

## - INTRODUCTION -

In the year 1040, Macbeth and Banquo, two victorious generals, meet three mysterious witches on a heath in Scotland. The witches predict that Macbeth will one day be King of Scotland. They tell Banquo that his sons will also sit on the throne. Urged on by his wife, Macbeth kills King Duncan and is declared king. Fearing the second part of the witches' prophecy, Macbeth has Banquo killed. When Duncan's son Malcolm raises an army to oppose Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, tormented by guilt, commits suicide. Macbeth is then killed by Macduff, and Malcolm is crowned king.

## - CAST OF CHARACTERS -

**DUNCAN** King of Scotland

**MALCOLM** and **DONALBAIN** His sons

**MACBETH** General in the king's army

**BANQUO** General in the king's army

**LENNOX, ROSS, MACDUFF, ANGUS, CAITHNESS, MENTEITH**

Noblemen of Scotland

**FLEANCE** Son of Banquo

**SIWARD** Earl of Northumberland, General of the  
English Forces

**YOUNG SIWARD** His son

**SEYTON** An officer attending on Macbeth

**BOY** Son to Macduff

An **ENGLISH DOCTOR**, a **SCOTTISH DOCTOR**, a **SOLDIER**,  
a **PORTER**, an **OLD MAN**

**LADY MACBETH**

**LADY MACDUFF** Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth

**THREE WITCHES**

**LORDS, GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, MURDERERS,**  
**ATTENDANTS, and MESSENGERS**

The **GHOST OF BANQUO** and **SEVERAL OTHER APPARITIONS**

# ACT 1

## | Scene 1 |

*(An open place. Thunder and lightning. **Three witches** enter.)*

**WITCH 1:** When shall we three meet again?  
In thunder, in lightning, or in rain?

**WITCH 2:** When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won.

**WITCH 3:** Before the setting of the sun.

**WITCH 1:** Where shall we meet?

**WITCH 2:** On the heath.

**WITCH 3:** There we will meet with Macbeth.

**WITCH 1:** Let's go home for now.

**ALL:** Fair is foul, and foul is fair—  
Fly through the fog and filthy air.

*(The **witches** vanish.)*

## | Scene 2 |

*(A camp near Forres. Alarms are heard offstage. **King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, and Lennox** enter, with **attendants**. They meet a bleeding **soldier**.)*

**DUNCAN:** What bloody man is that?  
From the way he looks, he can tell us  
How the battle is going.

**MALCOLM:** This is the man  
Who fought against my capture.  
(*to the soldier*): Hail, brave friend!  
How is the battle going?

**SOLDIER:** Macbeth's sword smoked as he  
Carved out his passage through the battle!  
Finally he faced the villain Macdonald.  
He didn't shake hands or say farewell.  
Instead, he cut him from belly to jaws  
And placed his head high on the castle  
walls.

**DUNCAN:** Oh, brave and worthy cousin!

**SOLDIER:** Then problems came from the east.  
Listen, King of Scotland, listen!  
When the rebels started to run, the  
Norwegian lord saw an advantage.  
With fresh arms and new supplies of men,  
He launched a new attack.

**DUNCAN:** Didn't this dismay  
Our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

**SOLDIER:** Yes—like a sparrow dismays an eagle  
Or a hare dismays a lion!  
They were, my king,  
Like cannons with double charges!  
For each stroke by the enemy,

They gave back two.  
But I am faint. My wounds cry out!

**DUNCAN:** Your words and your wounds  
Both tell of your honor.  
(*to the attendants*): Go, get him doctors.

(*The soldier exits, with attendants.*)

(*to Malcolm*): Who comes here?

**MALCOLM:** The worthy thane of Ross.

(*Ross enters.*)

**ROSS:** God save the king!

**DUNCAN:** Where were you, worthy thane?

**ROSS:** In Fife, great king,  
Where Norwegian flags fill the sky  
And chill our people with fear.  
The King of Norway himself, leading  
many men, began a battle.  
He was helped by that most disloyal  
traitor, the Thane of Cawdor.  
At last, Macbeth, dressed in armor,  
Challenged him with greater strength.  
Point for point, arm against arm,  
Macbeth wore him down. In the end,  
The victory fell on us.

**DUNCAN:** Great happiness!

**ROSS:** Now, Sweno, Norway's king,  
Wants to surrender.

We forbade him to bury his men  
Until he paid us \$10,000.

**DUNCAN:** Never again shall the  
Thane of Cawdor betray us!  
Go see to his instant death,  
And greet Macbeth with his former title.

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

**DUNCAN:** What he has lost, noble Macbeth has  
won.

*(All exit.)*

## | Scene 3 |

*(A heath near Forres. Thunder. The **three witches** enter. A drum is heard offstage.)*

**WITCH 1:** A drum, a drum!  
Macbeth does come.

**ALL:** The weird sisters, hand in hand,  
Travelers over sea and land,  
Thus do go about, about.  
Three times to yours, three times to mine,  
And three times again, to make up nine.  
That's it! The charm's wound up.

*(Macbeth and Banquo enter.)*

**MACBETH:** So foul and fair a day I have not  
seen.