~~DUNCAN What he hath lost, noble Macbeth hath won.~~

Exeunt

SIDE 1

1.3 *Thunder. Enter the three* WITCHES

FIRST WITCH Where hast thou been, sister?
SECOND WITCH Killing swine.
THIRD WITCH Sister, where thou?
FIRST WITCH A sailor's wife had chestnuts in her lap
And munched, and munched, and munched. 'Give me',
quoth I.
'Aroint thee, witch', the rump-fed runnion cries. 5

Act 1, Scene 3 1.3] F (*Scena Tertia.*) 4 munched] F (mouncht) 4 'Give me',] *Capell* (*subst.*); Giue me F 5 'Aroint . . . witch'] *Capell* (*subst.*); Aroynt . . . Witch F 5 runnion] F (Ronyon)

67 lost . . . won Transfer of the title (and the treason) from Cawdor to Macbeth exemplifies how something may be both lost and won, the witches' paradox (1.1.4). The line elegantly varies the proverb 'No man loses but another wins' (Dent M337).

Act 1, Scene 3

As with all the witch-scenes, the location here is vague (a 'heath' (1.1.7)); Macbeth and Banquo seem to be travelling to 'Forres' (37), perhaps from 'Fife' (1.2.48), many miles distant geographically if not dramatically. For the intersection of human curiosity with prophecy, see *Ant.* 1.2.1–78. Forman (II, 337) apparently says he saw Macbeth and Banquo on horseback, not an impossible stage effect (see *Woodstock* 3.2.132–73), but an unlikely one here (see Leah Scragg, 'Macbeth on horseback', *S.Sur.* 26 (1973), 81–8). See 3.3.11–14 n.

0 SD ***the*** F's article (absent in 1.1.0 SD, but present at 3.5.0 SD and 4.1.0 SD) may suggest revision or a theatrical sense of the witches as a dramatic unit or force. Compare 2.1.20 and 4.1.38 SD.

2 Killing swine English witches were often accused of harming domestic animals.

4 munched 'A Scottish word signifying to eat with the gums when toothless' (Travers), but 'where shals all munch' (Dekker [and Thomas Middleton], *The Roaring Girl* 2.1.356), a question about where to eat, suggests a more general and English usage.

5 Aroint The word's meaning is unknown, and Poor Tom's 'aroynt thee Witch, aroynt thee' (*Lear* TLN 1903) is the only other early recorded instance (Schäfer); contextually, it seems to mean 'avaunt! be gone!' Dent W584 cites John Ray, *Collection of English Proverbs* (1679): 'Aroint thee, witch, quoth Besse Locket to her mother.'

5 rump-fed A puzzling phrase whose literal meaning is 'fed on rump'. 'Rump' = the hind quarter of both humans and the animals they eat, and the 'rumpe or buttocke peece of meat' (John Florio, *A Worlde of Words* (1598), under Groppone, antedating *OED* Buttock *sb* 2 by twenty-five years) was a desirable cut. Shakespeare elsewhere imagines the 'devil Luxury [Lechery], with his fat rump' (*Tro.* 5.2.55); given the sexual innuendo of the next lines, 'rump-fed' might thus also mean 'fed [i.e. fattened] in the rump, lecherous' (compare Marston's *The Dutch Courtesan* (1605), where the title's courtesan is described as 'a plump-rump'd wench' (*Dutch Courtesan* 4.3.2)), and by the Restoration 'rump' had numerous bawdy meanings (whore, genitals, copulate: see the article 'Rump' in Williams), and scatological vocabulary frequently blurs and exchanges words for fundament and genitals (see e.g. the article 'Arse' in Williams). A link between feeding and lechery has strong biblical precedent: 'when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adulterie, and assembled themselves by troupes in the harlots houses' (Jer. 5.7, AV). Shakespeare's two other uses (*1H4* 2.2.84, *MND* 2.1.45) of phrases compounding a noun with '-fed' are active and support instead the meaning 'fed on rump'; compare 'lust-dieted' (*Lear* 4.1.67). From the witch's point of view, therefore, it may be that the sailor's wife is enviable, selfish, lecherous, and (possibly) sexually satisfied. Perhaps alliteration (rump, runnion) is more important than denotation. See next note.

5 runnion Abusive term applied to a woman (*OED* Runnion 1, citing only this line and *Wiv.*

Her husband's to Aleppo gone, master o'th'Tiger:
But in a sieve I'll thither sail,
And like a rat without a tail,
I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do.

SECOND WITCH I'll give thee a wind.

FIRST WITCH Thou'rt kind.

THIRD WITCH And I another.

FIRST WITCH I myself have all the other,
And the very ports they blow,
All the quarters that they know
I'th'shipman's card.
I'll drain him dry as hay:
Sleep shall neither night nor day
Hang upon his penthouse lid;
He shall live a man forbid.

6 Tiger] F (*Tiger*) 11 Thou'rt] *Capell;* Th'art F 15 know] *Capell;* know, F

TLN 2067–8: 'you Witch, you Ragge, you Baggage, you Poulcat, you Runnion'). Williams (under 'Runnion') defines the word as 'penis' and claims the use in *Wiv.* is 'an abusive term . . . comparable to casual use of *prick* today'. The same might be true here. See preceding note.

6 Aleppo Inland trading city in northern Syria, part of the Turkish empire from 1516 to 1918. Its port was Iskanderun (Sugden).

6 master captain, commanding officer.

6 Tiger Common name for a ship. The name also appears in *TN* 5.1.62 and many other contemporary texts. E. A. Loomis, 'Master of the *Tiger*', *SQ* 7 (1956), 457, showed that the calamitous Far Eastern voyage of one *Tiger*, lasting from 5 December 1604 to 27 June 1606, equalled 567 days or 81 weeks (i.e. 7 × 9 × 9, or 'Weary sennights nine times nine' (21)).

7 sieve Sailing in sieves was supposed to be a common witch-practice; it was one of the accusations against the Scottish witches King James personally interrogated in 1590–1 (*Newes*, pp. 13–14).

8 rat . . . tail Steevens observes that witches sometimes turned themselves into rats, but had no body part to match the tail; see also 1.1.9 n.

9 do act; fornicate. 'Many dramatizations of witches as powerful, dangerous agents associate their agency with female sexual desire' (Dolan, p. 212).

10–13 Witches were imagined to control the wind and might sell this power on request; see *Newes*, p. 17 (Scottish witches were accused of interfering with James's return from Denmark with Anne, his bride), and what seems to be Thomas Nashe's allusion to that event: 'as in *Ireland* [i.e. Scotland?] and in *Denmark* both / Witches for gold will sell a man a wind' (Nashe, III, 272). Muir cites many other references to such witch-practices.

14 Even places of refuge ('ports') cannot escape the winds' ferocity. (*OED* Blow v^1 has no apposite meaning.)

15 quarters geographical directions.

16 Although the witches speak a distinctive metre and irregular rhyme, this line is unusually short and another line, rhyming with 'card', may have been omitted.

16 card chart; circular piece of stiff paper (the 'mariner's card' or 'card of the sea' showing the customary 32 points of the compass). *OED* Card sb^2 3b, 4a admits that the two meanings were not fully distinguished at this date. See illustration 6, p. 39 above.

17 drain him If the first witch intends to be a succubus, her demonic sexual intercourse (see 'do' (9)) will exhaust her sailor-victim.

17 dry as hay A very old simile (Dent H231.1).

18 Sleep . . . day Like the sailor, Macbeth will later (3.2) find sleep difficult, and Lady Macbeth will walk in her sleep (5.1).

19 penthouse lid eyelid. The image derives from analogy between the eyebrow and the projecting second storey ('penthouse') of many Elizabethan buildings. 'Penthouse' could = 'lean-to shed' (Hunter), but Shakespeare's non-figurative uses of the word (*Ado* 3.3.103, *MV* 2.6.1) do not employ that meaning.

20 forbid cursed (*OED* Forbid *v* 2f, quoting only this line and another, using 'forbidden', from 1819).

Weary sennights nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine.
Though his bark cannot be lost,
Yet it shall be tempest-tossed.
Look what I have.

SECOND WITCH Show me, show me.

FIRST WITCH Here I have a pilot's thumb,
Wrecked as homeward he did come.

Drum within

THIRD WITCH A drum, a drum;
Macbeth doth come.

ALL The weïrd sisters, hand in hand,
Posters of the sea and land,
Thus do go, about, about,
Thrice to thine, and thrice to mine,
And thrice again, to make up nine.
Peace, the charm's wound up.

~~*Enter* MACBETH *and* BANQUO~~

~~MACBETH So foul and fair a day I have not seen.~~
~~BANQUO How far is't called to Forres? What are these,~~

21 sennights] F (Seu'nights) 27 Wrecked] F (Wrackt) 27 SD] F (*at right margin opposite* come) 30 weïrd] *Theobald;* weyward F. *See Commentary* 37 Forres] *Staunton* (*after Pope*); Soris F

21 sennights weeks. F's 'Seu'nights' (seven nights) shows the etymology.

22 peak, and pine waste away and languish (virtual synonyms with 'dwindle').

23 bark small ship.

27 SD *Drum within* Editors and producers have worried whether the drum indicates an accompanying army; on the contrary, it is a conventional Jacobean way to introduce an important martial character, though Davenant and others added text and business to indicate an off-stage army, or to accommodate a silent one on-stage.

30 weïrd 'claiming the supernatural power of dealing with fate or destiny' (*OED* Weird *a* 1); see also *OED* Weird *sb*, and Supplementary Note, pp. 239–40 below. Theobald's emendation, adopted here, indicates the word's pronunciation as a disyllable.

31 Posters Speedy travellers (*Lexicon*); a Shakespearean coinage (Garner), presumably because 'the fastest way of travel . . . was by post horse' (Foakes).

33 to thine . . . to mine in your direction . . . in my direction (?). The witches here perform some dance, formal movements, or gestures that bind each individual into the group. Jonson's witches danced 'back to back and hip to hip, their hands joined, and making their circles backward, to the left hand, with strange fantastic motions of their heads and bodies' (*Queens* 330–2; see also Jonson's note, *ibid.*, pp. 541–2, and more generally, Clark, 'Inversion', pp. 122–5).

34 nine An action is repeated three times for each witch.

35 wound up placed in readiness (*OED* Wind v^1 24f, quoting this line). The figurative use probably derives from tightening the strings on a musical instrument, but the witches may have 'wound' themselves 'up' in some stage movement (see 33 n.). The phrase could also mean 'concluded'.

36–107 So . . . robes Hints of how this scene might have been staged and acted appear in Macbeth's letter to his wife (1.5.1 ff.).

36 foul and fair meteorologically unpleasant and militarily successful. Macbeth's words echo the witches' (1.1.12); see p. 51 above.

37 How . . . Forres? How distant is Forres reckoned to be? A Scotticism (Travers).

37 Forres Town east of Inverness and not far from the site of one of the historical battles earlier