

Macbeth's Dagger Soliloquy

Macbeth sees a ghostly dagger, which seems to be leading him to kill King Duncan.

He debates with himself whether he should commit the murder or not.

For each line, say whether you think it shows that Macbeth

- wants to kill Duncan (YES)
- doesn't want to kill Duncan (NO)
- still can't decide (NOT SURE)

LINE	YOUR TRANSLATION	DOES HE WANT TO KILL DUNCAN? YES / NO / NOT SURE
Is this a dagger which I see before me (?)		
The handle toward my hand?		
Come, let me clutch thee:		
I have thee not,		
and yet I see thee still.		

Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible to feeling as to sight?		
Or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation, proceeding from the heat-oppressèd brain?		
I see thee still, and on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood, which was not so before.		
Thou sure and firm-set earth, hear not my steps which way they walk, for fear thy very stones prate of my whereabouts.		
Whiles I threat, he lives:		
I go, and it is done:		
the bell invites me.		

Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell that summons thee to heaven or to hell.		
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