

## 6. WITCHES AND VISIONS

The witches' cave near Forres. Macbeth decides to visit the witches to find out what the future holds for him.

1 ... a frog's toe ...

2 ... a lizard's leg ...

3 ... a wolf's tooth ...

I command you to answer my questions. I want to know -

Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble!

We know what you want. Watch, and we will show you powerful visions...

Three visions appear and speak to Macbeth.

1

No man born<sup>1</sup> can harm Macbeth ...

Macbeth! Beware of Macduff! Beware of the Thane of Fife!

Macbeth cannot be beaten - until Birnam Wood<sup>2</sup> moves right up to the walls of Dunsinane Castle...

2

No man born can harm me! Then I needn't fear Macduff, or any other man!

3

That means never - how can the forest move ten miles? I am safe!

<sup>1,2</sup> See Glossary and Notes, p. 40

But there is one more thing I must know - will the children of Banquo's children ever be kings of Scotland?

6 Watch ...

A final, silent vision appears.

7 Banquo ... and these must be children of his children - all kings! Is this true?

8 Oh, yes - all true!

9

As he leaves the cave, Macbeth meets a messenger.

'Beware of Macduff!'

My lord - Macduff has gone to join Malcolm in England. They are raising an army against you.

I should have killed him yesterday - but now I will not wait another day before I punish him.