

Macbeth - Episode 5 "Banquo is Murdered"

Banquo is pondering on the events which have resulted in Macbeth being crowned king, but he is certain his old friend is involved: "I fear thou play'dst most foully for't."

He remembers that the witches prophesied that his own sons would be kings.

King Macbeth enters the Great Hall of the Palace at Forres to announce to his court that a grand feast will take place at which Banquo will be the Guest of Honour.

Macbeth says he has heard that Malcolm and Donalbain having killed Duncan have fled to England and Ireland, where they tell wild stories but won't confess to killing their father.

He wishes Banquo an enjoyable time hunting with Fleance and says he will see him for supper at seven o'clock.

Macbeth is worried about Banquo and believes that if the witches' prediction is true, then Banquo will father kings and be a threat to Macbeth's crown. If so his own efforts will have been in vain, Macbeth's children won't be king. There's only one thing for it: Banquo must go!

A servant arrives with two men. They are common murderers, and Macbeth is now meeting them for a second time.

He reminds them that Banquo has treated them badly and is their enemy. They agree to ambush Banquo and Fleance while they are out hunting and kill them.

Once they have gone, Lady Macbeth finds her husband and makes an effort to cheer him from his melancholy mood. She wants him to be bright and jovial among their guests at the evening's banquet.

He tells her his mind is full of scorpions because Banquo and Fleance are alive and a threat to his throne and he will only be happy when they are dead.

At a spot about a mile from the palace, the two murderers meet a mysterious third murderer who says he has been sent to them by Macbeth. They hear horses approach and get ready to attack.

Banquo puts up a tremendous fight, allowing his son to escape, but he is eventually overwhelmed and cut down.

Now answer these questions

1. How many of the witches prophecies have now come true?

Two have come true: Macbeth is Thane of Cawdor and King.

2. Which prophecy is Macbeth still nervous about?

Macbeth is nervous that the prophesy that Banquo will be father of kings which will threaten Macbeth's crown.

3. What does Banquo fear?

He is afraid Macbeth had a role in the King's death.

4. What does Macbeth decide to do about Banquo and Fleance?

Macbeth decides to have them ambushed and murdered while they are out hunting.

5. How does Macbeth celebrate his coronation?

Macbeth celebrates the coronation with a grand feast.

6. Who does Macbeth insist comes to his banquet?

He insists that Banquo come to be his guest of honour.

7. Why is Macbeth's head "full of scorpions"?

He feels this way because Banquo and Fleance are still alive and are a threat to his throne.

8. How many people are sent to kill Banquo & Fleance?

Two murderers are sent. They meet a mysterious third murderer. Altogether there are three murderers.

9. Where are Banquo & Fleance attacked?

They are attacked about a mile away from the palace.

10. Banquo escapes and Fleance is killed – True?

False - Banquo is killed and Fleance escapes.