

Tomorrow Tomorrow: Essays on Shakespeare's Macbeth



Tomorrow & Tomorrow: Essays on Shakespeare's Macbeth by David Blixt

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Analysis of "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare

"Macbeth" by William Shakespeare serves as a tragic story where guilt comes to haunt someone in the play. The playwright portrays how guilt haunts a person after engaging in an action that they possess inadequate understanding of. Macbeth, supported by his wife, Lady Macbeth, commits a murder of his royal figure King Duncan. After committing murder, Macbeth is continually disturbed by his action and tries to process his guilt, having committed the action. Throughout the play, Shakespeare makes effective use of language, dramatic as well as structural techniques in creating meaning regarding the effect of guilt to the main character, Macbeth.

At the initial stages of the play, the playwright portrays Macbeth as a honest, noble and trusted soldier, but his character changes after he meets the three witches that prophesies to him. It is these prophecies that consistently change his perception regarding life and turns him into a dishonest, greedy tyrant full of himself. His wife Lady Macbeth equally contributes to the change of Lord Macbeth's behavior and the playwright builds the play based on the changed character.

Immediately after Macbeth kills Duncan, his senses become heightened leading to paranoia about the possibility of being caught. The use of paranoia by the playwright captures both his effective use of language and structural techniques in revealing the guilt of Macbeth to the audiences. The paranoid nature of the protagonist is evidenced by the fact that he jumps after hearing every noise. In Act 2 Scene 2, Macbeth is captured in a soliloquy where he questions, "How is it with me, when every noise affrights me? Furthermore, after Macbeth looks at his bloody hands after he murders King Duncan, he has a wish of taking away the eyes that witnessed his crime. The blood of Duncan flows on the part of the play, all serves as a symbolic representation of Macbeth's guilt. The use of metaphors is further depicted on the part of the protagonist as he compares his guilt for killing King Duncan to the blood on his hands. Macbeth wonders whether there is a possibility that a great Neptune could wash the blood in his hands. He also concludes that his hands will never become clean from the blood, where he asserts that the blood may turn the green waters of the ocean red signifying that the guilt emanating from his murderous act will ever remain in his hands.

The guilt on part of Macbeth is further portrayed by Shakespeare

Discover the Enigmatic World of Shakespeare's Macbeth

Prepare to embark on an intellectual journey that delves into the depths of Shakespeare's captivating masterpiece, Macbeth. 'Tomorrow Tomorrow: Essays on Shakespeare's Macbeth' is a treasure trove of insights from leading scholars, offering a fresh and comprehensive perspective on this timeless work.

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