

Lady Macbeth. Who dares receive it other,
As we shall make our griefs and clamour roar
Upon his death?

Macbeth. 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.

80

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II.

SCENE I. *Court of Macbeth's castle.*

Enter BANQUO, and FLEANCE bearing a torch before him.

Banquo. How goes the night, boy?

1

Fleance. The moon is down; I have not heard the clock. 2

Banquo. And she goes down at twelve.

Fleance. I take 't, 'tis later, sir.

Banq. Hold, take my sword. There's husbandry in heaven;
Their candles are all out. Take thee that too.
A heavy summons lies like lead upon me,
And yet I would not sleep: merciful powers,
Restrain in me the cursed thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose!

Enter MACBETH and a Servant with a torch.

Give me my sword.—

Who's there?

10

1. Why is Banquo represented as restless here if he has no fears for Duncan?
4-9. This speech of Banquo's is the very epitome of his character, kindly, conscientious, poetical, but weak and vacillating: he gives up sword and dagger that he may have no means of defending the king from the fate the witches have predicted. On hearing Macbeth his purpose shifts again; he wants his sword back. "The king's a-bed," shows where his thoughts are in calling for his sword—and proves his guilty silence.