

MACBETH

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Submission date: 21-Apr-2020 08:56AM (UTC-0500)

Submission ID: 1303623900

File name: macbeth_analysis-2.docx (18.67K)

Word count: 1152

Character count: 5442

AMBITIONS GONE WRONG (MACBETH)

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The setting in Macbeth's passage is at the Royal home. Banquo and Fleance are standing in the King's palace when Macbeth enters his chambers. At the moment just before Macbeth enters his chambers, Banquo is having an internal conflict. His conflict is against the supernatural, the prophecies of witches, who he says have cursed him. The mood in the passage is 'somber'. Both Banquo and Macbeth are having heavy thoughts in mind. Macbeth cannot get around killing the King Duncan for his crown. He is guilty and disturbed by these thoughts.

CONFLICT

Interpersonal conflict

Banquo is in conflict with himself. He claims that the witches have cursed him. His conflict is with the supernatural beings. Being cursed by such powerful beings brings calamities to the person cursed. Banquo is afraid of the repercussions that awaits him. He tells Fleance that his miseries originate from prophecies made by the witches. Macbeth is in conflict with himself. Killing King Duncan for his crown is predestined in the book and Macbeth becoming King is foretold by the prophets. In the passage he says "And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood, which was not so before. There is no such thing..." From this statement, we clearly see the level of frustration Macbeth is undergoing. Under 'A bell rings', Macbeth is talking about hell. He says that the indication for summoning to a person to hell is the sound of bell rings (Royal Shakespeare Company, 2020). He is afraid of what will happen to him when his death time comes.

LITERARY DEVICES

Metaphor

Metaphor is a literary device in which two items are compared without the use of 'like' or 'as'. In the passage, 'A dagger of mind, a false creation' is used as a metaphor. The link between the dagger and creation to Macbeth influences his next move as king. He is afraid of reparations of his actions. On one side, Macbeth convinces himself that he is the rightful king chosen by the gods, on the other side he is fragile and tensed of what may become of him should he be punished by the gods of his actions.

Simile

This is the comparison of two things by use of 'like' or 'as'. In the passage, 'move like a ghost' is a phrase compared. The move is supposed to be silent and unnoticeable to parties around. Here, Macbeth is remembering occurrences that took place during the murder of King Duncan. In his deep thoughts, he sees his actions and comments that the murder was quick and silent. At the same time, he is scared for his life (Shakespeare, 1971). He prays to the gods that they enable him trend the earth and kingdoms without external influences. He is haunted and afraid that one day someone will end his life and cease his power.

Personification

Personification is adding human qualities and attributes to inanimate objects. In the passage, curtains, nature and witchcraft are given human characteristics. Nature is explained as having the ability to die 'Nature seems dead', curtains being able to sleep 'the curtain's sleep' and witchcraft able to celebrate. All these are occurrences that cannot happen normally. The

essence of personification in this passage is to bring out the link between the events and people involved in the occurrences.

Imagery

Imagery is the picture of a situation or a place that comes in mind when reading or listening to a story. In the passage imagery has been used to explain the occurrences that took place during the murder of King Duncan. The phrase “And on thy blade and dudgeon gouts of blood” displays the messy setting in which the murder occurs. This literary device gives us a picture and a feeling of the occurrences in the passage.

Foreshadow

Macbeth foreshadows danger awaiting him. He is certain that at some point in his life he will be facing resistance and may die by the blade. He is haunted by his deeds and decision to kill the ruling king. The phrase “Is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle towards my hand? Come, let me clutch thee”. In his desperation he prepares himself of any resistance that may come to him and his new Kingdom. This device helps feed our curiosity for what lies ahead for Macbeth.

THEMES

Nature

Macbeth has committed murder. He has killed a ruling king due to his own personal ambitions. Killing of King Duncan goes against the rules of nature. Succession should only happen when a king dies of natural causes. Killing of the king puts him in power. The prophets

are rebuking such actions and consequences for the actions are likely to come very soon. In his mind, Macbeth hears bell rings and associates them with summons to hell.

Gender roles

Lady Macbeth is the brain child of Macbeth's rise to power. She is an encouraging factor to her husband. In his thoughts, Macbeth is trying to evaluate his actions and finds that the reparations could have been avoided by waiting for the right moment to cease power. He could have waited for his time but the ambitions overwhelmed him courtesy of his wife.

Appearance and reality

Macbeth is troubled yet strong in front of his subjects. He is in conflict with his thoughts and at the same time displaying a character of stability and rule. He must do this to avoid being seen as a weak link in the kingdom. "Mine eyes are made the fools o' the other senses", through this phrase, we link Macbeth to fear. He is afraid of losing his power due to loss of confidence in him.

The message engulfed in the passage involves moral uprightness, patience and consequences for actions. It is absurd to kill a ruler because of personal ambitions especially if beliefs in the society has adverse consequences for the action. Macbeth has no peace of mind due to his actions. He gets his dream but cannot rule happily. He is haunted from time to time with the memories of the murder (Cliff Notes, 2020). There is consequences for every action. Macbeth fears the consequences that awaits him. He has interpersonal conflicts from time to time about the death of the king. To make his situation worse, the witches have stated that killing a ruler for his throne is against their nature.

A tooth for a tooth, life for life. Macbeth is traumatized by the way of life in his society. He is currently the king but even kings retire. He fancied the thrown and having subject to rule over. His dream has been realized at a cost. Mental torture is the worst of them all. He thinks and is restless. Lady Macbeth is the focus of all these problems. Her persuasion and utterances lead to her husband committingmurder thus making her as guilty just like her husband.

MACBETH

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