

SCENE V. *Inverness. A room in Macbeth's castle.*

Enter LADY MACBETH, *reading a letter.*

Lady Macbeth. 'They met me in the day of success: and I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge. When I burned in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king, who all-hailed me "Thane of Cawdor;" by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me, and referred me to the coming on of time, with "Hail, king that shalt be!" This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness, that thou mightst not lose the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee. Lay it to thy heart, and farewell.'

Glamis thou art, and Cawdor, and shalt be

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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 not play false,

And yet wouldst wrongly win: thou'dst have, great

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Glamis,

13. *Glamis thou art, and Cawdor.* It seems from this way of receiving these tidings that these ambitions were common domestic topics between Macbeth and his wife. Had they not discussed the death of Sinel and the title of Cawdor many a time?

20. *Glamis.* She knows his nature in reference to such matters, not by analogy but by his words in reference to his two former ambitions. When he was Glamis he wished to be Cawdor; when his father was alive he wished to inherit. Had his father died or Cawdor been ruined he would have been pleased, though he would have feared to cause the death of either.

Banquo's exclamation upon hearing of Duncan's death is,

"Dear Duff, I prithee, contradict thyself,
And say it is not so."

Banquo felt repentance, he wished he had warned and protected Duncan; Macbeth felt only remorse, he would have committed the crime again.