

ACT V SCENE VI. Dunsinane. Before the castle.

Drum and colours. Enter MALCOLM, SIWARD, MACDUFF, and their Army, with boughs

Malcolm's direction for his men to take off their camouflage and reveal who they really are links to the theme of appearances v reality. Metaphorically this suggests that Malcolm has nothing to hide and is therefore fit to be king – unlike Macbeth who hides his true nature and is a tyrant.

The trumpet is used as a signal that the battle is about to begin. The phrase "blood and death" suggests that Macduff is aware that the battle will likely result in death on both sides. It also builds anticipation for the Jacobean audience as they would be aware of the imminent drama of the battle.

MALCOLM

Now near enough: your leafy screens throw down,  
And show like those you are. You, worthy uncle,  
Shall, with my cousin, your right-noble son,  
Lead our first battle: worthy Macduff and we  
Shall take upon 's what else remains to do,  
According to our order.

SIWARD

Fare you well.

Do we but find the tyrant's power to-night,  
Let us be beaten, if we cannot fight.

MACDUFF

Make all our trumpets speak; give them all breath,  
Those clamorous harbingers of blood and death.

Exeunt

Shakespeare once again demonstrates Malcolm's great leadership skills and diplomacy; it offers yet another contrast between his character and that of Macbeth, the latter having no other general supporting him as he marches into battle.

Siward expresses his belief that hat a country with Macbeth in charge is not a country or world worth living in. They would prefer to die than be under Macbeth's control. This demonstrates the extent of their hatred for Macbeth and the negative impact that his rule has had upon Scotland.

ACT V SCENE VII. Another part of the field.

Here, Macbeth compares himself to a bear who must "fight the course," an allusion to the Elizabethan sport of bear-baiting, in which a bear was chained to a post in the middle of an arena and would have to fight various opponents, most commonly dogs. Bears also have connotations of savagery and strength, suggesting these are attributes also held by Macbeth.

Siward's use of hyperbole suggests that despite his young age he is courageous - the reference to "hell" once again signifying Macbeth's fall from grace and evil nature.

Another use of hyperbole and reference to Christianity. Siward's words reflect the hatred that Macbeth inspires.

Young Siward's death has a significant role in Macbeth. When he encounters Young Siward, Macbeth easily kills him, which only supports Macbeth's belief that he cannot be stopped. Young Siward's death also shows how far Macbeth has fallen. In the beginning of the play, he is a celebrated soldier who, because of his skills and commitment in battle, was promoted by King Duncan. However, by the end of the play, he is a ruthless tyrant who is willing to kill men, women, and children to keep his place on the throne. He had killed or ordered the killing of King Duncan, Banquo, Lady Macduff and her family, and now Young Siward.

Alarums. Enter MACBETH

MACBETH

They have tied me to a stake; I cannot fly,  
But, bear-like, I must fight the course. What's he  
That was not born of woman? Such a one  
Am I to fear, or none.

Enter YOUNG SIWARD

YOUNG SIWARD  
What is thy name?

MACBETH

Thou'lt be afraid to hear it.

YOUNG SIWARD

No; though thou call'st thyself a hotter name  
Than any is in hell.

MACBETH

My name's Macbeth.

YOUNG SIWARD

The devil himself could not pronounce a title  
More hateful to mine ear.

MACBETH

No, nor more fearful.

YOUNG SIWARD

Thou liest, abhorred tyrant; with my sword  
I'll prove the lie thou speak'st.

They fight and YOUNG SIWARD is slain

MACBETH

Thou wast born of woman

But swords I smile at, weapons laugh to scorn,  
Brandish'd by man that's of a woman born.

Exit

Alarums. Enter MACDUFF

MACDUFF

That way the noise is. Tyrant, show thy face!  
If thou be'st slain and with no stroke of mine,  
My wife and children's ghosts will haunt me still.  
I cannot strike at wretched kerns, whose arms  
Are hired to bear their staves: either thou, Macbeth,  
Or else my sword with an unbatter'd edge  
I sheathe again undeeded. There thou shouldst be;  
By this great clatter, one of greatest note

The language Macbeth is associated with witchcraft, with the burning of witches at the stake being a method that the Jacobean Audience would be familiar with. King James was convinced that a coven of powerful witches was conspiring to murder him through magic, and that they were in league with the Devil. In 1597, with the end of the trials, James published his study of witchcraft, *Demonology*. Macbeth's language here would remind the audience that the Witches are at the root of the chaos that has been caused and highlight his own links with the supernatural.

The fact that Siward accuses Macbeth of lying is a direct link to A4S2, in which Lady Macduff describes a traitor as "one that swears and lies.". We know from Macbeth's previous duplicitous behaviour that this does indeed describe him, and therefore her sentiments that "Every one that does so is a traitor and must be hanged" foreshadows Macbeth's impending death.

Macbeth refers to the prophecies given by the Witches in A4S1. He now feels arrogant about his abilities and supposed immortality.

The Jacobean audience are reminded of Macduff's purpose - to avenge the death of his family. He is cast as the role of the white knight, fighting against the evil that Macbeth has committed.

Macduff is resolute – his desperate need to find Macbeth heightening the feelings of suspense for the Jacobean audience who would be waiting for the ultimate battle between these two warriors. Unlike Macbeth, Macduff fights for a just and noble reason, not for the acquisition of power but to avenge a sin committed against him.

Seems bruited. Let me find him, fortune!  
And more I beg not.

Exit. Alarums

Enter MALCOLM and SIWARD

SIWARD

This way, my lord; the castle's gently render'd:  
The tyrant's people on both sides do fight;  
The noble thanes do bravely in the war;  
The day almost itself professes yours,  
And little is to do.

As predicted, Macbeth's men were not loyal to him and instead turned to fight with the rightful King Malcolm. The fact that the castle was "gently render'd" highlights that Malcolm's mission is both just and godly – he is met with little resistance as he is fighting the against evil.

MALCOLM

We have met with foes  
That strike beside us.

SIWARD

Enter, sir, the castle.

Exeunt. Alarums