

Extracts from the Tragedy of Macbeth

William Shakespeare

Act IV Scene I: A cavern. In the middle, a boiling cauldron.

Thunder. Enter the three Witches.

**First Witch**

Round about the cauldron go;  
In the poison'd entrails throw.  
Toad, that under cold stone  
Days and nights has thirty-one  
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,  
Boil thou first i' the charmed pot.

entrails = animal's intestines or internal organs

swelter'd = been very hot; sweated (for 31 days)

toil = hard work

**All**

Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

**Second Witch**

Fillet of a fenny snake,  
In the cauldron boil and bake;  
Eye of newt and toe of frog,  
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,  
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,  
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing,  
For a charm of powerful trouble,  
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

fillet = fleshy, boneless meat

fenny snake = grass snake

fork = (snake's) forked tongue

owlet – young or small owl

**All**

Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

**Third Witch**

Scale of dragon, tooth of wolf,  
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf  
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark,  
Root of hemlock digg'd i' the dark,  
Liver of blaspheming Jew,

maw and gulf = stomach and throat

hemlock = poisonous plant

Gall of goat, and slips of yew  
Silver'd in the moon's eclipse,  
Nose of Turk and Tartar's lips,  
Finger of birth-strangled babe  
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab,  
Make the gruel thick and slab:  
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,  
For the ingredients of our cauldron.



chaudron = entrails

### **All**

Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

### **Second Witch**

Cool it with a baboon's blood.  
Then the charm is firm and good.