

## SCENE II. A camp near Forres.

This scene gives important information so that the reader is able to understand the rest of the play.

*Alarum within. Enter DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, with Attendants, meeting a bleeding Sergeant*

**DUNCAN**

What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt  
The newest state.

**MALCOLM**

This is the sergeant  
Who like a good and hardy soldier fought  
'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend!  
Say to the king the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it.

**Sergeant**

Wounded soldier to tell King Duncan about the battle.

Doubtful it stood;  
As two spent swimmers, that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald--  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon him--from the western isles  
Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;  
And fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore: but all's too weak:  
For brave Macbeth--well he deserves that name--  
Disdaining fortune, with his brandish'd steel,  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like valour's minion carved out his passage  
Till he faced the slave;  
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  
Till he unseam'd him from the nave to the chaps,  
And fix'd his head upon our battlements.

**DUNCAN**

**O valiant cousin! worthy gentleman!**

**Sergeant**

As whence the sun 'gins his reflection  
Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break,  
So from that spring whence comfort seem'd to come  
Discomfort swells. Mark, king of Scotland, mark:  
No sooner justice had with valour arm'd

First time we hear of Macbeth and Banquo is through the eyes of someone else.

Shakespeare presents these two characters through the opinions of others to:

1. Build anticipation to meet these characters
2. Show audience how well-respected Macbeth is by other characters (for now)

**IMAGERY:** Macbeth chopped off his head.

The king finds this praiseworthy → **CONTEXT OF COMPOSITION:** historical context- Gives the reader a good indication of the sort of world this play is set in (very masculine world).

Compell'd these skipping kerns to trust their heels,  
But the Norwegian lord surveying vantage,  
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men  
Began a fresh assault.

**DUNCAN**

Dismay'd not this  
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

**Sergeant**

Yes;  
As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.  
If I say sooth, I must report they were  
As cannons overcharged with double cracks, so they  
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe:  
Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,  
Or memorise another Golgotha,  
I cannot tell.  
But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.

**DUNCAN**

So well thy words become thee as thy wounds;  
They smack of honour both. Go get him surgeons.

*Exit Sergeant, attended*

Who comes here?

*Enter ROSS*

**MALCOLM**

The worthy thane of Ross.

**LENNOX**

What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look  
That seems to speak things strange.

**ROSS**

God save the king!

**DUNCAN**

Whence camest thou, worthy thane?

**ROSS**

From Fife, great king;  
Where the Norwegian banners flout the sky

And fan our people cold. Norway himself,  
With terrible numbers,  
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
The thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict;  
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,  
Confronted him with self-comparisons,  
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm.  
Curbing his lavish spirit: and, to conclude,  
The victory fell on us.

There is a traitor (the Thane of Cawdor).

**DUNCAN**  
Great happiness!

**ROSS**  
That now  
Sweno, the Norways' king, craves composition:  
Nor would we deign him burial of his men  
Till he disbursed at Saint Colme's inch  
Ten thousand dollars to our general use.

**DUNCAN**  
No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive  
Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,  
And with his former title greet Macbeth.

**ROSS**  
I'll see it done.

**DUNCAN**  
What he hath lost noble Macbeth hath won.

*Exeunt*

Reinforces how brutal this world is and the value they put on life. There is no show or ceremony; pronounced death with just 5 words.

Macbeth given title of THANE OF CAWDOR for defeating the rebels.

FORESHADOWING: Treason of the Thane of Cawdor foreshadows how Macbeth will also abuse his power.

PARADOX: While we are supposed to see the contrast between the disloyal Thane of Cawdor and a loyal and brave Macbeth, by the end of the play they are actually quite similar.