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| <i>Banquo.</i> Good sir, why do you start, and seem to fear         | 51 |
| Things that do sound so fair? I' the name of truth,                 | 52 |
| <i>Are ye fantastical, or that indeed</i>                           | 53 |
| <i>Which outwardly ye show?</i> My noble partner                    | 54 |
| You greet with present grace and great prediction                   | 55 |
| Of noble, having and of royal hope,                                 | 56 |
| That he seems rapt withal: to me you speak not :                    | 57 |
| <i>If you can look into the seeds of time,</i>                      | 58 |
| And say which grain will grow and which will not,                   | 59 |
| <i>Speak then to me, who neither beg nor fear</i>                   | 60 |
| <i>Your favours nor your hate.</i>                                  | 61 |
| <i>First Witch.</i> Hail !                                          | 62 |
| <i>Second Witch.</i> Hail !                                         | 63 |
| <i>Third Witch.</i> Hail !                                          | 64 |
| <i>First Witch.</i> <i>Lesser than Macbeth, and greater.</i>        | 65 |
| <i>Second Witch.</i> <i>Not so happy, yet much happier.</i>         | 66 |
| <i>Third Witch.</i> <i>Thou shalt get kings, though thou be</i>     |    |
| none :                                                              | 67 |
| So all hail, Macbeth and Banquo !                                   | 68 |
| <i>First Witch.</i> Banquo and Macbeth, all hail !                  | 69 |
| <i>Macbeth.</i> <i>Stay, you imperfect speakers, tell me more :</i> | 70 |
| <i>By Sinel's death I know I am thane of Glamis ;</i>               | 71 |

53-54. Those who habitually read to find the motive of each speech must conclude that Banquo is here made to appear an "equivocator," that is, one who holds two contrary opinions at once and yet preserves equanimity as to his conscience.

58. "If you can." This is already rather more than idle or amused curiosity.

60-61. These words clearly show the effort of Banquo to hold himself free from serious motive in consulting the witches.

65-67. Not only does Banquo receive promises fitted to inflame his hopes, but these promises link him indissolubly to Macbeth, and bind him to wish for the fulfilment both of all the witches say regarding himself and (to that end) of all they say regarding Macbeth.

70. *Imperfect speakers.* He knew they had spoken some truth.

71-72. Every step in Macbeth's ascent to the throne depends upon the death of a man: first Sinel, then Cawdor, then Duncan. If the witches spur in him the criminal ambition of his nature, is it not reasonable to suppose that the climax of the three honours corresponds to a climax of three crimes?