

Macbeth - Episode 4 "Macduff Discovers the Murdered King"

A night porter is on duty at Macbeth's castle, but he is drunk. There is a knocking and he asks, "Who's there?"

When he finally opens the castle gate, Macduff and Lennox come in. He tells them he has been up all night drinking and carousing till the second cock crew.

As Macduff asks where Macbeth is, he enters. Macduff asks if the king is awake and Macbeth points the way to the king's room. Macduff goes up to wake King Duncan.

Lennox is left alone with the nervous Macbeth and talks about the strange things which happened during the night: chimneys blown down, wailing and strange screams of death, an owl screeching all night and even an earthquake.

"'Twas a rough night," replies Macbeth.

Macduff rushes back in a panic to tell everyone Duncan has been murdered. He raises the alarm and calls to wake Banquo, Donalbain and Malcolm. A bell is rung to wake everyone in the castle.

Lady Macbeth wants to know what all the fuss is about (another irony, as she knows very well!) Macduff tells her that the king is dead - murdered! Banquo is angry. Macbeth comes back with Lennox and Ross in his wake. Macduff tells Malcolm and Donalbain that their father has been murdered, with Lennox adding that the guards must have killed him since they were dead in bed with their daggers on their pillows, smeared with blood.

Macbeth says he killed the guards in a passionate rage because they killed Duncan. Lady Macbeth swoons in a faint.

When all the others have left, Duncan's sons Princes Malcolm and Donalbain decide to flee as they fear for their own lives. Malcolm says he will go to England and Donalbain to Ireland.

Ross and an Old man have a discussion about further strange and unnatural happenings: a falcon killed by an owl and Duncan's horses going wild in their stalls.

Macduff meets up with them and says that the guards were ordered to kill Duncan, and as Malcolm and Donalbain have run away, they are suspected.

Ross suggests that Macbeth will now be king. Macduff confirms that Macbeth has already been named King and gone to Scone to be crowned. Duncan's body has been taken to Colmekill, to be buried with his predecessors. Ross says he will go to Scone

but Macduff, who is the Thane of Fife. decides to go home to Fife instead.

Now answer these questions

1. Whose job is it to answer the door of the castle?

A night porter answers the door at the castle.

2. What does “carousing” mean?

To go out drinking.

3. Who is at the door?

Lennox and Macduff are at the door.

4. Who is Macduff?

Macduff is the Thane of Fife.

6. Who discovers that the King has been murdered?

Macduff goes in to wake the King.

7. How is everyone woken in the castle?

A bell is rung to wake everyone.

8. What might happen to Malcolm & Donalbain now?

They fear that they also might be murdered.

9. Where does Prince Malcolm escape to?

Malcolm goes to England (Cumberland)

10. Where does Donalbain run to?

Donalbain goes to Ireland.

11. Who does Lennox think killed the King?

Lennox thinks the guards killed the king.

12. What is on the guards' pillows?

There are blood smeared daggers on their pillows.

13. What does Macbeth do to the guards?

Macbeth kills the guards.

14. What does Lady Macbeth do to detract attention from Macbeth?

Lady Macbeth faints.

15. Who is pronounced King now?

Macbeth is pronounced King.

16. What other strange things have happened?

A hawk is killed by an owl and Duncan's horses go wild.

17. Who does Macduff blame for Duncan's death?

Macduff suspects Malcolm and Donalbain, who fled, of ordering the guards to kill the King.

18. Where will Macbeth be crowned King?

Macbeth will be crowned in Scone.

19. Where will Duncan be buried?

Duncan will be buried in Colmekill.

20. Who does not want to go to the coronation?

Macduff decides to go home to Fife.