

Burnett's AP English Lit  
*Macbeth* – Act III Quote Analysis

**For each quote below, summarize it in your own words (including who was speaking) and then explain the context of the quote. Next tell how and why it is important to the play as a whole (does it connect to a theme, specific literary device, etc.). Finally, answer the questions which follow each quote.**

1. Why, by the verities . . . But hush! No more. (III:i) Do you think Banquo's hopes and ambitions as expressed here make him more or less sympathetic as a character?
2. So is he mine . . . For sundry weighty reasons. (III:i) How do you compare Macbeth here (talking to the murderers) to Macbeth before the murder of Duncan?
3. Banquo, thy soul's flight,/If it find heaven, must find it out to-night. (III:i) As a stylistic device, what purpose might Shakespeare have for Banquo addressing Macbeth without him present at the beginning of this scene, and the opposite occurring at the end?
4. Let your remembrance apply to Banquo . . . (III:ii) Why do you think Macbeth is deceiving his wife here?
5. Well, let's away, and say how much is done. (III:iii) Why do you think Shakespeare has Duncan's murder happen offstage, but this murder occurs onstage?
6. Unreal mockery, hence! (III:iv) Consider this scene and the dagger scene earlier, in terms of staging. Should the audience see the dagger and ghost? What would be the differences in impact?
7. Come, let's make haste; she'll soon be back again. (III:v) Most scholars agree that this and other scenes involving Hecate (such as IV:i), along with the "songs," were not Shakespeare's invention -- someone added them later. Do you think they serve a dramatic purpose? If so, how? If not, how would the play be improved without them?
8. I'll send my prayers with him. (III:vi) This scene is fairly static -- just two people exchanging dialogue. How does Shakespeare make it interesting and more dramatic, despite this limitation?

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