

Fragments from Shakespeare Dramas

FW: I want to call up my Lady Macbeth. Her husband, Lord Macbeth, Thane of Cawdor, and the Thane of whatever, has one line, in the middle which is the catalyst for the second part.

FW: You're going to tell this audience what it means, then you going to do it.

Denise Ham: This is from Act I, Scene 3 of Macbeth. Just to give you a preview of basically what's happened is: Macbeth is a very successful general. And he has just won a very important battle, and after the battle he runs into the famous three witches who give him a prophecy of what will be come to him. What he will be.

His head is inflated and, he believes in these superstitious powers. He writes this letter to his wife, Lady Macbeth, telling her of his coming of fortune. Then when he goes home to see her, she immediately begins to ? along with him, how fast to attain his fortune instead of, basically the idea is - the last fortune the witches give Macbeth is that he will become king. So very quickly Lady Macbeth figures the quickest way for you to realize your fortune is to kill the present king.

So they begin to plot to do this, the king is staying at their house. At the last moment Macbeth gets "cold feet," so to speak and wishes not to go through with this thing [murder of the king].

DH: He goes back to Lady Macbeth, and he says:

(Act I, Scene VII, Within Macbeth's Castle)

Macbeth: *"We will proceed no further in this business.*

He hath honour'd me of late; and I have bought

*Golden opinions from all sorts of people,
Which would be worn now in their newest
gloss,*

Not cast aside so soon."

DH: Then very quickly after that, Lady Macbeth attacks Macbeth for giving up on the plan of killing King Duncan. And the speech, or rather the little part of the scene that Roger and I are going to do...what you'll get the idea of is really pure evil. Evil for its own sake. because what she goes through, she castigates the guy. She says, look you're not a man, you can't do this. You'll never be a man...I'm more of a man than you are, and if you don't believe me, listen to what I'm going to tell you. How we're going to accomplish this. So, this is the speech and of course after that they carry through with the murder of [King] Duncan.

Lady Macbeth: *"What beast was't, then,
That made you break this enterprise to me?
When you durst do it, then you were a man;
And, to be more than what you were, you
would*

*Be so much more the man. Nor time nor place
Did then adhere, and yet you would make*

*both.
They have made themselves, and that their fitness
now
Does unmake you. I have given suck, and
know
How tender 't is to love the babe that milks
me;
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have pluck'd my nipple from his boneless
gums
And dash'd the brains out, had I so sworn as
you
Have done to this."*

Macbeth [Roger Ham]: "If we should fail?"
Lady Macbeth: " We fail?
But screw your courage to the sticking -place,
And we'll not fail. When Duncan is asleep---
Whereto the rather shall his day's hard journey...
Soundly invite him---his two chamberlains
Will I with wine and wassail so convince
That memory, the warder of the brain,
Shall be a fume, and the receipt of reason
A limbeck only: when in swinish sleep
Their drenched natures lies as a death,
What cannot you and I perform upon
Th' unguarded Duncan? what not put upon
His spongy officers, who shall bear the guilt
Of our great quell?"

Fred Wills: "You forgot some of the lines...you got voice, you got presence, you know the play, huh?"