

### Macbeth Quotes:

1. "Fair is foul, and foul is fair"

This quote was spoken (in unison) by the three witches at the very beginning of the play, with them essentially replacing and acting as the traditional Shakespeare chorus. The quote itself, "Fair is foul, and foul is fair," is paradoxical in nature, yet helps set the tone of the play. At least in my opinion, the witches are saying that even the most reprehensible actions throughout the play are fair in a way -- even if done in a cowardly and uncivilized way. For instance, pertaining to the second half of the quote, the murder of King Duncan by Macbeth and his wife is certainly a foul act, but it could be interpreted as fair -- it was essentially just accelerating what would normally simply happen as the king aged and died. And then the first half of the quote, "fair is foul," could be easily applied to Macbeth's rise to power. Of course it's fair for Duncan's successor, Macbeth, to be crowned when Duncan dies, but then again it's distasteful due to the murder that allowed it to happen in the first place.

2. "False face must hide what the false heart doth know"

Spoken by Lady Macbeth to her husband at the end of Act I, this quote precedes Duncan's assassination. Overall, the quote is Lady Macbeth simply telling her husband to maintain composure and be convincing in his lies and manner in the face of the planned assassination. The first two words, "false face," refers not to his face, specifically, but to keeping a calm facade and not revealing any enmity or true intentions. Loyalties are said to be kept in the heart, so the last part of the quote is talking about the fact that his loyalties are "false," i.e. to himself and his own power rather than Duncan's. It starts to expose the themes of lies and deception that are pervasive throughout the play.

3. "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather The multitudinous seas incarnadine, Making the green one red"

In this quote, Macbeth has just killed Duncan, and is overwhelmed with guilt from the action. In a literal sense, he is lamenting that it would take entire oceans, and then some, to wash the blood from his hands. In a more interpretative sense, he feels that he can never be redeemed for his actions (i.e. washing the blood from his hands), and that any attempt to would simply drag others into the mess that he has made for himself. It begins to reveal the amount of guilt that Macbeth feels for his deeds.

4. "There's daggers in men's smiles"

This quote is said by Malcolm, talking to his brother Donalbain. They are both the sons of the King (who was just assassinated), and are worried they're the

next targets of the assassins who killed their father. The quote itself is saying that while those around them appear to have the best intentions and are friendly, they are actually the ones plotting to kill them next. It marks the time that the two brothers flee. Later, it is revealed to be integral to the plot, as the action enables one of them to travel to England and bring an army back to retake the kingdom from Macbeth.

5. "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!"

Lady Macbeth, seemingly sleepwalking, says this quote while trying to clean or wash her hands. It's shown that she's imagining a persistent spot on her hands, which is interpreted to mean the blood of the late King Duncan, or the suppressed guilt she feels. Her general demeanor shows that of instability and mental anguish, all stemming from the murder of Duncan. The fact that her behavior only shows itself while sleeping is meant to be a glimpse into her subconscious, which is still feeling the guilt from her past actions while her conscious is relatively clean. This is the culmination of the themes of mental instability, and could easily mark the general spot (pun unintended) where Macbeth's rule starts to break down for good.