heir, but Banquo's are even more successful.

What did Shakespeare intend with this scene?

Shakespeare was flattering King James with the possibility of a line of heirs hereafter.

M: asks Lennox, did you see them

L: see what?

M: realizes that he was the only one that saw them. The witches infected the air

L: Macduff to England

M: this enrages M. I'm killing EVERYONE in Macduff's house

- "From this moment/the very firstlings of my **heart** shall be/ the firstlings of my **hand**." Macbeth WILL no longer hide his heart from his hand. Macbeth will no longer shield the outside world from his craziness/evilness.

Scene 2: Macduff's Castle at Fife

LMac: believes that Macduff fled...again is not a man

Ross: be patient

Notice: LMac does not acknowledge the political atmosphere surrounding Macbeth, so all she can assume is that Macduff is with another woman.

LMac: he left all of us and must have done this for another younger woman

Ross: foreshadowing the purpose of loyalty: But cruel are the times when we are traitors/and do not know ourselves.

It's hard to understand what to be loyal when everything thing around you isn't what you believe in. Ross is unsure what/who to believe in. He has suspicions in Macbeth.

What would have happened should Ross have stayed? If he would have stayed a few moments longer, he could have saved LMac and her household.

Ross could have died or the murderers recognized him and left.

LMac: what will you do with no father?

Son: what will you do with no husband?

Traitors = those that swear and lie

Son: all traitors swear and lie?

LMac: yep, and then hanged by an honest man

Son: Then the liars and swearers are fools, for there are liars and swearers enough to beat the honest men and hang up them.

Murderers: They kill the son... manhood=honor, courage, and not fleeing

Son died equal to man by insults the murderer and then takes the death

LMac runs through the house murder!

LMacduff

realizes unsex speech, and
knows it doesn't matter

sees as traitor by her

does not flee, does not
escape her responsibility

husband

LMacbeth

gives unsex me speech,
and loses

a traitor because of her
plans to murder KD,
thinking like a man

Scene 3

Macduff recognizes that every morning creates another widow, new orphans and sorrows.

There is issue in the kingdom with Macbeth.

Malcolm: is leery of Macduff... Macbeth/Macduff were good friends; Macduff is still alive, and thus is to be inferred that he is there to either kill Malcolm or bring him in for treason.

Macduff: I am not treacherous.

Malcolm says: Even if I did come back to Scotland, to take the crown, I'll bring with me more vices than Macbeth has now.

Macduff: It's pretty bad and he's pretty bad.

*Malcolm: I REALLY enjoy women. I mean REALLY.
He tells Macduff your family members are not safe.*

*Mac: Kings have an appetite for women, but
there are always women that would be more
than happy to please you. -> you will have
groupies and will not run out.*

*Malcolm: I am land greedy too, really greedy for
anything that anyone has and must have it too.*

*Macduff: This has driven kings toward war; but no
worryes, Scotland has a large treasury.*

Macduff: tells Malcolm he is still a better fit for Scotland.

Malcolm: being evil..he has NO KINGLY characteristics

Macduff: cry of woe... cry of sadness. He realizes that if Malcolm is telling the truth then there is no savior or hope.

Ma: I am what I have told you I am

Macduff: curses him for evilness. How dare you?

*Your father a sainted king, your mother was a holy woman.
You should be ashamed, in fact you are blight on your family.*

Malcolm admits to being a good person -> Macbeth has sent others to persuade Malcolm back to Scotland.

*Ross enters: explains that M is losing his mind
Scotland is a grave, not a mother*

*Ross: they were at peace when I left
them...continuing to stall Macduff.*

Macduff loved his family

Malcolm redirect his rage:

1. rational but vengeful ...whetstone

*2. he needs to lead a piece of the army, and
to gain the trust of other fighters.*

*Macduff: M has no children. Adds the final layer of
hell/evilness. He blames himself for not being there.
Macduff floating guilt.*

Mal: Dispute it like a man

Mac: I shall do so, But I must also feel it as a man.

Macduff=great equalizer between emotional and logical senses.

Mal: don't blunt your heart..

*Malcolm /
Macduff*

*Mal: The **night** is long that never finds the **day**.*

