Paradox

A **paradox** refers to a statement with two parts that seem contradictory yet make sense with more thought. In ordinary conversation, we might use a paradox like, "Deep down he's really very shallow." Paradox attracts the reader's or the listener's attention and gives emphasis to the phrase.

Look back through Act I of Macbeth and find at least **six** examples of paradox. Write out the page number, line number, and quotation. Then write a one-two sentence explanation of how the paradox might seem contradictory, but actually makes sense. In other words, tell me what Shakespeare means in each paradox.

Here are some hints for where to look. These are not all of the examples of paradox, but these are some of the ones that I found:

Scene 1 (two examples)

Scene 3 (five examples)

Scene 4 (two examples)

Scene 7 (one example)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Line # | Quote | Explanation |
| **L65** | **“Lesser than Macbeth, and greater”** | **Banquo has a small or inexistent title compared to Macbeth, but he will father kings, so he will accomplish more.** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |