

SCENE IV. Forres. The palace.

Flourish. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, and Attendants

DUNCAN

Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not
Those in commission yet return'd?

MALCOLM

My liege,
They are not yet come back. But I have spoke
With one that saw him die: who did report
That very frankly he confess'd his treasons,
Implor'd your highness' pardon and set forth
A deep repentance: nothing in his life
Became him like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death
To throw away the dearest thing he owed,
As 'twere a careless trifle.

DUNCAN

There's no art
To find the mind's construction in the face:
He was a gentleman on whom I built
An absolute trust.

DRAMATIC IRONY: when the audience knows something that a character does not. Authors do this to get the audience/read engaged. This builds suspense, tension, and drama with the text.

Allows the audience to be more involved in the play by giving them information that some characters don't know.

Foreshadowing because he will also trust Macbeth and be deceived/betrayed by him.

Enter MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS

O worthiest cousin!
The sin of my ingratitude even now
Was heavy on me: thou art so far before
That swiftest wing of recompense is slow
To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserved,
That the proportion both of thanks and payment
Might have been mine! only I have left to say,
More is thy due than more than all can pay.

MACBETH

The service and the loyalty I owe,
In doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part
Is to receive our duties; and our duties
Are to your throne and state children and servants,
Which do but what they should, by doing every thing
Safe toward your love and honour.

Doing exactly what the former Thane of Cawdor did.

Macbeth is hiding behind his words in order to deceive (THEME OF PLAY). This shows that Macbeth is going to be ruthless in order to get what he wants. It also shows that he is willing to hide his feelings/thoughts in order to get what he wants.

DUNCAN

Welcome hither:

I have begun to plant thee, and will labour
To make thee full of growing. Noble Banquo,
That hast no less deserved, nor must be known
No less to have done so, let me enfold thee
And hold thee to my heart.

BANQUO

There if I grow,
The harvest is your own.

DUNCAN

My plenteous joys,
Wanton in fulness, seek to hide themselves
In drops of sorrow. Sons, kinsmen, thanes,
And you whose places are the nearest, know
We will establish our estate upon
Our eldest, Malcolm, whom we name hereafter
The Prince of Cumberland; which honour must
Not unaccompanied invest him only,
But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine
On all deservers. From hence to Inverness,
And bind us further to you.

MACBETH

The rest is labour, which is not used for you:
I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful
The hearing of my wife with your approach;
So humbly take my leave.

DUNCAN

My worthy Cawdor!

MACBETH

[Aside] The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step
On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap,
For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires;
Let not light see my black and deep desires:
The eye wink at the hand; yet let that be,
Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.

Exit

DUNCAN

Shows us a little about what kind of person King Duncan is. Basically says that he could cry he is so happy that Macbeth is now the Thane of Cawdor. This shows vulnerability in a world that is very masculine.

Duncan is super long-winded. We can see this by how long his greeting is to Macbeth.

Vs.

Macbeth who has a short, curt response. This shows that he is not as happy as Duncan (probably because he has his eyes set on something bigger=king).

Shakespeare constantly uses language to indicate differences.

THEME: appearance vs reality

Macbeth admits that he must do something terrible in order to get what he wants/fulfill witches prophesy. He knows that Malcolm is a problem

True, worthy Banquo; he is full so valiant,
And in his commendations I am fed;
It is a banquet to me. Let's after him,
Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome:
It is a peerless kinsman.

Flourish. Exeunt

Macbeth clearly has Duncan fooled. Duncan thinks that Macbeth is off to plan for his arrival at Macbeth's castle. DRAMATIC IRONY because we know that Macbeth is really off to plan his death.