The noble Ross has told Lady Macduff that her husband fled their homeland, Scotland, and she does not know why. She has a conversation with her son and tells him his father is dead.

**Act IV, Sc. ii. Fife. Macduff's castle.** Enter LADY MACDUFF, her SON, and ROSS.

LADY MACD. Sirrah, your Father's dead; And what will you do now? How will you live? SON As Birds do, Mother. LADY MACD. What, with Worms and Flies? SON With what I get, I mean; and so do they. My father is not dead, for all your saying.

SON Nay, how will you do for a Husband? LADY MACD. Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do for a Father? SON Was my Father a Traitor, Mother? LADY MACD. Ay, that he was. SON What is a Traitor? LADY MACD. Why, one that swears and lies. SON And be all Traitors that do so? LADY MACD. Every one that does so is a Traitor, and must be hanged. SON And must they all be hanged that swear and lie? LADY MACD. Every one. SON Who must hang them? LADY MACD. Why, the honest men. SON Then the Liars and Swearers are fools, for there are Liars and Swearers enough to beat the honest men and hang them.

LADY MACD. Now, God help thee, poor Monkey! But how wilt thou do for a Father? SON If he were dead, you'd weep for him: if you would not, it were a good sign that I should quickly have a new Father.

LADY MACD. Poor prattler, how thou talk'st! (Gasps as she hears her door burst open.) What are these faces?