

Scansion - Macbeth Act III, Scene i

	First Foot		Second Foot		Third Foot		Fourth Foot		Fifth Foot		Sixth Foot	
	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 1	Beat 2
		/		/		/		/		/		
48	Bring	them	be-	fore	us.	To	be	thus	is	noth-	ing;	[1]
		/		/		/		/		/		
49	But	to	be	safe-	ly	thus. [2]	-Our	fears	in	Ban-	quo	[3]
		/		/		/		/		/		
50	Stick	deep;	and	in	his	roy-	al-	ty	of	nat-	ure	[4]
		/		/		/		/		/		
51	Reigns	that	which	would	be	fear'd:	tis	much	he	dares;		
		/		/		/		/		/		
52	And,	to	that	daunt-	less	tem-	per	of	his	mind,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
53	He	hath	a	wis-	dom	that	doth	guide	his	val-	our	[5]
		/		/		/		/		/		
54	To	act	in	safe-	ty. [6]	There	is	none	but	he		
		/		/		/		/		/		
55	Whose	be-	ing	l	do	fear:	and	und-	er	him,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
56	My	gen-	ius	is	re-	buked;	as,	it	is	said,		
		/		/		/ [7]		/		/		
57	Mark	Ant-	ony's	was	by	Caesar. [8]	He	chid	the	sisters	[9]	
		/		/		/		/		/		
58	When	first	they	put	the	name	of	king	up-	on	me.	[10]
		/		/		/		/		/		
59	And	bade	them	speak	to	him;	then	proph-	et	like		
		/		/		/		/		/		
60	They	hail'd	him	fath-	er	to	a	line	of	kings:		
		/		/		/		/		/		
61	Up-	on	my	head	they	placed	a	fruit-	less	crown,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
62	And	put	a	barr-	en	scept-	re	in	my	grip,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
63	Thence	to	be	wrench'd	with	an	un-	lin-	eal	hand,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
64	No	son	of	mine	succ-	eed-	ing.	lft	be	so,		
		/		/		/		/		/		
65	For	Ban-	quo's	iss-	ue	have	l	filed	my	mind;		
		/		/		/		/		/		

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66	For	them	the	gra-	cious	Dun-	can	have	I	murd-	er'd;	[11]
		/		/		/		/		/		
67	Put	ranc-	ours	in	the	vess-	el	of	my	peace		
	/			/		/		/		/		
68	On-	ly	for	them;	an	mine	et-	ern-	al	jewel		
	/			/		/		/		/		
69	Given	to	the	comm-	on	en-	e	-my	of	man, [12		
	/			/		/		/		/		
70	To	make	them	kings,	the	seed	of	Ban-	quo	kings! [1		
	/			/		/		/		/		
71	Rath-	er	than	so,	come	fate	in-	to	the	list. [14]		
	/			/		/		/		/		
72	And	champ-	ion	me	t'the [15	utt-	er-	ance!	Who's	there! [1		

[1] Feminine Ending. This is the first of many feminine endings in this speech. It may point to a doubt in his mind about what he has done. It also points to a mind that is filled to capacity with thoughts, fears, and other emotions.

[2] Midline Stop.

[3] Feminine Ending.

[4] Feminine Ending. OR there is elision in royalty or nature to create standard pentameter.

[5] Feminine Ending.

[6] Midline, midfoot stop.

[7] Midline Stop.

[8] Compares himself to Mark Antony here.

[9] Interesting line here. The words "Antony", "Caesar" and "sisters" are all elided to make it regular. Otherwise it is Feminine or even Alexandrine. This becomes an actors choice and speaks to Macbeth's state of mind.

[10] Feminine Ending.

[11] Feminine Ending.

[12] Here he is envisioning his legacy - that he will be the enemy of man.

[13] Lovely exclamation and repetition here. He clarifies the earlier kings to mean Banquo's kids. In doing so, expresses his dismay at the thought.

[14] What is "the list"?

[15] Elision: to the = t'the

[16] A fantastic paranoid period on the end of this monologue. Macbeth's mind will never be free from worry and doubt.