

DRAMA: MACBETH

BY SHAKESPEARE



PRESENTED BY
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INTRODUCTION OF SHAKESPEARE

- ❖ William Shakespeare was born on 23rd April, 1564 at the village of Stratford-upon-Avon in the country of Warwickshire.
- ❖ His father was John Shakespeare and mother was Mary Adern.
- ❖ He was everything in his imagination.
- ❖ He came to be known among his followers as “ The Gentle Shakespeare”.
- ❖ Ben Johnson said of him “ I loved the man and do honor to his memory, on this idolatry, as much as any. He was indeed honest, of an open and free nature”.
- ❖ He wrote 37 plays, 2 long narrative poems and 154 sonnets.
- ❖ He is the most outstanding dramatist of all times. He is called not of an age but of all ages.
- ❖ He died on April 23, 1616 at the age of 52.

HIS LITERARY WORKS:

❑ **Comedies:**

- The Merchant of Venice
- The Twelfth Night
- As you like it

❑ **Tragedies:**

- Macbeth
- Hamlet
- Romeo and Juliet
- **154 sonnets**

Characters of the play

- **Duncan**
- **Macbeth**
- **Lady Macbeth**
- **Banquo**
- **Fleance**
- **Macduff**
- **Lady Macduff**

Siward
Three witches
Malcolm

Introduction to Macbeth

➤ Macbeth is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare. The play was performed in 1606. The play dramatizes the damaging physical and psychological effect of political ambitions on those who seek power for its own sake. This play was written during the reign of James-I. Macbeth clearly reflects the relationship with his sovereign. Macbeth is the last of Shakespeare's four great tragedies. It is a short play without a major subplot. In this play the writer adds a supernatural dimensions that purposely conspires against Macbeth and his kingdom. This play is about Macbeth's bloody rise to power, including the murder of the Scottish King(Duncan) as well as disintegrated tragedy in the life of Lady Macbeth unfold.



The Major Theme of Macbeth

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work.

➤ **Prophecy**

The plot of Macbeth is set in motion by the prophecy of the three witches. The prophecy fans the flames of ambitions within Macbeth and lady Macbeth, as the primary forces for the death of Duncan and Banquo. Since the prophecy itself is self-fulfilling, their interest ultimately appeared futile. The Witches knew Macbeth's tragic flaw that given the irresistible temptation to become it king. As it turns out, the prophecies are not only fated, but fatal, Macbeth's confidence in the witches leads him to fight a rash battle in the final act.

➤ **Guilt and Remorse**

The most famous and poetic lines from Macbeth are the expressions of remorse “ will all great Neptune's ocean wash his blood or clean from my hand?” exclaims after he stabs Duncan. Similarly lady Macbeth is plagued by a “spot” that she cannot remove from her hand. The psyche of the couple forever were staining them with guilt and remorse. The guilt and remorse that drives the lady to her untimely death. Macbeth on the other hand, seems to overcome the guilt that plagues him in the play.

➤ **Ghosts and visions**

As an overwhelming guilty conscience drives lady Macbeth mad , so too does Macbeth's “heat oppressed” brain project the vision of a dagger before he murders Duncan. Here we find, the relation of the natural to the supernatural in Macbeth is unclear. Macbeth is the only one sees the ghost of Banquo in a crowded room. Such ambiguities contribute to the fearful mood and sense of strangeness that pervade the play, from the very opening scene with the three witches.

➤ **The natural/ supernatural**

If the witches' prophecy is understood to be imposing a supernatural order on the natural order of things, the natural order can also be understood as responding with stormy signs. The events leading to the conclusion of the play can be understood as a negotiation of the natural and supernatural. Macbeth believes that he will live the “**lease of nature**”. The dichotomy between natural and the supernatural forms a backdrop that suggest the epic proportions of the struggle over the Scottish crown.

➤ **Dichotomy and Equivocation**

“fair is foul and foul is fair/hover through the fog and filthy air”. The first scene of the first act ends with these words of the witches, which Macbeth echoes in his first line: “so foul and fair a day I have not seen”. Many scenes conclude with lines of dichotomy and equivocation. For Macbeth this phrase translates into an uncertainty as to whether the prophecies are believable.



➤ **Ambition and temptation**

Ambition and temptation both play a key factor in Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's decision to kill Duncan. Macbeth possesses enough self-awareness to realize the dangers of overzealous ambition. The temptation to carry out the witches' prophecy is ultimately too strong for Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to curb their ambitions.

➤ **Salvation and damnation**

Macbeth realizes the consequences of his crime. And yet Macbeth carries out the crime, thus precipitating his own descent into hell. Later in the play, appropriately, Macduff calls Macbeth by the name of “hell-hound”. The story of Macbeth is that of a man who reluctant in his damnation, because he cannot utter words that may reduce his crime. His fate is thus sealed entirely by his own hands.

Conclusion

The play opens amidst thunder and lightning, with the three witches deciding that their next meeting shall be with Macbeth. The play Macbeth is with full of natural to supernatural dimensions that conspires against Macbeth and his kingdom. In the play we find the current trend of critical opinion toward an upward reevaluation of lady Macbeth , who is said to be dehumanized by her insanity and her suicide. Shakespeare ends the play with the unfolds of tragedy in the lives of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.