

SCENE III. A heath near Forres.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches

First Witch

Where hast thou been, sister?

Second Witch

Killing swine.

AKA killing pigs. Seems basic. Indication of power?

Third Witch

Sister, where thou?

First Witch

A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,  
And munch'd, and munch'd, and munch'd:--  
'Give me,' quoth I:  
'Aroint thee, witch!' the rump-fed ronyon cries.  
Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' the Tiger:  
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,  
And, like a rat without a tail,  
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

SYMBOLISM: symbolizes  
witches relation to nature  
(lower level animals).

Second Witch

I'll give thee a wind.

Control of the winds

First Witch

Thou'rt kind.

Third Witch

And I another.

First Witch

I myself have all the other,  
And the very ports they blow,  
All the quarters that they know  
I' the shipman's card.  
I will drain him dry as hay:  
Sleep shall neither night nor day  
Hang upon his pent-house lid;  
He shall live a man forbid:  
Weary se'nnights nine times nine  
Shall he dwindle, peak and pine:  
Though his bark cannot be lost,  
Yet it shall be tempest-tost.  
Look what I have.

Note the weather & who is now on stage.

Important to note structure here as well:

1<sup>st</sup> scene= just the witches

2<sup>nd</sup> scene= just humans

3<sup>rd</sup> scene= bringin the two together

Offended by some woman so she takes it out on  
the woman's husband.

Making fun of the woman- "rump-fed ronyon" (a  
mangy or scabby creature)

ALLUSION: the name of the ship making the  
journey to Aleppo, a city in northern Syria.  
Allusion to The merchant Ralph Fitch traveled  
extensively on the Indian subcontinent in the course  
of an eight-year trading mission (1583-91) that took  
him as far as modern Malaysia and Vietnam. Fitch  
was the first early-modern English traveler to  
produce a written account of India and its  
inhabitants. Yet he did not view them through  
entirely fresh eyes. The Portuguese had already  
established a military and trading presence in many  
of the areas he visited. They undoubtedly served as  
Fitch's main informants about India, though they  
were also his rivals (and, at one point, his captors).  
The Portuguese were wise to be suspicious of a  
snooping English merchant; the East India  
Company, which would eventually eclipse the  
Portuguese and establish virtual sovereignty over

FORESHADOWING:

1. "I will drain him dry as hay": Read simply as comment on Macbeth,  
who will be drained morally & physically by the end of the play.
2. "Sleep shall neither night nor day/ Hang upon his pent-house lid":  
preventing him from sleeping. Sleep is a natural and important part  
of life in order to stay physically and mentally strong. Macbeth won't  
be able to sleep and will therefore lose his mind (essentially).

Basically saying, "I can't sink the ship, but I'll rock it around during the  
storm."

Showing  
power of  
witches

**Second Witch**

Show me, show me.

**First Witch**

Here I have a pilot's thumb,  
Wreck'd as homeward he did come.

*Drum within*

**Third Witch**

A drum, a drum!  
Macbeth doth come.

**ALL**

The weird sisters, hand in hand,  
Posters of the sea and land,  
Thus do go about, about:  
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine  
And thrice again, to make up nine.  
Peace! the charm's wound up.

*Enter MACBETH and BANQUO*

**MACBETH**

So foul and fair a day I have not seen.

**BANQUO**

How far is't call'd to Forres? What are these  
So wither'd and so wild in their attire,  
That look not like the inhabitants o' the earth,  
And yet are on't? Live you? or are you aught  
That man may question? You seem to understand me,  
By each at once her chappy finger laying  
Upon her skinny lips: you should be women,  
And yet your beards forbid me to interpret  
That you are so.

**MACBETH**

Speak, if you can: what are you?

**First Witch**

All hail, Macbeth! hail to thee, thane of Glamis!

**Second Witch**

All hail, Macbeth, hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

**CONNECTION TO WHAT THE WITCHES SAID IN ACT ONE:  
Shakespeare is linking the supernatural and evil elements of  
the play from his first appearance.**

**First prophesy: Macbeth will be thane of Glamis.**

**Second Prophecy: Macbeth will be thane of Cawdor**

**Third Prophecy: Macbeth will be king**

### Third Witch

All hail, Macbeth, thou shalt be king hereafter!

### BANQUO

Good sir, why do you start; and seem to fear  
Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,  
Are ye fantastical, or that indeed  
Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner  
You greet with present grace and great prediction  
Of noble having and of royal hope,  
That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not.  
If you can look into the seeds of time,  
And say which grain will grow and which will not,  
Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear  
Your favours nor your hate.

Banquo is not interested or bothered by what the witches have to say. Shakespeare is showing the contrast between Macbeth and Banquo.

BANQUO= foil

### First Witch

Hail!

### Second Witch

Hail!

### Third Witch

Hail!

### First Witch

Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.

### Second Witch

Not so happy, yet much happier.

### Third Witch

Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none:  
So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

### First Witch

Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!

#### Witches speaking in PARADOXES:

1. Witches talking about Banquo saying that he is both lesser than Macbeth (in rank) but also greater (morally).
2. Witches telling Banquo
3. Witches telling Banquo that his sons will be kings- "Thou shalt get kings" but then foreshadow that none of his sons will actually be kings- "though thou be none"

Shakespeare intends for his audience to believe here that this isn't the first time he has had thoughts about being king. He would have reacted with fear if this was a shock to him (excited to know more).

Macbeth sounds excited and eager to know more. Shows the reader early on his desire for power.

Macbeth's father.

### MACBETH

Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more:  
By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis;  
But how of Cawdor? the thane of Cawdor lives,  
A prosperous gentleman; and to be king  
Stands not within the prospect of belief,  
No more than to be Cawdor. Say from whence  
You owe this strange intelligence? or why

**Upon this blasted heath you stop our way  
With such prophetic greeting? Speak, I charge you.**

*Witches vanish*

**BANQUO**

The earth hath bubbles, as the water has,  
And these are of them. Whither are they vanish'd?

**MACBETH**

Into the air; and what seem'd corporal melted  
As breath into the wind. Would they had stay'd!

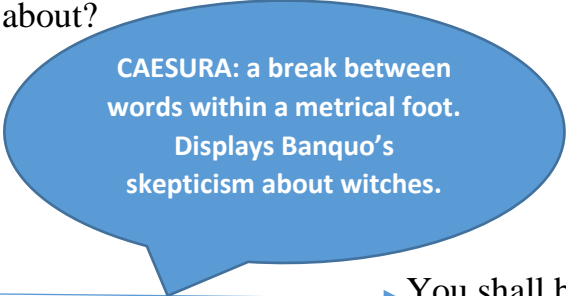
**BANQUO**

Were such things here as we do speak about?  
Or have we eaten on the insane root  
That takes the reason prisoner?

**MACBETH**

Your children shall be kings.

**BANQUO**



← You shall be king.

**MACBETH**

And thane of Cawdor too: went it not so?

**BANQUO**

To the selfsame tune and words. Who's here?

*Enter ROSS and ANGUS*

**ROSS**

The king hath happily received, Macbeth,  
The news of thy success; and when he reads  
Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,  
His wonders and his praises do contend  
Which should be thine or his: silenced with that,  
In viewing o'er the rest o' the selfsame day,  
He finds thee in the stout Norweyan ranks,  
Nothing afraid of what thyself didst make,  
Strange images of death. As thick as hail  
Came post with post; and every one did bear  
Thy praises in his kingdom's great defence,  
And pour'd them down before him.

## ANGUS

We are sent  
To give thee from our royal master thanks;  
Only to herald thee into his sight,  
Not pay thee.

## ROSS

And, for an earnest of a greater honour,  
He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor:  
In which addition, hail, most worthy thane!  
For it is thine.

At first, Macbeth questions Ross and Angus because he doesn't know that the current Thane of Cawdor is being executed.

## BANQUO

What, can the devil speak true?

## MACBETH

The thane of Cawdor lives: why do you dress me  
In borrow'd robes?

## ANGUS

Who was the thane lives yet;  
But under heavy judgment bears that life  
Which he deserves to lose. Whether he was combined  
With those of Norway, or did line the rebel  
With hidden help and vantage, or that with both  
He labour'd in his country's wreck, I know not;  
But treasons capital, confess'd and proved,  
Have overthrown him.

## MACBETH

[Aside] Glamis, and thane of Cawdor!  
The greatest is behind.

Second prophesy comes true. Gives witches credibility. Macbeth will now believe that he will actually be king. Macbeth is excited that this prophesy has come true because it means that he will be king (shown by the use of the exclamation point). Because this statement is an aside, we know that only the audience can hear this excitement. This meant to foreshadow that he will do anything for power (power will go to his head).

*To ROSS and ANGUS*

Thanks for your pains.

*To BANQUO*

When Macbeth addresses Ross and Angus, he changes his tone to a more calm and direct tone. This is indicated by the period (change in punctuation).

Do you not hope your children shall be kings,  
When those that gave the thane of Cawdor to me  
Promised no less to them?

Macbeth questions Banquo's attitude/skepticism about the witches by asking him, "don't you want your sons to be kings?!"

## BANQUO

That trusted home  
Might yet enkindle you unto the crown,

Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange:  
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,  
The instruments of darkness tell us truths,  
Win us with honest trifles, to betray's  
In deepest consequence.  
Cousins, a word, I pray you.

Banquo is still skeptical.

Banquo foreshadows the future by saying that if Macbeth trusts the witches completely now, that he might start wanting more and more power. He basically says that the witches are setting them up for failure.

### MACBETH

[Aside] Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme.--I thank you, gentlemen.

### *Aside*

Cannot be ill, cannot be good: if ill,  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am thane of Cawdor:  
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion  
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs,  
Against the use of nature? Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings:  
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,  
Shakes so my single state of man that function  
Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is  
But what is not.

CAESURA: Banquo already noticing the effects of power.

### BANQUO [to Ross and Angus]

Look, how our partner's rapt.

### MACBETH

[Aside] If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me,  
Without my stir.

Banquo noting Macbeth's excitement to Ross and Angus.

### BANQUO

New horrors come upon him,  
Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould  
But with the aid of use.

### MACBETH

[Aside] Come what come may,  
Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.

### BANQUO

Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.

While Macbeth is having a moment, Banquo is commenting (with some fear/worry) on Macbeth's obvious excitement.

Just waiting on you Macbeth...

AKA lets go.

**MACBETH**

Give me your favour: my dull brain was wrought  
With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains  
Are register'd where every day I turn  
The leaf to read them. Let us toward the king.

[*Aside to Banquo*] Think upon what hath chanced, and, at more time,  
The interim having weigh'd it, let us speak  
Our free hearts each to other.

**BANQUO**

Very gladly.

**MACBETH**

Till then, enough. Come, friends.

*Exeunt*