

- Besides the thane of Cawdor. But 'tis strange : 122*
And oftentimes, to win us to our harm, 123
The instruments of darkness tell us truths, 124
Win us with honest trifles, to betray 's 125.
In deepest consequence.— 126
Cousins, a word, I pray you. 127
- Macbeth. [Aside.] Two truths are told, 128*
As happy prologues to the swelling act 129
Of the imperial theme.—I thank you, gentlemen.— 130
[Aside.] This supernatural soliciting 131
Cannot be ill ; cannot be good : if ill, 132
Why hath it given me earnest of success, 133
Commencing in a truth ? I am thane of Cawdor : 134
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion 135
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair 136
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs, 137
Against the use of nature ? Present fears 138
Are less than horrible imaginings : 139
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical, 140
Shakes so my single state of man that function 141
Is smother'd in surmise, and nothing is 142
But what is not.
- Banquo. Look how our partner's rapt. 143*
- Macbeth. [Aside.] If chance will have me king, why, 144*
chance may crown me, 145
Without my stir.

you ask about Cawdor who was overcome in open rebellion by yourself? But no, in the acting he warns Macbeth, by gestures, not to ruin his excellent plot. Is it too much to say that the subtle underplay of this scene by which Ross silences Macbeth, and Macbeth Banquo, is the central idea of it, that that alone makes it intelligible and gives proper weight and significance to every line and word.

127. *Two truths are told.* Not until Banquo has signified his guilty partnership in this passive murder does Macbeth say "*two truths.*"

129. *I thank you gentlemen.* Banquo was conversing with Ross and Angus.

133. *I am thane of Cawdor.* What had he learned to silence his doubts? He had Ross's word that Cawdor was ruined, and Angus had said the same, adding that he did not know what the crime of Cawdor had been.

142. *Our partner.* By an indissoluble tie.