**Macbeth’s soli**l**oquy**

To kill or not to kill?

To kill Fife is to sink lower on the totem than the devil – to kill his innocent family on nothing more than a premonition…that is become Lucifer himself! Some men can pay no heed to prophecies and the trade of hags; others, like me, can but stand while the waves of fortune wash against them. Blood! Blood of kings and friends is strewn across the walls, painting the picture of murder and betrayal!

As bloodlust seeps from my pores, scratching down my spine like an ice-cold spider, I fear for my life, my position, my wife! If Macduff doth rise against me, if a, man born not of a woman strives for battle, if great Burnham rises to Dunsinane, then I will be vanquished! The more I tempt fate, the more I risk losing it all. I abhor this dreaded business – but, it must be done! Like the dagger that felled him, Duncan’s image (as well as Banquo’s) haunts my mind – the death of Macduff would just add to my guilt.

In truth, my (now wicked) heart believes that the deed must be done – the seed must be sown. I will send the men who killed Banquo at first light. But what of Macduff? After all, he hath fled to England, beyond my jurisdiction. Alack!

**Henry**