Lady Macbeth's certainty v Macbeth's doubts.

'clears us': Lady M's misplaced confidence and complacency. 'Only look up clear / To alter favour is to fear: leave all the rest to me.' M wants a 'clearness' from the murderers of Banquo - Fleance.

'us': 'my dearest partner of greatness'. The start of the disintegration of 'us' which ends in the sleepwalking scene/her death. Track this. 'Deed' (do, done): a central idea. 'If it were done, when 'tis done, 'twere well it were done quickly.' A play in which nothing is ever 'done'.

A little water clears us of this deed.

'Little': her easy dismissal of consequences (over-insistent?). Macbeth knows this is not possible: 'If the assassination could trammel up the consequence'.

'Water': purity and innocence. But the play is drowning in blood. M: 'Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hand?'

Look forward to the sleepwalking scene: rubbing of hands. 'Yet here's a spot.'