

# **SHAKESPEARIENCE!**

## *Macbeth*

### ACT 2 Scene 2

*Macbeth, Lady Macbeth*

*[Enter LADY MACBETH]*

#### **LADY MACBETH**

Hark! I laid their daggers ready;  
He could not miss 'em...  
Had he not resembled my father as he slept, I had done't.  
*[Enter MACBETH]* My husband!

#### **MACBETH**

I have done the deed. Didst thou not hear a noise?

#### **LADY MACBETH**

I heard the owl scream and the crickets cry.  
Did not you speak?

#### **MACBETH**

When?

#### **LADY MACBETH**

Now.

#### **MACBETH**

As I descended?

**LADY MACBETH**

Ay.

**MACBETH**

This is a sorry sight.

*[Looking on his hands]*

**LADY MACBETH**

A foolish thought, to say a sorry sight.

**MACBETH**

One cried 'God bless us!' and 'Amen' the other;  
As they had seen me with these hangman's hands.

**LADY MACBETH**

Consider it not so deeply.

**MACBETH**

But wherefore could not I pronounce 'Amen'?  
I had most need of blessing, and 'Amen'  
Stuck in my throat.

**LADY MACBETH**

These deeds must not be thought  
After these ways; so, it will make us mad.

**MACBETH**

Methought I heard a voice cry 'Sleep no more!  
Macbeth does murder sleep', the innocent sleep,  
Sleep that knits up the ravell'd sleeve of care,  
The death of each day's life, sore labour's bath,  
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,  
Chief nourisher in life's feast,--

## **LADY MACBETH**

What do you mean?

## **MACBETH**

Still it cried 'Sleep no more!' to all the house:  
'Glamis hath murder'd sleep, and therefore Cawdor  
Shall sleep no more; Macbeth shall sleep no more.'

## **LADY MACBETH**

Who was it that thus cried? Why, worthy thane,  
You do unbend your noble strength, to think  
So brainsickly of things. Go get some water, And wash this  
filthy witness from your hand....

*[He reveals daggers]*

Why did you bring these daggers from the place?  
They must lie there. Go carry them and smear the sleepy  
grooms with blood.

## **MACBETH**

I'll go no more:  
I am afraid to think what I have done;  
Look on't again I dare not.

## **LADY MACBETH**

Infirm of purpose!  
Give me the daggers. the sleeping and the dead  
Are but as pictures: 'tis the eye of childhood  
That fears a painted devil. If he do bleed,  
I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal;  
For it must seem their guilt.

*[She exits to put the daggers in the king's chamber.]*

**MACBETH**

What hands are here?

Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No!

*[Re-enter LADY MACBETH]*

**LADY MACBETH**

My hands are of your colour; but I shame

To wear a heart so white...*[Knocking within]*

I hear a knocking

At the south entry: retire we to our chamber;

A little water clears us of this deed:

How easy is it, then! Your constancy

Hath left you unattended.

*[more knocking]*

Hark! more knocking.

Be not lost so poorly in your thoughts.

**MACBETH**

To know my deed, 'twere best not know myself.

*[More knocking offstage]*

Wake Duncan with thy knocking! I would thou couldst!