ROSS Where is Duncan's body?

MACDUFF Carried to Colmekill,
The sacred storehouse of his predecessors
And guardian of their bones.

ROSS Will you to Scone?

MACDUFF
No, cousin, I'll to Fife.

ROSS Well, I will thither.

MACDUFF
Well may you see things well done there. Adieu,
Lest our old robes sit easier than our new.

ROSS
Farewell, father.

OLD MAN
God's benison go with you, and with those
That would make good of bad and friends of foes.

Exeunt omnes.

ACT 3, SCENE 1

Enter BANQUO.

BANQUO
Thou hast it now, King, Cawdor, Glamis, all,
As the weïrd women promis'd, and I fear

Colmekill – *Iona, where the Scottish kings were buried*, pron. **Kohm**-kill

guar-dian (equiv. 2 syl.)

Fife – *Macduff's domain in eastern Scotland (indicating his intent to challenge Macbeth)*

thither – *towards that place (i.e. to Scone)*

Adieu . . . new – *Goodbye, in case Duncan's regime was easier than the new one*

eas-ier (equiv. 2 syl.)

Metre: line is short by 6 syl.

benison – *blessing*

Gla-mis – equiv. 2 syl.; Banquo addresses absent Macbeth with 'thou' (see 'Intro', p. 21)
we-ïrd – *concerned with fate* (equiv. 2 syl.). See 'Intro. – Weird or Weyard?', p. 44.

Thou played'st most foully for't. Yet it was said
It should not stand in thy posterity,
But that myself should be the root and father
Of many kings. If there comes truth from them,
As upon thee, Macbeth, their speeches shine,
Why, by the verities on thee made good,
May they not be my oracles as well
And set me up in hope? But hush, no more.

Sennet sounded. Enter MACBETH *as King,* LADY, LENNOX, ROSS, *Lords and Attendants.*

MACBETH
Here's our chief guest.

LADY If he had been forgotten,
It had been as a gap in our great feast
And all thing unbecoming.

MACBETH
Tonight we hold a solemn supper, sir,
And I'll request your presence.

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 desir'd your good advice,

for't – *for it* As the **we-** (anapest above – See 'A Note on Metre', p. 17)
It – *i.e. the titles*; stand . . . posterity – *continue to your descendants*
root – *origins (King James I traced his lineage to Banquo.* See 'Introduction – Historical Contexts,' p. 24*)*
shine – *bring favour*
verities . . . good – *the predictions about you that came true*
they – *i.e. the witches' speeches*; oracles – *deliverers of prophecy*

Sennet – trumpet for a ceremonial entrance

The Macbeths return to the ornate language of hospitality. See Intro – Heightened Language, p. 45.

all thing – *completely*; unbecoming – *improper* Metre: line is short by 3 syl.
F1 – all-thing F3-4 – all things (above)

solemn – *formal*

Let . . . knit – *Command me as you'd like, for my loyalty is eternally bound to you*

Metre suggests in-**diss**-o-**lu**-ble (equiv. 5 syl.)
Metre: ambiguous metrical connection between next 3 lines

Ride you – *Do you go riding*

else – *otherwise*

Which still hath been both grave and prosperous,
In this day's council: but we'll take tomorrow.
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 tomorrow,
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.

MACBETH

I wish your horses swift, and sure of foot;
And so I do commend you to their backs.
Farewell. *Exit Banquo.*
Let every man be master of his time
Till seven at night; to make society
The sweeter welcome. We will keep ourself

still – *always*; grave – *influential (and a dark pun)*; prosperous – *bringing success*
take tomorrow – *make use of tomorrow* F – take Malone – talk
Is't – *Is it* Metre: line is short by 6 syl.

Line 24 can be scanned with '-per. Go **not**', or, 'not my **horse**' as an anapest
'Twixt – *Between*; Go . . . better – *If my horse doesn't go fast*
I . . . night – *I will have to ride at night*
twain – *two* Metre: ambiguous metrical connection between next 3 lines (see Series Intro., p. 3)
Fail . . . feast – *Don't miss our banquet*

cousins – *Malcolm and Donalbain*
Ire-land (equiv. 2 syl.)
parricide – *murder of one's father*, pron. **pair**-ih-**side** **cru**-el (equiv. 2 syl.)
strange invention – *unlikely stories*
therewithal – *as well as this matter*; cause of state – *state business*
Craving . . . jointly – *Requiring attention from us both*; Hie – *Hurry*
Lines: Pope – Adieu,/you?/ F – horse/Night:/

our time . . . upon's – *it is time for us to go*; upon's – *upon us*

Metre: line is short by 8 syl.
be . . . time – *do what he wants*
society . . . welcome – *being together the sweeter* -en at **night** (anapest)
Rowe – ourself/you./; F lines – welcome:/alone:/you./