

Macbeth. I wish your horses swift and sure of foot ;
And so do I commend you to their backs.
Farewell.

[*Exit Banquo.*

Let every man be master of his time

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Till seven at night : to make society

The sweeter welcome, we will keep ourself

Till supper-time alone ; while then, God be with you !

[*Exeunt all but Macbeth and an attendant.*

Sirrah, a word with you : attend those men

Our pleasure ?

Attendant. They are, my lord, without the palace gate.

Macbeth. Bring them before us.

[*Exit Attendant.*

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 fear'd : 'tis much he dares, 50
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 Cæsar. He chid the sisters,
When first they put the name of king upon me,
And bade them speak to him : then prophet-like
They hail'd him father to a line of kings :
Upon my head they placed a fruitless crown,
60
And put a barren sceptre in my gripe,
Thence to be wrench'd 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 murder'd ;
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,

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