

SHAKESPEARIENCE!

Swords, Scenes & Soliloquies

M A C B E T H

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Macbeth's Vaulting Ambition Soliloquy, Act I

If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly:

that but this blow might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, we'd jump the life to come.

But in these cases we still have judgment here;
that we but teach bloody instructions, which, being taught,
return to plague the inventor:

He's here in double trust;
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject, strong both against the deed;
then, as his host, who should against his murderer shut the door, not bear the
knife myself.

Besides, this Duncan hath been so clear in his great office,
that his virtues will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against the deep
damnation of his taking-off;

And pity, like a naked new-born babe, striding the blast, shall blow the horrid
deed in every eye, that tears shall drown the wind.

I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition,
which o'erleaps itself, and falls on the other.