

**LADY MACDUFF**

Sirrah, your father's dead;  
And what will you do now? How will you live?

**SON**

As birds do, mother.

**LADY MACDUFF**

What, with worms and flies?

**SON**

With what I get, I mean; and so do they.

**LADY MACDUFF**

Poor bird! thou'dst never fear the net nor lime,  
The pitfall nor the gin.

**SON**

Why should I, mother? Poor birds they are not set for.  
My father is not dead, for all your saying.

**LADY MACDUFF**

Yes, he is dead; how wilt thou do for a father?

**SON**

Nay, how will you do for a husband?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Why, I can buy me twenty at any market.

**SON**

Then you'll buy 'em to sell again.

**LADY MACDUFF**

Thou speak'st with all thy wit: and yet, i' faith, with wit enough for thee.

**SON**

Was my father a traitor, mother?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Ay, that he was.

**SON**

What is a traitor?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Why, one that swears and lies.

**SON**

And be all traitors that do so?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Every one that does so is a traitor, and must be hanged.

**SON**

And must they all be hanged that swear and lie?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Every one.

**SON**

Who must hang them?

**LADY MACDUFF**

Why, the honest men.

**SON**

Then the liars and swearers are fools,  
for there are liars and swearers enow to beat  
the honest men and hang up them.

**LADY MACDUFF**

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 MACDUFF**

Poor prattler, how thou talk'st!  
*Enter MURDERERS*

What are these faces?

**FIRST MURDERER**

Where is your husband?

**LADY MACDUFF**

I hope, in no place so unsanctified  
Where such as thou mayst find him.

**FIRST MURDERER**

He's a traitor.

**SON**

Thou liest, thou shag-hair'd villain!

**FIRST MURDERER**

What, you egg!  
Young fry of treachery!