

Macbeth Act III, Scene iv Modern Text

A hall in the palace. A banquet is laid out.

Enter Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Ross, Lennox, Lords and Attendants.

Lady Macbeth: My lord, you are not making your guests feel welcome.

The Ghost of Banquo enters, and sits in Macbeth's place.

Lennox: Please sit down, Your Highness.

Macbeth: If only Banquo were here!

Ross: Will you come and join us, Your Highness?

Macbeth: There's no space at the table.

Lennox: Your seat is right here, sir.

Macbeth: Where?

Lennox: Here, sir. Why are you so upset, Your Highness?

Macbeth: Who has done this?

Lords: Done what, sir?

Macbeth: You can't blame me! Don't shake your bloody hair near me!

Ross: Gentlemen, get up. The King isn't well.

Lady Macbeth: Please sit down. The King is like this sometimes; he's done it since he was little. Just stay sitting and he'll be better in a moment. [To Macbeth.] Man up!

Macbeth: I'm being very brave! I'm looking at something which would make the devil scared!

Lady Macbeth: What a load of rubbish. Why are you pulling faces? You're only looking at an empty chair.

Macbeth: Look at that! There! Don't you see it? [To Ghost.] Speak to me!

Ghost of Banquo exits.

Lady Macbeth: Have you completely lost it?

Macbeth: I saw him, as real as I am standing here now.

Lady Macbeth: Our guests are wondering what is going on.

Macbeth: I'd forgotten them. Quick, pour me a large drink.



The Ghost of Banquo enters, and sits in Macbeth's place.

Here's to everyone's good health, and to Banquo. I wish he were here!

Lords: Here's to good health!

Macbeth: Go away! Leave me alone!

Lady Macbeth: Please just think of this as one of the King's little quirks.

Macbeth: You horrible ghost, leave me alone! Get out!

Ghost of Banquo exits.

And now it's gone, I'm fine again! Please, everyone, sit down.

Lady Macbeth: You've completely spoilt the mood with your behaviour.

Macbeth: I don't know how you could look at it and not be terrified!

Ross: Look at what, my lord?

Lady Macbeth: Please don't talk to him any more – it only makes him worse. Please go at once.

Lennox: Good night. I hope the King feels better soon.

Lady Macbeth: Good night.

Exeunt Lords and Attendants.

Macbeth: Murder will always be revenged, they say.

Lady Macbeth: You need a good night's sleep.

Macbeth: OK, we'll go to bed. We've not been criminals for long, after all.

Exeunt

