

MACHBETH: QUOTABLE QUOTES

1. 'That, trusted home, might yet enkindle you unto the crown besides the Thane of Cawdor. But 't is strange: And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, the instruments of darkness tell us truths, win us with honest trifles, to betray 's in deepest consequence.' **(BANQUO)**
2. 'If chance will have me king, why, chance may crown me, without my stir.'
(MACBETH)
3. 'New honours come upon him like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould but with the aid of use.' **(BANQUO)**
4. 'There's no art to find the mind's construction in the face: He was a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.' **(DUNCAN)**
5. 'The service and the loyalty I owe, in doing it, pays itself. Your highness' part is to receive our duties: and our duties are, to your throne and state, children and servants; which do but what they should, by doing everything safe toward your love and honour.' **(MACBETH)**
6. 'The Prince of Cumberland! – That is a step on which I must fall down, or else o'erleap, for in my way it lies. Stars, hide your fires! Let not light see my black and deep desires; the eye wink at the hand, yet let that be, which the eye fears, when it is done, to see.' **(MACBETH)**
7. 'Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be what thou art promised. – Yet do I fear thy nature: It is too full o' the milk of human kindness to catch the nearest way. Thou wouldst be great; art not without ambition, but without the illness should attend it: what thou wouldst highly, that wouldst thou holily; wouldst thou not play false, and yet wouldst wrongly win; thou 'didst have, great Glamis, that which cries, "Thus thou must do, if thou have it"; And that which rather thou dost fear to do, than wishest should be undone. Hie thee hither, that I may pour my spirits in thine ear, and chastise with the valour of my tongue all that impedes thee from the golden round, which fate and metaphysical aid doth seem to have thee crowned withal.'
(LADY MACBETH)
8. 'Only look up clear; to alter favour ever is to fear. Leave all the rest to me.'
(LADY MACBETH)
9. 'If it were done when 't is done, then 't were well. It were done quickly: if the assassination could trammel up the consequence, and catch with his surcease success; 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 judgement here, that we but

teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return to plague th' inventor: this even-handed justice commends th' ingredients of our poisoned chalice to our own lips. 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 borne his faculties so meek 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, or heaven's cherubim, horsed upon the sightless couriers of the air, 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-.'

(MACBETH)

10. 'We will proceed no further in this business: He hath honoured me of late; and I have bought Golden opinions from all sorts of people, which would be worn now in their newest gloss, not cast aside so soon.'

(MACBETH)

11. 'What beast was 't then that made you break this enterprise to me? When you durst do it, then you were a man; And, to be more than what you were, you would be so much more than the man. Nor time nor place did then adhere, and yet you would make both: They have made themselves, and that their fitness now does unmake you. I have given suck, and know how tender 't is to love the babe that milks me: I would, while it was smiling in my face, have plucked my nipple from his boneless gums, and dashed the brains out, had I so sworn as you have done to this.'

(LADY MACBETH)

12. 'Bring forth men-children only! For thy undaunted mettle should compose nothing but males. Will it not be received, when we have marked with blood those sleepy two of his own chamber, and used their very daggers, that they have done 't?'

(MACBETH)

13. 'I am settled, and bend up each corporal agent to this terrible feat. Away, and mock the time with fairest show: False face must hide what the false heart doth know.'

(MACBETH)

14. 'These deeds must not be thought after these ways: so, it will make us mad.'

(LADY MACBETH)

15. 'Infirm of purpose! Give me the daggers. The sleeping and the dead are but as pictures; 't is the eye of childhood that fears a painted devil. If he do bleed, I'll gild the faces of the grooms withal, for it must seem their guilt.'

(LADY MACBETH)

16. 'Whence is that knocking? – How is 't with me, when every noise appals me? What hands are here? Ha! They pluck out mine eyes. 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.'
(MACBETH)
17. 'Too cruel anywhere. Dear Duff, I pr'ythee, contradict thyself, and say it is not so.'
(BANQUO)
18. 'Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all, as the weird women promised; and, I fear, thou playedst most foully for 't; yet it was said, it should not stand in thy posterity; But that myself should be the root and father of many kings. If there come truth from them (As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine), Why, by the verities on thee made good, may they not be my oracles as well, and set me up in hope? But, hush; no more.'
(BANQUO)
19. 'Bring them before us. To be thus is nothing, but to be safely thus, - our fears in Banquo stick deep, and in his royalty of nature reigns that which would be feared; 't is much he dares; and, to that dauntless temper of his mind, he hath a wisdom that doth guide his valour to act in safety. There is none but he whose being I do fear: and under him my genius is rebuked, as, it is said, Mark Antony's was by Caesar. He chid the sisters when first they put the name of king upon me, and bade them speak to him; then, prophet-like, they hailed him father to a line of kings. Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown, and put a barren scepter in my gripe, thence to be wrenched with an unlineal hand, no son of mine succeeding. If 't be so, for Banquo's issue have I filed my mind; for them the gracious Duncan have I murdered; put rancours in the vessel of my peace only for them; and mine eternal jewel given to the common enemy of man, to make them kings, the seed of Banquo kings! Rather than so, come, fate, into the list, and champion me to the utterance! – Who 's there?'
(MACBETH)
20. 'Nought 's had, all 's spent, where our desire is got without content: 'T is safer to be that which we destroy, than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.'
(LADY MACBETH)
21. 'We have scotched the snake, not killed it: She 'll close and be herself; whilst our poor malice remains in danger of her former tooth. But let the frame of things disjoint, both the worlds suffer, ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep in the affliction of these terrible dreams that shake us nightly. Better be with the dead whom we, to gain our place, have sent to peace, than on the torture of the mind to lie in restless ecstasy. Duncan is in the grave; after life's fitful fever he sleeps well; Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison, malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing can touch him further.'
(MACBETH)

22. 'I grant him bloody, luxurious, avaricious, false, deceitful, sudden, malicious, smacking of every sin that has a name; but there 's no bottom, none, in my voluptuousness: your wives, your daughters, your matrons and your maids, could not fill up the cistern of my lust; and my desire all continent impediments would o'erbear, that did oppose my will: better Macbeth than such an one to reign.' **(MALCOLM)**
23. 'She should have died hereafter: there would have been a time for such a word. – Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, creeps in this petty pace from day to day, to the last syllable of recorded time; and all our yesterdays have lighted fools the way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more: it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.' **(MACBETH)**
24. '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.' **(MACBETH)**
25. 'Of all men else I have avoided thee: but get thee back, my soul is too much charged with blood of thine already.' **(MACBETH)**
26. 'Accursed be that tongue that tells me so, for it hath cowed my better part of man: and be these juggling fiends no more believed, that palter with us in a double sense, that keep the word of promise to our ear, and break it to our hope. – I 'll not fight with thee. **(MACBETH)**