MACBETH: [to Servant]
Go bid thy mistress, when my drink* is ready,
She strike upon the bell. Get thee to bed.
Is this a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible*
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation,
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?
I see thee yet, in form as palpable
As this which now I draw.
[He draws a dagger.]
Thou marshall'st me the way that I was going,*
And such an instrument I was to use.
Mine eyes are made the fools o' th' other senses,
Or else worth all the rest.* I see thee still,
And on thy blade and dudgeon* gouts* of blood,
Which was not so before. There's no such thing.
It is the bloody business which informs*
Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half world
Nature seems dead, and wicked dreams abuse*
The curtailed* sleep. Witchcraft celebrates
Pale Hecate's offerings,* and withered Murder,
Alarumed* by his sentinel, the wolf,
Whose howl's his watch,* thus with his stealthy pace,
With Tarquin's ravishing strides, towards his design
Moves like a ghost. Thou sure and firm-set earth,
Hear not my steps which way they walk, for fear
Thy very stones prate of my whereabouts
And take the present horror from the time
Which now suits with it.* Whiles I threat, he lives;
Words to the heat of deeds too cold breath gives.*
I go, and it is done. The bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.

32. drink: i.e., posset or bedtime drink of hot spiced milk curdled with ale or wine, as also in 2.2.6. 37. fatal: ominous. sensible: perceivable by the senses. 40. heat-oppressed: fevered. 43. Thou...going: you seem to guide me toward the destiny I intended, toward Duncan's chambers. 45-46. Mine...rest: i.e., either this is a fantasy, deceiving me with what my eyes seem to see, or else it is a true vision expressing something that is beyond ordinary sensory experience.
47. dudgeon: hilt of a dagger. gouts: drops. 49. informs: creates forms or impressions. 51. abuse: deceive. 52. curtailed: (i) veiled by bed curtains (ii) screened from rationality and consciousness. 57. Pale Hecate's offerings: sacrificial offerings to Hecate, the goddess of night and witchcraft. (She is pale because she is identified with the pale moon.) 58. Alarumed: gives the signal to action. 55. watch: watchword, or cry like the hourly call of the night watchman. 56. Tarquin: (Tarquin was a Roman tyrant who ravished Lucrece.)
60-61. And take...with it: and thus echo and augment the horror which is so suited to this evil hour, or, usurp the present horror by breaking the silence. 62. Words...gives: words give only lifeless expression to live deeds, are no substitute for deeds.