

ACT 1, SCENE 2

INT. PAC - STAGE - NIGHT

Enter King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain, meeting a bleeding Captain/Fleance.

BANQUO

(to Macbeth and Duncan)
 Knock it off! I didn't come here to fuck around!
 Let's just get in and get this done, alright? I
 don't want to be here all night.

MACBETH

Just chill, OK. We haven't physically seen each other
 in . . . forever.

BANQUO

Let's just start, OK? King Duncan: "What bloody man
 is that?"

DUNCAN

Oh my God, it's so weird to be put on the spot "just
 start." Ok, wait let me get into character.

Duncan takes a few cleansing breathes while Macbeth and
 Macduff giggle.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

No, no. Everyone breath with me.

Everyone

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

(completely in the character of
 King Duncan now)

START

What bloody man is that? He can report,
 As seemeth by his plight, of the revolt
 The newest state.

MALCOLM

This is the sergeant
 Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought
 'Gainst my captivity.--Hail, brave friend!
 Say to the King the knowledge of the broil
 As thou didst leave it.

CAPTAIN

Doubtful it stood,
 As two spent swimmers that do cling together
 And choke their art. The merciless Macdonwald
 (Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
 The multiplying villainies of nature
 Do swarm upon him) from the Western Isles
 Of kerns and gallowglasses is supplied;
 And Fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,
 Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak;
 For brave Macbeth (well he deserves that name),
 Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,
 Which smoked with bloody execution,
 Like Valor's minion, carved out his passage
 Till he faced the slave;
 Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,

(MORE)

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Till he unseamed him from the nave to th' chops,
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

DUNCAN

O valiant cousin, worthy gentleman!

CAPTAIN

(CUT)

Mark, King of Scotland, mark:
No sooner justice had, with valor armed,
Compelled these skipping kerns to trust their heels,
But the Norweyan lord, surveying vantage,
With furbished arms and new supplies of men,
Began a fresh assault.

DUNCAN

Dismayed not this
our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

CAPTAIN

Yes,
as sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.
If I say sooth, I must report they were
As cannons overcharged with double cracks, So they
doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.
Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds

(CUT)

But I am faint. My gashes cry for help.

DUNCAN

So well thy words become thee as thy wounds:
They smack of honor.--Go, get him surgeons.

END

The Captain GOES.

DUNCAN (CONT'D)

Who comes here?

MALCOLM

The worthy Thane of Ross.

LENNOX

What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look
that seems to speak things strange.

ROSS

God save the King!

DUNCAN

Whence cam'st thou, worthy thane?

ROSS

From Fife, great king,
Where the Norweyan banners flout the sky
And fan our people cold.
Norway himself, with terrible numbers,
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor,
The Thane of Cawdor, began a dismal conflict,
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapped in proof,
Confronted him with self-comparisons,
Point against point, rebellious arm 'gainst arm,
Curbing his lavish spirit. And to conclude,
The victory fell on us.