

Write a critical note on the use of the Supernatural machinery in Macbeth.

Introduction → In Shakespearean play particularly the tragedies, Shakespeare makes frequent use of supernatural machinery. A famous literary critic A. Nicoll quotes, "By this means an otherwise sordid story of murder and revenge has been carried to higher level and assume at once a peculiar significance of its own." It is true that the supernatural element plays a vital role in intensifying this tragic effect and universalising that the appeal of the Shakespearean plays, particularly of his tragedies. All the supernatural elements in their various forms are such as witches, ghosts, cyclone and fate. All the supernatural elements serve their distinct purposes. The presence of the supernatural elements in 'Macbeth' implies helplessness of man at the hands of unseen power and also the existence of a super human force which delights in the torturous and spiritual agony of human beings.

Use of the supernatural elements in 'Macbeth' -

The witches and their activities are the most dreadful supernatural agency in 'Macbeth'. They are haggard, ragged and hideous appearances. Banquo and military general explains at their sight.

"What are these? So, withered and wild in their attire that look not like the inhabitant of the Earth.

And yet are on it."

The three witches not only influence

and control the character and actions of Macbeth, but also govern the plot of the tragedy. The Witches say "Fair is foul and foul is fair. However, through the fog and filthy air".

Coleridge remarks about them, "The Weird sisters are as true a creation of Shakespeare's as Ariel and Caliban. They are fully different from any representation of Witches in the contemporary writers and yet present sufficient external resemblance to the creatures of vulgar prejudice to act immediately on the audience."

The role of ghost :- Ghosts in Macbeth serve some dramatic purposes are done by three witches. They lead in this very play, the charm of fear awe and mystery. In Macbeth the ghosts of Banquo is visible only to Macbeth when the ghosts comes and occupies the chair of Macbeth in banquet scene, the atmosphere of the play becomes mysterious and awful. Banquo's ghosts is often described by critics as the creation of the heated imagination and horror stricken spirit of Macbeth.

Apparitions and Halucination in Macbeth →

Apparitions and Halucination also appears in 'Macbeth' They are no less mysterious and awe inspiring than the ghosts. The air drawn dagger is seen by Macbeth before the murder of Duncan is an example of apparitions. The dagger which is seen by Macbeth is a subjective creation. The dagger is pointing to the bed chamber of Duncan, the old king of Scotland. Macbeth himself is

conscious of the deceptiveness of the dagger when he says, "In this a dagger, which I see before me, or art though, but A dagger of the mind. A false creation proceeding from the heat oppressed brain."

When Macbeth meets the witches again, they present before his sight a series of apparitions all hideous and frightening. One is an arm head, another is bloody child yet another is child with a tree in her hand.

The portents and prodigies in Macbeth:— A no. of portents such as the shaking of the Earth a mouse killing a falcon, Duncan's horse eating each other serve to emphasize the unnaturalness of Macbeth's deed in murdering Duncan.

The prodigies indicate that nature is in sympathy with man. Macbeth has violated the natural order of things by murdering his king, his relation and his guests.

So, certain things contrary to the usual happening occur in the world of nature also, furthermore an account of these portents and prodigies in another means of heightening the effect of horror that has already been produced by the conspiracy against Duncan and by the murder of Duncan. In Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar' also we have an account of similar portents and prodigies when Caesar is going to be murdered.

Conclusion — Thus, it may be noted here that Shakespeare uses the supernatural with a definite dramatic purpose, by creating an atmosphere of mystery, awe, terror, he heightens the intensity of his tragic talks without the intervention of the supernatural elements his tragic wouldn't be actually they are.

Introduction — Lady Macbeth is the wife of Macbeth,

Who is the hero of this drama, entitled 'Macbeth'.

A close examination of her character portrayal establishes her as one of the most sublime tragic heroines of William Shakespeare, simply by virtue of grandeur and strength. She is an overambitious lady and acts as a powerful guiding force to her husband and helps in intensifying the tragedy. She has been endowed with the natural femininity, tenderness of a woman and treachery.