

Banquo. Let your highness
Command upon me ; to the which my duties
Are with a most indissoluble tie
For ever knit.

Macbeth. Ride you this afternoon?

Banquo. Ay, my good lord.

Macbeth. We should have else desired your good advice,
Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,
In this day's council ; but we'll take to-morrow.
Is 't far you ride?

Banquo. As far, my lord, as will fill up the time
'Twixt this and supper : go not my horse the better,
I must become a borrower of the night
For a dark hour or twain.

Macbeth Fail not our feast.

Banquo. My lord, I will not.

Macbeth. We hear our bloody cousins are bestow'd
In England and in Ireland, not confessing
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers
With strange invention : but of that to-morrow,
When therewithal we shall have cause of state
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse : adieu,
Till you return at night. Goes Fleance with you?

Banquo. Ay, my good lord : our time does call upon 's.

17. *Indissoluble tie.* This immoral allegiance is accounted for by the fact that their fortunes since Macbeth is king are bound up indissolubly in the predictions of the witches. All that the sisters predicted for Macbeth has come true : Banquo now fully hopes, Macbeth equally fears, that what they predicted for Banquo may come true next. The effect upon Banquo of the verification of the *third* part of the witches' prediction concerning Macbeth fully accounts for all the otherwise unaccountable words of Banquo in this damning scene. Now that the witches have completely overcome his better nature his doom is not far off, and who should with greater appropriateness give him his quietus than Macbeth and Ross, who witnessed his first step in crime when he failed to speak up for Cawdor.

18-40. Ross hears all this.