

# SPEAKING SHAKESPEAREAN

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ACT I: *Scene vii*

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## SHAKESPEARE'S LANGUAGE

**MACBETH:** If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well

It were done quickly. If the assassination  
Could trammel up the consequences, and catch,  
With his surcease, success, that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,  
We'd jump the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have judgment here, that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which being taught return



ACT I: *Scene vii*

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## OUR MODERN DIALOGUE

**MACBETH:** If it were done when \_\_\_\_ done, then \_\_\_\_ well

It were done quickly. If the assassination  
Could \_\_\_\_\_ up the consequences, and catch,  
With his \_\_\_\_\_, success, that but this blow  
Might be the be-all and the end-all here,  
But here, upon this bank and \_\_\_\_\_ of time,  
We'd \_\_\_\_\_ the life to come. But in these cases  
We still have \_\_\_\_\_ here, that we but teach  
Bloody instructions, which being taught return

To plague the inventor. This even-handed justice  
Commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his kinsman and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed. Then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been  
So clear in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off,  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe  
Striding the blast, or heaven's cherubin horsed  
Upon the sightless couriers of the air,  
Shall blow the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears shall drown the wind. I have no spur  
To prick the sides of my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which overleaps itself  
And falls on the other.

To \_\_\_\_\_ the inventor. This even-handed justice  
\_\_\_\_\_ the ingredients of our poisoned \_\_\_\_\_  
To our own lips. He's here in double trust:  
First, as I am his \_\_\_\_\_ and his subject,  
Strong both against the deed. Then, as his host,  
Who should against his murderer shut the door,  
Not bear the knife myself. Besides, this Duncan  
\_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ been  
So \_\_\_\_\_ in his great office, that his virtues  
Will plead like angels, \_\_\_\_\_, against  
The deep damnation of his \_\_\_\_\_,  
And pity, like a naked new-born babe  
Striding the blast, or heaven's \_\_\_\_\_ horsed  
Upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the air,  
\_\_\_\_\_ the horrid deed in every eye,  
That tears \_\_\_\_\_ drown the wind. I have no \_\_\_\_\_  
To \_\_\_\_\_ my intent, but only  
Vaulting ambition, which \_\_\_\_\_ itself  
And falls on the other.

**Thou Art Awesome!**