

B.A. II (Hons.) English
Paper III (Drama)

Topic - A character - Portrayal of Macbeth: -

Macbeth, the hero and military general of Scotland of a famous Shakespearean dark tragedy of ambition, is a very chivalrous soldier and an energetic man. He is also the Thane of Glamis. He appears to be a very over ambitious character. He is manipulated and misguided by the false predictions of the three witches. The first prediction that Macbeth will be made Thane of Cawdor comes true. He never looks and behaves like any virtuous hero. He becomes ready and adamant with the connivance of his wife, Lady Macbeth, the fourth witch, to assassinate Duncan, the crowned king of Scotland, who is also his closest and dearest relative. He believes in atrocities and tumults because he is a great despot. He is not adept in political intrigues, but very efficient in the battlefield. He believes strongly in violence and murder.

Macbeth is introduced in the tragic play as a warrior hero. His unfathomable reputation on the battlefield provides him with great honour from King Duncan.

His ambitions are obvious to the readers through his soliloquies. It is perceived that Macbeth is highly confused in his malicious thoughts before and after the killing of King Duncan. When he proclaims to make his eldest son, Malcolm, the next King of Scotland, Macbeth feels extremely frustrated. When he is seen on the verge of committing the murder of King Duncan, he realizes heart-breaking pangs of conscience. His ever growing ambitions ~~time~~ help him transform into a murderer and a tyrant. The words of the three mysterious witches together with his wife, Lady Macbeth's womanish pressure and domination are sufficient to add his growing ambitions fuel to fire in getting the throne of Scotland even by dint of murder.

Macbeth is not a typical villain. He is a complex soldier. His guilt for several bloody and heinous crimes is the central theme of the tragedy, entitled Macbeth. He is also influenced by supernatural forces. His wife doubts of his masculinity when he finds himself helpless in committing the murder of King Duncan in the first attempt.

His several guilts and crimes bring him to mental anguish, insomnia and hallucination. The famous bloody dagger and the ghost of Banquo occupying his chair in the Banquet scene are the best illustrations of them.

Macbeth is himself responsible for his downfall. He never seems to be happy with his actions. His divided conscience continues to the end of the play where he gets some relief when the soldiers arrive at his gate. He has an illusion of his immortality that none born of a woman's womb will be capable of killing him. Of course, he is a feeble tyrant: ~~the~~ the ^{other} prophecies of the three witches fail. ~~At~~

At last, Macbeth is killed as a tyrant by his enemy Macduff.

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