

reliance on the prophecies of the weird sisters is such that he decides to fight it out against all odds.

1. Macheth has learned that his followers are deserting him.

3. taint. Be infected.

5. All mortal consequences. All the events in human affairs. pronounced me. Announced to me.

8. epicures. Enjoying the pleasures of eating and drinking. Epicurus was a Greek philosopher who taught that pleasure is the end of life; but according to Epicurus the highest pleasure is found in meditation and contemplation, rather than in the enjoyment of sensual pleasures.

9. I sway by. By which I am swayed or governed.

10. sag. Droop.

11. cream-faced. White with fear.

loon. A stupid, clumsy fellow.

15. lily-liver'd. Cowardly.

patch. Fool, clown; an allusion to the motley garments that were worn by professional jesters.

17. counsellors to fear. Will make others feel afraid.

19. Seyton. Macbeth is calling for Seyton, his armour-bearer.

20. push. The attack which the English are making.

21. disease. Rob me of my ease,—the opposite of *ease*. In some editions *chair* and *disseat* are substituted for *chair* and *disease*.

22. my way of life. The course of my life.

23. sear. Withered.

35. skirr. Scour.

42. Raze out. Erase.

43. oblivious. Causing forgetfulness.

50. Come, sir, dispatch. Macbeth is speaking to his servant, telling him to hurry. Distinguish the meanings of *dispatch* and *despatch*.

50-1. In the figure used here there is a reference to the means commonly used to discover disease of the kidneys. *Her* refers to Scotland.