Original Text	Modern Text
Thunder and lightning. Enter three WITCHES	Thunder and lightning. Three WITCHES enter
FIRST WITCH When shall we three meet again? In thunder, lightning, or in rain?	FIRST WITCH When should the three of us meet again? Will it be in thunder, lightning, or rain?
SECOND WITCH When the hurly-burly's done, When the battle's lost and won.	SECOND WITCH We'll meet when the noise of the battle is over, when one side has won and the other side has lost.
THIRD WITCH  That will be ere the set of sun.	THIRD WITCH That will happen before sunset.
FIRST WITCH Where the place?	FIRST WITCH Where should we meet?
SECOND WITCH Upon the heath.	SECOND WITCH Let's do it in the open field.
THIRD WITCH There to meet with Macbeth.	THIRD WITCH We'll meet Macbeth there.
	The <b>WITCHES</b> hear the calls of their spirit friends or "familiars," which look like animals—one is a cat and one is a toad.
FIRST WITCH I come, Graymalkin!	FIRST WITCH (calling to her cat) I'm coming, Graymalkin!
SECOND WITCH 10 Paddock calls.	SECOND WITCH  My toad, Paddock, calls me.
THIRD WITCH Anon.	THIRD WITCH (to her spirit) I'll be right here!
ALL Fair is foul, and foul is fair Hover through the fog and filthy air.	ALL Fair is foul, and foul is fair. Let's fly away through the fog and filthy air.
Exeunt	They exit.

Original Text	Modern Text
Alarum within. Enter KING DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, LENNOX, with attendants, meeting a bleeding CAPTAIN	Sounds of a trumpet and soldiers fighting offstage.  KING DUNCAN enters with his sons MALCOLM and  DONALBAIN, LENNOX, and a number of  attendants. They meet a wounded and bloody  CAPTAIN.
DUNCAN  What bloody man is that? He can report, As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt The newest state.	DUNCAN  Who is this bloody man? Judging from his appearance, I bet he can tell us the latest news about the revolt.
MALCOLM  This is the sergeant  Who like a good and hardy soldier fought	MALCOLM  This is the brave sergeant who fought to keep me from being captured. Hail, brave friend! Tell the king

5	'Gainst my captivity. Hail, brave friend! Say to the king the knowledge of the broil As thou didst leave it.	what was happening in the battle when you left it.
10	CAPTAIN  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 damnèd quarrel smiling,  Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak,  For brave Macbeth—well he deserves that name—  Disdaining fortune, with his brandished steel,  Which smoked with bloody execution,  Like valor's minion carved out his passage  Till he faced the slave;  Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,  Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops,  And fixed his head upon our battlements.	CAPTAIN  For a while you couldn't tell who would win. The armies were like two exhausted swimmers clinging to each other and struggling in the water, unable to move. The villainous rebel Macdonwald was supported by foot soldiers and horsemen from Ireland and the Hebrides, and Lady Luck was with him, smiling cruelly at his enemies as if she were his whore. But Luck and Macdonwald together weren't strong enough. Brave Macbeth, laughing at Luck, chopped his way through to Macdonwald, who didn't even have time to say good-bye or shake hands before Macbeth split him open from his navel to his jawbone and stuck his head on our castle walls.
	<b>DUNCAN</b> O valiant cousin! Worthy gentleman!	<b>DUNCAN</b> My brave relative! What a worthy man!
25	CAPTAIN  As whence the sun 'gins his reflection Shipwracking storms and direful thunders break, So from that spring whence comfort seemed to come Discomfort swells. Mark, King of Scotland, mark: No sooner justice had, with valor armed, Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels, But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage, With furbished arms and new supplies of men, Began a fresh assault.	CAPTAIN  But in the same way that violent storms always come just as spring appears, our success against Macdonwald created new problems for us. Listen to this, King: as soon as we sent those Irish soldiers running for cover, the Norwegian king saw his chance to attack us with fresh troops and shiny weapons.
	<b>DUNCAN</b> Dismayed not this our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?	<b>DUNCAN</b> Didn't this frighten our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?
35	CAPTAIN  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 memorize another Golgotha, I cannot tell—  But I am faint, my gashes cry for help.	CAPTAIN  The new challenge scared them about as much as sparrows frighten eagles, or rabbits frighten a lion. To tell you the truth, they fought the new enemy with twice as much force as before; they were like cannons loaded with double ammunition. Maybe they wanted to take a bath in their enemies' blood, or make that battlefield as infamous as Golgotha, where Christ was crucified, I don't know. But I feel weak. My wounds must be tended to.
	DUNCAN So well thy words become thee as thy wounds; They smack of honor both. Go get him surgeons.	<b>DUNCAN</b> Your words, like your wounds, bring you honor. Take him to the surgeons.
	Exit CAPTAIN with attendants	The CAPTAIN exits, helped by attendants.
	Enter ROSS and ANGUS	ROSS and ANGUS enter.
45	Who comes here?	Who is this?
	MALCOLM	MALCOLM

The worthy thane of Ross.	The worthy Thane of Ross.
LENNOX What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look That seems to speak things strange.	LENNOX  His eyes seem frantic! He looks like someone with a strange tale to tell.
ROSS God save the king.	ROSS God save the king!
<b>DUNCAN</b> Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?	<b>DUNCAN</b> Where have you come from, worthy thane?
ROSS From Fife, great king, Where the Norweyan 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, lapped 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.	ROSS Great king, I've come from Fife, where the Norwegian flag flies, mocking our country and frightening our people. Leading an enormous army and assisted by that disloyal traitor, the thane of Cawdor, the king of Norway began a bloody battle. But outfitted in his battle-weathered armor, Macbeth met the Norwegian attacks shot for shot, as if he were the goddess of war's husband. Finally he broke the enemy's spirit, and we were victorious.
<b>DUNCAN</b> Great happiness!	<b>DUNCAN</b> 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.	ROSS So now Sweno, the Norwegian king, wants a treaty. We told him we wouldn't even let him bury his men until he retreated to Saint Colme's Inch and paid us ten thousand dollars.
DUNCAN  No more that thane of Cawdor shall deceive Our bosom interest: go pronounce his present death,  And with his former title greet Macbeth.	DUNCAN  The thane of Cawdor will never again betray me. Go announce that he will be executed, and tell Macbeth that Cawdor's titles will be given to him.
ROSS I'll see it done.	ROSS I'll get it done right away.
<b>DUNCAN</b> What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.	<b>DUNCAN</b> The thane of Cawdor has lost what the noble Macbeth has won.
Exeunt	They all exit.

Original Text	Modern Text
Thunder. Enter the three WITCHES	Thunder. The three WITCHES enter.
FIRST WITCH Where hast thou been, sister?	FIRST WITCH Where have you been, sister?

SECOND WITCH Killing swine.	SECOND WITCH Killing pigs.
THIRD WITCH Sister, where thou?	THIRD WITCH And you, sister?
FIRST WITCH  A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap,  And munched, and munched, and munched. "Give me," quoth I.  "Aroint thee, witch!" the rump-fed runnion cries.  Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o' th' <i>Tiger</i> ,  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.	FIRST WITCH  A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap and munched away at them. "Give me one," I said. "Get away from me, witch!" the fat woman cried. Her husband has sailed off to Aleppo as master of a ship called the Tiger. I'll sail there in a kitchen strainer, turn myself into a tailless rat, and do things to him—
SECOND WITCH I'll give thee a wind.	SECOND WITCH I'll give you some wind to sail there.
FIRST WITCH Thou 'rt kind.	FIRST WITCH How nice of you!
THIRD WITCH And I another.	THIRD WITCH And I will give you some more.
FIRST WITCH  I myself have all the other,  And the very ports they blow, All the quarters that they know I' th' shipman's card. I'll drain him dry as hay. Sleep shall neither night nor day Hang upon his penthouse lid. He shall live a man forbid. Weary sev'nnights nine times nine Shall he dwindle, peak and pine.	FIRST WITCH  I already have control of all the other winds, along with the ports from which they blow and every direction on the sailor's compass in which they can go. I'll drain the life out of him. He won't catch a wink of sleep, either at night or during the day. He will live as a cursed man. For eighty-one weeks he will waste away in agony.
Though his bark cannot be lost,  Yet it shall be tempest-tossed.  Look what I have.	Although I can't make his ship disappear, I can still make his journey miserable. Look what I have here.
SECOND WITCH Show me, show me.	SECOND WITCH Show me, show me.
FIRST WITCH  Here I have a pilot's thumb,  Wrecked as homeward he did come.	FIRST WITCH  Here I have the thumb of a pilot who was drowned while trying to return home.
Drum within	A drum sounds offstage.
THIRD WITCH  A drum, a drum!  Macbeth doth come.	THIRD WITCH A drum, a drum! Macbeth has come.
ALL (dancing together in a circle) 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.	ALL (dancing together in a circle) We weird sisters, hand in hand, swift travelers over the sea and land, dance around and around like so. Three times to yours, and three times to mine, and three times again, to add up to nine. Enough! The charm is ready.
Enter MACBETH and BANQUO	MACBETH and BANQUO enter.

	MACBETH	MACBETH
	So foul and fair a day I have not seen.	(to BANQUO) I have never seen a day that was so good and bad at the same time.
	BANQUO	BANQUO
40	How far is 't called to Forres?—What are these So withered and so wild in their attire,	How far is it supposed to be to Forres? (he sees the WITCHES) What are these creatures? They're so
70	That look not like th' inhabitants o' th' Earth,	withered-looking and crazily dressed. They don't look
	And yet are on 't?—Live you? Or are you aught	like they belong on this planet, but I see them
	That man may question? You seem to understand me,	standing here on Earth. (to the WITCHES) Are you
	By each at once her choppy finger laying	alive? Can you answer questions? You seem to
45	Upon her skinny lips. You should be women,	understand me, because each of you has put a
	And yet your beards forbid me to interpret That you are so.	gruesome finger to her skinny lips. You look like women, but your beards keep me from believing that
	jou allo 55.	you really are.
	MACBETH	MACBETH
	Speak, if you can: what are you?	Speak, if you can. What kind of creatures are you?
	FIRST WITCH	FIRST WITCH
	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Glamis!	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to you, thane of Glamis!
	SECOND WITCH	SECOND WITCH
50	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!	All hail, Macbeth! Hail to you, thane of Cawdor!
	THIRD WITCH	THIRD WITCH
	All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!	All hail, Macbeth, the future king!
	BANQUO	BANQUO
	Good sir, why do you start and seem to fear	My dear Macbeth, why do you look so startled and
	Things that do sound so fair? (to the WITCHES) I' th' name of truth,	afraid of these nice things they're saying? (to the WITCHES) Tell me honestly, are you illusions, or are
55	Are ye fantastical, or that indeed	you really what you seem to be? You've greeted my
	Which outwardly ye show? My noble partner	noble friend with honors and talk of a future so
	You greet with present grace and great prediction	glorious that you've made him speechless. But you
	Of noble having and of royal hope, That he seems rapt withal. To me you speak not.	don't say anything to me. If you can see the future and say how things will turn out, tell me. I don't want
60	If you can look into the seeds of time	your favors and I'm not afraid of your hatred.
	And say which grain will grow and which will not,	·
	Speak, then, to me, who neither beg nor fear	
	Your favors nor your hate.	
	FIRST WITCH Hail!	FIRST WITCH Hail!
	SECOND WITCH Hail!	SECOND WITCH Hail!
	THIRD WITCH	THIRD WITCH
65	Hail!	Hail!
	FIRST WITCH Lesser than Macbeth and greater.	FIRST WITCH  You are lesser than Macbeth but also greater.
	SECOND WITCH  Not so happy, yet much happier.	SECOND WITCH You are not as happy as Macbeth, yet much happier.
	THIRD WITCH	THIRD WITCH
	Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none.	Your descendants will be kings, even though you will
	So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!	not be one. So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo!
	FIRST WITCH	FIRST WITCH
70	Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!	Banquo and Macbeth, all hail!
	MACBETH	MACBETH

75	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.	Wait! You only told me part of what I want to know. Stay and tell me more. I already know I am the thane of Glamis because I inherited the position when my father, Sinel, died. But how can you call me the thane of Cawdor? The thane of Cawdor is alive, and he's a rich and powerful man. And for me to be the king is completely impossible, just as it's impossible for me to be thane of Cawdor. Tell me where you learned these strange things, and why you stop us at this desolate place with this prophetic greeting? Speak, I command you.
	WITCHES vanish	The <b>WITCHES</b> vanish.
	BANQUO	BANQUO
80	The earth hath bubbles, as the water has, And these are of them. Whither are they vanished?	The earth has bubbles, just like the water, and these creatures must have come from a bubble in the earth. Where did they disappear to?
	MACBETH	MACBETH
	Into the air, and what seemed corporal Melted, as breath into the wind. Would they had stayed.	Into thin air. Their bodies melted like breath in the wind. I wish they had stayed!
	BANQUO	BANQUO
85	Were such things here as we do speak about?  Or have we eaten on the insane root  That takes the reason prisoner?	Were these things we're talking about really here? Or are we both on drugs?
	MACBETH  Your children shall be kings.	MACBETH Your children will be kings.
	<b>BANQUO</b> You shall be king.	<b>BANQUO</b> You will be the king.
	MACBETH	MACBETH
	And thane of Cawdor too: went it not so?	And thane of Cawdor too. Isn't that what they said?
	BANQUO	BANQUO
	To the selfsame tune and words. Who's here?	That's exactly what they said. Who's this?
	Enter ROSS and ANGUS	ROSS and ANGUS enter.
	ROSS	ROSS
90	The king hath happily received, Macbeth, The news of thy success, and when he reads Thy personal venture in the rebels' fight,	The king was happy to hear of your success, Macbeth. Whenever he hears the story of your exploits in the fight against the rebels, he becomes
95	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 afeard of what thyself didst make, Strange images of death. As thick as tale Can post with post, and every one did bear	so amazed it makes him speechless. He was also shocked to learn that on the same day you fought the rebels you also fought against the army of Norway, and that you weren't the least bit afraid of death, even as you killed everyone around you. Messenger after messenger delivered news of your bravery to the king with praise for how you defended
100	Thy praises in his kingdom's great defense, And poured them down before him.	his country.
	ANGUS  We are sent  To give thee from our royal master thanks,  Only to herald thee into his sight,  Not pay thee.	ANGUS  The king sent us to give you his thanks and to bring you to him. Your real reward won't come from us.
105	<b>ROSS</b> And, for an earnest of a greater honor,	ROSS And to give you a taste of what's in store for you, he

He bade me, from him, call thee thane of Cawdor: In which addition, hail, most worthy thane, For it is thine.

told me to call you the thane of Cawdor. So hail, thane of Cawdor! That title belongs to you now.

#### **BANQUO**

What, can the devil speak true?

BANQUO (shocked) Can the devil tell the truth?

#### MACBETH

The thane of Cawdor lives. Why do you dress me In borrowed robes?

### **MACBETH**

The thane of Cawdor is still alive. Why are you giving me his title?

#### **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 labored in his country's wrack, I know not; But treasons capital, confessed and proved, Have overthrown him.

#### **ANGUS**

The man who was the thane of Cawdor is still alive, but he's been sentenced to death, and he deserves to die. I don't know whether he fought on Norway's side, or if he secretly aided the rebels, or if he fought with both of our enemies. But his treason, which has been proven, and to which he's confessed, means he's finished.

#### MACBETH

(aside) Glamis, and thane of Cawdor! The greatest is behind. (to ROSS and ANGUS) Thanks for your pains.

(aside to BANQUO) 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**

(to himself) It's just like they said-now I'm the thane of Glamis and the thane of Cawdor. And the best part of what they predicted is still to come. (to ROSS and ANGUS) Thank you for the news. (speaking so that only BANQUO can hear) Aren't you beginning to hope your children will be kings? After all, the witches who said I was thane of Cawdor promised them nothing less.

#### **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. (to ROSS and ANGUS) Cousins, a word, I pray you.

### **BANQUO**

If you trust what they say, you might be on your way to becoming king, as well as thane of Cawdor. But this whole thing is strange. The agents of evil often tell us part of the truth in order to lead us to our destruction. They earn our trust by telling us the truth about little things, but then they betray us when it will damage us the most. (to ROSS and ANGUS) Gentlemen, I'd like to have a word with you, please.

BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS move to one side

ROSS, ANGUS, and BANQUO move to one side.

#### MACBETH

As happy prologues to the swelling act

Two truths are told,

(aside)

Of the imperial theme. (to ROSS and ANGUS) I thank you, gentlemen. (aside) This supernatural soliciting 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.

#### **MACBETH**

(to himself) So far the witches have told me two things that came true, so it seems like this will culminate in my becoming king. (to ROSS and ANGUS) Thank you, gentlemen. (to himself) This supernatural temptation doesn't seem like it can be a bad thing, but it can't be good either. If it's a bad thing, why was I promised a promotion that turned out to be true? Now I'm the thane of Cawdor, just like they said I would be. But if this is a good thing, why do I find myself thinking about murdering King Duncan, a thought so horrifying that it makes my hair stand on end and my heart pound inside my chest? The dangers that actually threaten me here and now frighten me less than the horrible things I'm imagining.

My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical, Shakes so my single state of man

Even though it's just a fantasy so far, the mere thought of committing murder shakes me up so

145	That function is smothered in surmise, And nothing is but what is not.	much that I hardly know who I am anymore. My ability to act is stifled by my thoughts and speculations, and the only things that matter to me are things that don't really exist.
	<b>BANQUO</b> Look how our partner's rapt.	<b>BANQUO</b> Look at Macbeth—he's in a daze.
	MACBETH  (aside) If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me  Without my stir.	MACBETH  (to himself) If fate wants me to be king, perhaps fate will just make it happen and I won't have to do anything.
150	BANQUO  New honors come upon him,  Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mold  But with the aid of use.	BANQUO (to ROSS and ANGUS) Macbeth is not used to his new titles. They're like new clothes: they don't fit until you break them in over time.
	MACBETH (aside) Come what come may, Time and the hour runs through the roughest day.	MACBETH (to himself) One way or another, what's going to happen is going to happen.
	<b>BANQUO</b> Worthy Macbeth, we stay upon your leisure.	<b>BANQUO</b> Good Macbeth, we're ready when you are.
155	MACBETH Give me your favor. My dull brain was wrought With things forgotten. Kind gentlemen, your pains	MACBETH  I beg your pardon; I was distracted. Kind gentlemen, I won't forget the trouble you've taken for me
160	Are registered 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 weighed it, let us speak Our free hearts each to other.	whenever I think of this day. Let's go to the king. (speaking so that only BANQUO can hear) Think about what happened today, and when we've both had time to consider things, let's talk.
160	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 weighed it, let us speak	(speaking so that only BANQUO can hear) Think about what happened today, and when we've both
160	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 weighed it, let us speak  Our free hearts each to other.  BANQUO	(speaking so that only BANQUO can hear) Think about what happened today, and when we've both had time to consider things, let's talk.  BANQUO
160	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 weighed it, let us speak Our free hearts each to other.  BANQUO Very gladly.  MACBETH	(speaking so that only BANQUO can hear) Think about what happened today, and when we've both had time to consider things, let's talk.  BANQUO Absolutely.  MACBETH Until then, we've said enough. (to ROSS and

Original Text	Modern Text
Flourish. Enter KING DUNCAN, LENNOX, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, and attendants	A trumpet fanfare sounds. KING DUNCAN, LENNOX, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, and their attendants enter.
DUNCAN Is execution done on Cawdor? Are not Those in commission yet returned?	DUNCAN  Has the former thane of Cawdor been executed yet?  Haven't the people in charge of that come back?
MALCOLM  My liege,  They are not yet come back. But I have spoke  With one that saw him die, who did report	MALCOLM  My king, they haven't come back yet. But I spoke with someone who saw Cawdor die, and he said that Cawdor openly confessed his treasons, begged your

That very frankly he confessed his treasons, highness's forgiveness, and repented deeply. He Implored your highness' pardon, and set forth never did anything in his whole life that looked as A deep repentance. Nothing in his life good as the way he died. He died like someone who Became him like the leaving it. He died had practiced how to toss away his most cherished As one that had been studied in his death possession as if it were a worthless a piece of To throw away the dearest thing he owed garbage. As 'twere a careless trifle. **DUNCAN DUNCAN** There's no way to read a man's mind by looking at There's no art his face. I trusted Cawdor completely. To find the mind's construction in the face. He was a gentleman on whom I built An absolute trust. Enter MACBETH. BANQUO. ROSS. and ANGUS MACBETH, BANQUO, ROSS, and ANGUS enter. (to MACBETH) O worthiest cousin, (to MACBETH) My worthiest kinsman! Just this The sin of my ingratitude even now moment I was feeling guilty for not having thanked Was heavy on me. Thou art so far before you enough. You have done so much for me so fast That swiftest wing of recompense is slow that it has been impossible to reward you properly. If To overtake thee. Would thou hadst less deserved, you deserved less, then perhaps my payment would That the proportion both of thanks and payment have matched your deeds! All I can say is that I owe Might have been mine! Only I have left to say, you more than I can ever repay. More is thy due than more than all can pay. **MACBETH MACBETH** The service and the loyalty I owe The opportunity to serve you is its own reward. Your In doing it pays itself. Your highness' part only duty, your highness, is to accept what we owe Is to receive our duties, and our duties you. Our duty to you and your state is like the duty of Are to your throne and state children and servants, children to their father or servants to their master. By Which do but what they should, by doing everything doing everything we can to protect you, we're only Safe toward your love and honor. doing what we should. DUNCAN DUNCAN Welcome hither. You are welcome here. By making you thane of I have begun to plant thee, and will labor Cawdor, I have planted the seeds of a great career To make thee full of growing. (to BANQUO) Noble Banquo, for you, and I will make sure they grow. (to That hast no less deserved, nor must be known BANQUO) Noble Banquo, you deserve no less than No less to have done so, let me infold thee Macbeth, and everyone should know it. Let me bring And hold thee to my heart. you close to me and give you the benefit of my love and good will. **BANQUO BANQUO** There, if I grow, Then if I accomplish anything great, it will be a credit The harvest is your own. to you. **DUNCAN DUNCAN** My joy is so overwhelming it brings tears to my eyes. My plenteous joys, Wanton in fullness, seek to hide themselves My sons, relatives, lords, and all those closest to me, In drops of sorrow. Sons, kinsmen, thanes, I want you to witness that I will bestow my kingdom And you whose places are the nearest, know on my eldest son, Malcolm. Today I name him the We will establish our estate upon prince of Cumberland. But Malcolm isn't going to be Our eldest Malcolm whom we name hereafter alone in receiving honors—titles of nobility will shine The prince of Cumberland; which honor must like stars on all of you who deserve them. (to Not unaccompanied invest him only, MACBETH) And now, let's go to your castle at But signs of nobleness, like stars, shall shine Inverness, where I will become even more obliged to On all deservers. (to MACBETH) From hence to Inverness, you because of your hospitality. And bind us further to you. **MACBETH MACBETH** I'm not happy unless I can be working for you. I will The rest is labor which is not used for you: I'll be myself the harbinger and make joyful go ahead and bring my wife the good news that you

	The hearing of my wife with your approach. So humbly take my leave.	are coming. With that, I'll be off.
	<b>DUNCAN</b> My worthy Cawdor!	<b>DUNCAN</b> My worthy Cawdor!
50	MACBETH  (aside) The prince of Cumberland! That is a step On which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, For in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires; Let not light see my black and deep desires. The eye wink at the hand, yet let that be Which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.	MACBETH  (to himself) Malcolm is now the prince of Cumberland! To become king myself, I'm either going to have to step over him or give up, because he's in my way. Stars, hide your light so no one can see the terrible desires within me. I won't let my eye look at what my hand is doing, but in the end I'm still going to do that thing I'd be horrified to see.
	Exit	MACBETH exits.
60	DUNCAN  True, worthy Banquo. He is full so valiant, And in his commendations I am fed; It is a banquet to me.—Let's after him, Whose care is gone before to bid us welcome: It is a peerless kinsman.	DUNCAN  (to BANQUO, in the middle of a conversation we haven't heard) You're right, Banquo. Macbeth is every bit as valiant as you say, and I am satisfied with these praises of him. Let's follow after him, now that he has gone ahead to prepare our welcome. He is a man without equal.
	Flourish. Exeunt	Trumpet fanfare. They exit.

Original Text	Modern Text
Enter LADY MACBETH, alone, with a letter	LADY MACBETH enters, reading a letter.
LADY MACBETH  (reading) "They met me in the day of success, and I have learned by the perfectest report they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it came missives from the king, who all-hailed me 'Thane of Cawdor,' by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time with 'Hail, king that shalt be!' This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou might'st not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell."	"The witches met me on the day of my victory in battle, and I have since learned that they have supernatural knowledge. When I tried desperately to question them further, they vanished into thin air. While I stood spellbound, messengers from the king arrived and greeted me as the thane of Cawdor, which is precisely how the weird sisters had saluted me before calling me 'the future king!' I thought I should tell you this news, my dearest partner in greatness, so that you could rejoice along with me about the greatness that is promised to us. Keep it secret, and farewell."
Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be What thou art promised. Yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o' th' milk of human kindness  To catch the nearest way: thou wouldst be great, Art not without ambition, but without The illness should attend it. What thou wouldst highly, That wouldst thou holily; wouldst not play false, And yet wouldst wrongly win. Thou'ld'st have, great Glamis, That which cries, "Thus thou must do," if thou have it, And that which rather thou dost fear to do,	(she looks up from the letter) You are thane of Glamis and Cawdor, and you're going to be king, just like you were promised. But I worry about whether or not you have what it takes to seize the crown. You are too full of the milk of human kindness to strike aggressively at your first opportunity. You want to be powerful, and you don't lack ambition, but you don't have the mean streak that these things call for. The things you want to do, you want to do like a good man. You don't want to cheat, yet you want what doesn't belong to you. There's something you want,

Than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither,  That I may pour my spirits in thine ear  And chastise with the valor of my tongue All that impedes thee from the golden round, Which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem To have thee crowned withal.	but you're afraid to do what you need to do to get it. You want it to be done for you. Hurry home so I can persuade you and talk you out of whatever's keeping you from going after the crown. After all, fate and witchcraft both seem to want you to be king.
Enter SERVANT	A SERVANT enters.
What is your tidings?	What news do you bring?
SERVANT The king comes here tonight.	SERVANT The king is coming here tonight.
LADY MACBETH  Thou 'rt mad to say it.  Is not thy master with him, who, were 't so,  Would have informed for preparation?	LADY MACBETH  You must be crazy to say that! Isn't Macbeth with the king, and wouldn't Macbeth have told me in advance so I could prepare, if the king were really coming?
SERVANT  So please you, it is true: our thane is coming.  One of my fellows had the speed of him,  Who, almost dead for breath, had scarcely more  Than would make up his message.	SERVANT I'm sorry, but it's the truth. Macbeth is coming. He sent a messenger ahead of him who arrived here so out of breath that he could barely speak his message.
<b>LADY MACBETH</b> Give him tending. He brings great news.	LADY MACBETH  Take good care of him. He brings great news.
Exit <b>SERVANT</b>	The <b>SERVANT</b> exits.
The raven himself is hoarse That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan Under my battlements. Come, you spirits That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full Of direst cruelty. Make thick my blood. Stop up the access and passage to remorse, That no compunctious visitings of nature Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts, And take my milk for gall, you murd'ring ministers, Wherever in your sightless substances You wait on nature's mischief. Come, thick night, And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell, That my keen knife see not the wound it makes, Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark To cry "Hold, hold!"	So the messenger is short of breath, like a hoarse raven, as he announces Duncan's entrance into my fortress, where he will die. Come, you spirits that asist murderous thoughts, make me less like a woman and more like a man, and fill me from head to toe with deadly cruelty! Thicken my blood and clog up my veins so I won't feel remorse, so that no human compassion can stop my evil plan or prevent me from accomplishing it! Come to my female breast and turn my mother's milk into poisonous acid, you murdering demons, wherever you hide, invisible and waiting to do evil! Come, thick night, and cover the world in the darkest smoke of hell, so that my sharp knife can't see the wound it cuts open, and so heaven can't peep through the darkness and cry, "No! Stop!"
Enter MACBETH	MACBETH enters.
Great Glamis, worthy Cawdor, Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter, Thy letters have transported me beyond This ignorant present, and I feel now The future in the instant.	Great thane of Glamis! Worthy thane of Cawdor! You'll soon be greater than both those titles, once you become king! Your letter has transported me from the present moment, when who knows what will happen, and has made me feel like the future is already here.
MACBETH  My dearest love,  50 Duncan comes here tonight.	MACBETH  My dearest love, Duncan is coming here tonight.
LADY MACBETH And when goes hence?	LADY MACBETH  And when is he leaving?

MACBETH	MACBETH
Tomorrow, as he purpos	es. He plans to leave tomorrow.
LADY MACBETH	LADY MACBETH
O, never	That day will never come. Your face betrays strange
Shall sun that morrow se	ee! feelings, my lord, and people will be able to read it
Your face, my thane, is as a book	where men like a book. In order to deceive them, you must
May read strange matters. To beg	uile the time, appear the way they expect you to look. Greet the
Look like the time. Bear welcome	in your eye, king with a welcoming expression in your eyes, your
Your hand, your tongue. Look like th'	· •
But be the serpent under 't. He th	,
Must be provided for; and you	
This night's great business into m	
60 Which shall to all our nights and d	
Give solely sovereign sway and r	masterdom. and day for the rest of our lives.
MACBETH	MACBETH
We will speak further.	We will speak about this further.
LADY MACBETH	LADY MACBETH
Only look up clear.	You should project a peaceful mood, because if you
To alter favor ever is to fe	ear. look troubled, you will arouse suspicion. Leave all the
65 Leave all the rest to me	e. rest to me.
Exeunt	They exit.

Original Text	Modern Text
hautboys and torches. Enter KING DUNCAN, MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS, ANGUS, and attendants	The stage is lit by torches. Hautboys play. DUNCAN enters, together with MALCOLM, DONALBAIN, BANQUO, LENNOX, MACDUFF, ROSS, ANGUS, and their attendants.
DUNCAN  This castle hath a pleasant seat. The air  Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself  Unto our gentle senses.	DUNCAN  This castle is in a pleasant place. The air is sweet and appeals to my refined senses.
BANQUO  This guest of summer, The temple-haunting martlet, does approve, By his loved mansionry, that the heaven's breath Smells wooingly here. No jutty, frieze, Buttress, nor coign of vantage, but this bird Hath made his pendant bed and procreant cradle. Where they most breed and haunt, I have observed, The air is delicate.	BANQUO  The fact that this summer bird, the house martin, builds his nests here proves how inviting the breezes are. There isn't a single protrusion in the castle walls where these birds haven't built their hanging nests to sleep and breed. I've noticed that they always like to settle and mate where the air is the nicest.
Enter LADY MACBETH	LADY MACBETH enters.
DUNCAN  See, see, our honored hostess!  The love that follows us sometime is our trouble, Which still we thank as love. Herein I teach you How you shall bid God 'ild us for your pains, And thank us for your trouble.	DUNCAN  Look, here comes our honored hostess! Sometimes the love my subjects bring me is inconvenient, but I still accept it as love. In doing so, I'm teaching you to thank me for the incovenience I'm causing you by being here, because it comes from my love to you.

LADY MACBETH  All our service,  In every point twice done and then done double, Were poor and single business to contend Against those honors deep and broad wherewith Your majesty loads our house. For those of old, And the late dignities heaped up to them,	LADY MACBETH  Everything we're doing for you, even if it were doubled and then doubled again, is nothing compared to the honors you have brought to our family. We gladly welcome you as our guests, with gratitude for both the honors you've given us before and the new honors you've just given us.
DUNCAN  Where's the thane of Cawdor?  We coursed him at the heels and had a purpose  To be his purveyor; but he rides well,  And his great love, sharp as his spur, hath holp him  To his home before us. Fair and noble hostess,  We are your guest tonight.	DUNCAN  Where is Macbeth, the thane of Cawdor? We followed closely after him. I hoped to arrive here before him, but he rides swiftly. And his great love, which is as sharp as his spur, helped him beat us here. Fair and noble hostess, we are your guests tonight.
LADY MACBETH  Your servants ever  Have theirs, themselves, and what is theirs in compt,  To make their audit at your highness' pleasure,  Still to return your own.	LADY MACBETH  We are your servants, your highness, and as always our house and everything in it is at your disposal, for after all, we keep it in your trust and we're glad to give you back what's yours.
DUNCAN Give me your hand. Conduct me to mine host. We love him highly And shall continue our graces towards him. By your leave, hostess.	DUNCAN  Give me your hand. Bring me to my host, Macbeth. I love him dearly, and I shall continue to favor him.  Whenever you're ready, hostess.
Exeunt	They all exit.

Original Text	Modern Text
Hautboys. Torches. Enter a sewer and divers servants with dishes and service over the stage. Then enter <b>MACBETH</b>	Hautboys play. The stage is lit by torches. A butler enters, and various servants carry utensils and dishes of food across the stage. Then <b>MACBETH</b> enters.
MACBETH	MACBETH
If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well	If this business would really be finished when I did
It were done quickly. If the assassination	the deed, then it would be best to get it over with
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch	quickly. If the assassination of the king could work
With his surcease success; that but this blow	like a net, sweeping up everything and preventing
5 Might be the be-all and the end-all here,	any consequences, then the murder would be the be-
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,	all and end-all of the whole affair, and I would gladly
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases	put my soul and the afterlife at risk to do it. But for
We still have judgment here, that we but teach	crimes like these there are still punishments in this
Bloody instructions, which, being taught, return	world. By committing violent crimes we only teach
To plague th' inventor: this even-handed justice	other people to commit violence, and the violence of
Commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice	our students will come back to plague us teachers.
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:	Justice, being equal to everyone, forces us to drink
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,	from the poisoned cup that we serve to others. The
Strong both against the deed; then, as his host,	king trusts me in two ways. First of all, I am his
Who should against his murderer shut the door,	kinsman and his subject, so I should always try to
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan	protect him. Second, I am his host, so I should be

Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been closing the door in his murderer's face, not trying to So clear in his great office, that his virtues murder him myself. Besides, Duncan has been such Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against a humble leader, so free of corruption, that his The deep damnation of his taking-off; virtuous legacy will speak for him when he dies, as if And pity, like a naked newborn babe, angels were playing trumpets against the injustice of Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubim, horsed his murder. Pity, like an innocent newborn baby, will Upon the sightless couriers of the air, ride the wind with winged angels on invisible horses Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye, through the air to spread news of the horrible deed to That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur everyone everywhere. People will shed a flood of To prick the sides of my intent, but only tears that will drown the wind like a horrible Vaulting ambition, which o'erleaps itself downpour of rain. I can't spur myself to action. The And falls on th' other. only thing motivating me is ambition, which makes people rush ahead of themselves toward disaster. Enter LADY MACBETH LADY MACBETH enters. How now! What news? What news do you have? LADY MACBETH LADY MACBETH He has almost finished dinner. Why did you leave the He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber? dining room? **MACBETH MACBETH** Hath he asked for me? Has he asked for me? **LADY MACBETH** LADY MACBETH Know you not he has? Don't you know he has? **MACBETH MACBETH** We will proceed no further in this business. We can't go on with this plan. The king has just He hath honored me of late, and I have bought honored me, and I have earned the good opinion of Golden opinions from all sorts of people, all sorts of people. I want to enjoy these honors while Which would be worn now in their newest gloss, the feeling is fresh and not throw them away so soon. Not cast aside so soon. LADY MACBETH **LADY MACBETH** Was the hope drunk Were you drunk when you seemed so hopeful Wherein you dressed yourself? Hath it slept since? before? Have you gone to sleep and woken up green And wakes it now, to look so green and pale and pale in fear of this idea? From now on this is At what it did so freely? From this time what I'll think of your love. Are you afraid to act the Such I account thy love. Art thou afeard way you desire? Will you take the crown you want so To be the same in thine own act and valor badly, or will you live as a coward, always saying "I As thou art in desire? Wouldst thou have that can't" after you say "I want to"? You're like the poor Which thou esteem'st the ornament of life, cat in the old story. And live a coward in thine own esteem, Letting "I dare not" wait upon "I would, " Like the poor cat i' th' adage? **MACBETH MACBETH** Please, stop! I dare to do only what is proper for a Prithee, peace: man to do. He who dares to do more is not a man at I dare do all that may become a man; Who dares do more is none. LADY MACBETH **LADY MACBETH** What beast was 't, then, If you weren't a man, then what kind of animal were you when you first told me you wanted to do this? That made you break this enterprise to me? When you durst do it, then you were a man; When you dared to do it, that's when you were a And to be more than what you were, you would man. And if you go one step further by doing what Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place you dared to do before, you'll be that much more the Did then adhere, and yet you would make both. man. The time and place weren't right before, but you They have made themselves, and that their fitness now would have gone ahead with the murder anyhow. Does unmake you. I have given suck, and know Now the time and place are just right, but they're How tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me almost too good for you. I have suckled a baby, and I

I would, while it was smiling in my face, know how sweet it is to love the baby at my breast. Have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums But even as the baby was smiling up at me, I would And dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you have plucked my nipple out of its mouth and Have done to this. smashed its brains out against a wall if I had sworn to do that the same way you have sworn to do this. MACBETH **MACBETH** If we should fail? But if we fail-LADY MACBETH **LADY MACBETH** We fail? We, fail? If you get your courage up, we can't fail. But screw your courage to the sticking-place, When Duncan is asleep—the day's hard journey has And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleepdefinitely made him tired-I'll get his two servants so Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey drunk that their memory will go up in smoke through Soundly invite him—his two chamberlains the chimneys of their brains. When they lie asleep Will I with wine and wassail so convince like pigs, so drunk they'll be dead to the world, what That memory, the warder of the brain, won't you and I be able to do to the unguarded Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason Duncan? And whatever we do, we can lay all the A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep blame on the drunken servants. Their drenchèd natures lie as in a death, What cannot you and I perform upon The unguarded Duncan? What not put upon His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt Of our great quell? **MACBETH MACBETH** Bring forth men-children only, May you only give birth to male children, because For thy undaunted mettle should compose your fearless spirit should create nothing that isn't Nothing but males. Will it not be received, masculine. Once we have covered the two servants When we have marked with blood those sleepy two with blood, and used their daggers to kill, won't Of his own chamber and used their very daggers, people believe that they were the culprits? That they have done 't? LADY MACBETH **LADY MACBETH** Who dares receive it other, Who could think it happened any other way? We'll be As we shall make our griefs and clamor roar grieving loudly when we hear that Duncan has died. Upon his death? **MACBETH MACBETH** I am settled, and bend up Now I'm decided, and I will exert every muscle in my Each corporal agent to this terrible feat. body to commit this crime. Go now, and pretend to Away, and mock the time with fairest show. be a friendly hostess. Hide with a false pleasant face False face must hide what the false heart doth know. what you know in your false, evil heart. Exeunt They exit.