

M.P.PATEL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH



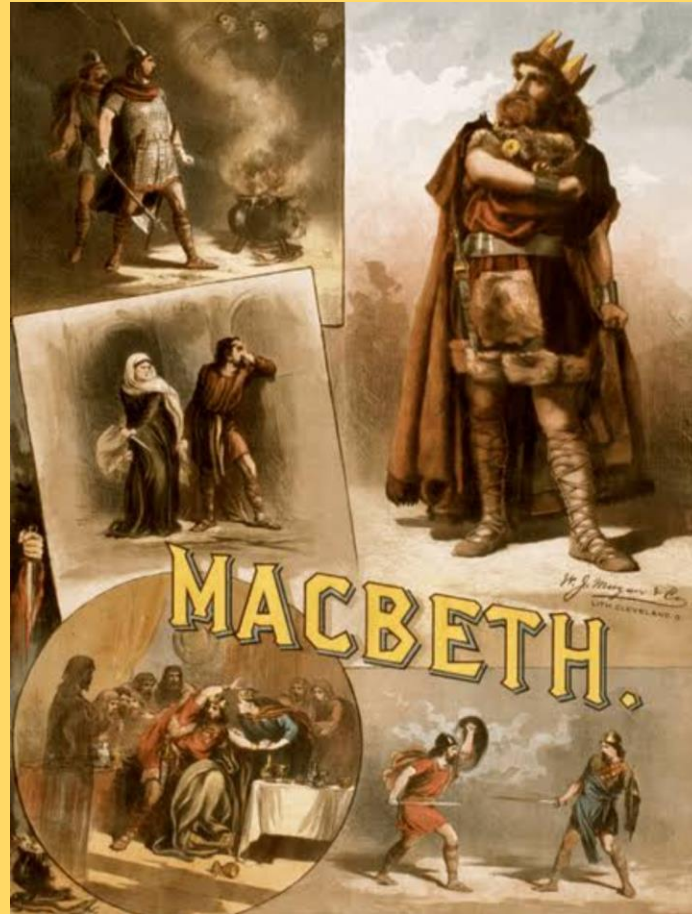
Core – 312

Unit – 3

Prof. Bhavika Parmar

MACBETH

William Shakespeare



INTRODUCTION

- Macbeth is a tragedy by William Shakespeare.
- Shakespeare's shortest tragedy
- Shakespeare wrote play for James I, who had been king of Scotland.
- Was written in 1605 or 1606
- It is called the scottish play because it is set in Scotland.
- The play contains many supernatural elements.
- Shakespeare's source for the story of Macbeth was *The History and Chronicles Of Scotland* (1526), written by Hector Boece, a Scottish historian and humanist.

Major Characters

- The three Witches: they tell Macbeth that he is to become King, leading him to evil.
- Macbeth: Brave general under Duncan who becomes too ambitious after three witches' prophecy that he will be the King of Scotland. He becomes evil.
- Lady Macbeth: Vicious wife of Macbeth, even more ambitious than Macbeth. She convinces Macbeth to murder the King. Later, she becomes Insane from her wrongdoings and sleepwalks.

- King Duncan: King of Scotland, murdered by Macbeth who was one of his generals whom he had just promoted.
- Malcolm: Duncan's eldest son, runs away to England after he learns of his father's murder in order to escape the same fate.
- Donalbain: Duncan's youngest son, runs away to Ireland after he learns of his father's murder in order to escape the same fate.

- Macduff: A general, believes that Macbeth killed the King. His family is murdered.
- Banquo: Macbeth's friend and general, suspected Macbeth of killing the King.
- Fleance: Banquo's son, who survives Macbeth's attempt to murder him.
- Hecate: Moon goddess and goddess of witches, directs supernatural occurrences. Makes plan to give Macbeth false security.

- Ross: Macbeth's cousin, messenger who carries news to people like Macbeth and Macduff throughout the play.
- Lennox: A noble man, suspicious of the murder of the King.
- Old Siward: Earl of Northumberland, ally of Malcolm and Macduff against Macbeth.
- Young Siward: Old Siward's son.
- The Murderers: A group of ruffians conscripted by Macbeth to murder

THE PLOT OVERVIEW



The play opens in Scotland. Macbeth and Banquo have defeated their enemies in battle. Next in a way, Macbeth and Banquo encounter three chanting witches, the witches speak to Macbeth as thane of Glamis, thane of Cowdor and King hereafter. They also tell Banquo that though he will not be king, he will beget king i.e. His son will be King after Macbeth.

Macbeth wonders about this prediction. As the King's messenger arrives, he tells him that he had been appointed thane of Cowdor. Macbeth momentarily tempted to kill the king in order to fulfill the prophecy, but he decides not to.



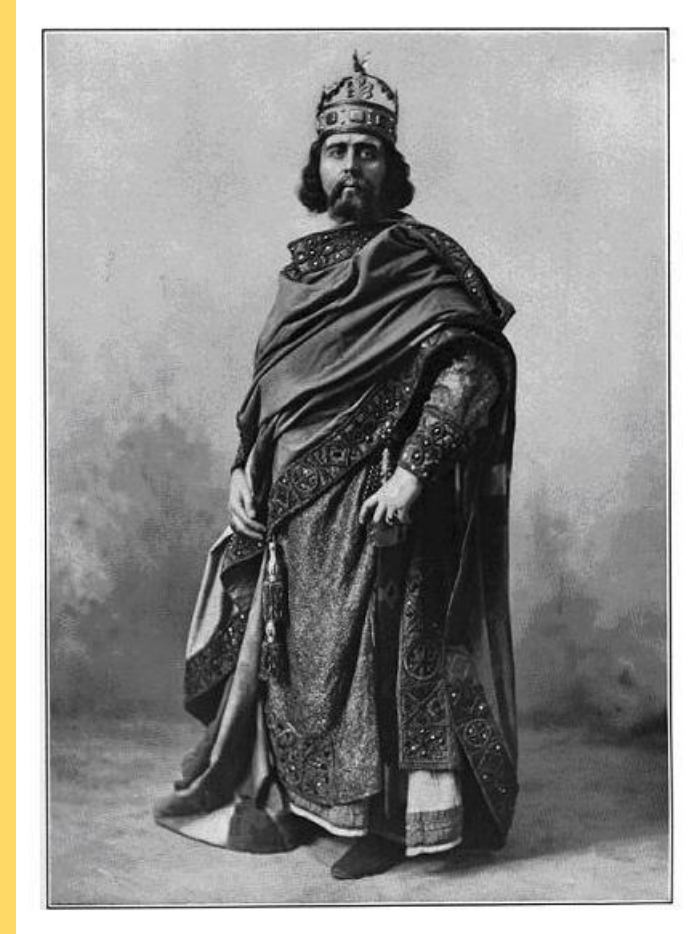
Lady Macbeth, however urges her husband to kill the king. Since the king is staying at their castle overnight, that must be when they kill him. She plans the whole thing, making the king's guard drunk. By using their daggers to kill the king and putting the king's blood on them, Lady Macbeth will frame the guards.

It is now time for Macbeth to stab the king. Though he has bad visions and feelings, Macbeth kills the king. Afterwards; he is troubled, "I am afraid to think what I have done; Look on 't again I dare not," he says.



The next morning, the murder is blamed on the guards. Macbeth kills them before they can pretest, explaining that he killed them out of rage. The king's sons, however, are still fearful for their lives and run away. Macbeth is crowned king.

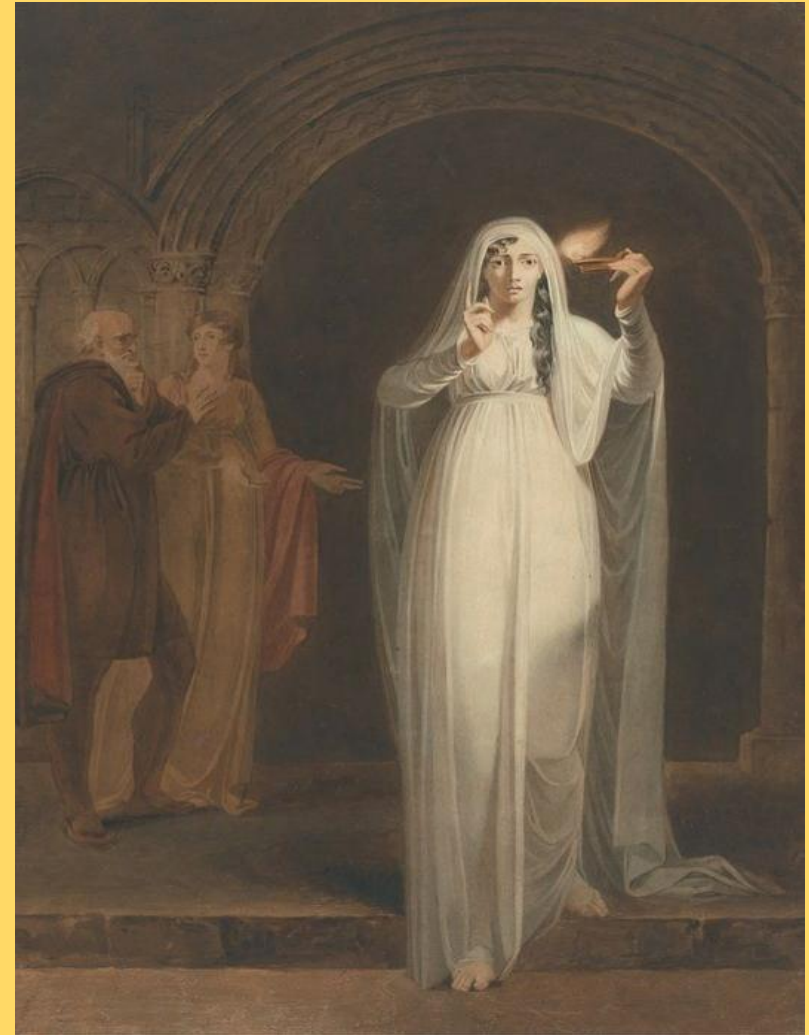
Macbeth knows that Banquo is suspicious of him. When Macbeth learns that Banquo and his son are out riding, he sends men out to kill them. But they are half successful in their job, and Banquo's son Fleance, escapes. Meanwhile at Macbeth's ball, the seat for Banquo is empty (because he is dead). In the empty seat, the ghost of Banquo appears, frightening Macbeth badly.



Macbeth also learns that king Duncan's son Malcolm and Lord Macduff are attempting to kill him. Unsure of what to do, Macbeth visits the three witches again. The witches, along with their queen Hecate, have planned what they will tell Macbeth in order to destroy him. They prepare a brew, singing, "Double, double, toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron bubble." When Macbeth arrives they give him false hope, telling him three things. First, beware of Macduff. Second, "None of woman born shall harm Macbeth." Third, Macbeth will not be conquered until Birnam wood comes to the hill of Dunsinane.



Macduff has left for England. So Macbeth sends people to kill his wife and children. In England, Macduff befriends the dead king's son, Malcolm, after they are sure of the other's loyalty. Lady Macbeth has begun sleepwalking because her conscience weighs too heavily on herself. She tells about her crimes and the murder of the king, unaware that her doctor and waiting woman are watching her. She later dies, possibly from suicide.



The invaders from England have come to defeat Macbeth. The soldiers carry boughs from Birnam Wood in order to camouflage themselves. So, the witch's prophecy of defeat when, "Birnam forest comes to Dunsinane" starts to become true. Macbeth then faces Macduff, but it's not really scared, as he has been told that he will not die from anyone woman born; he was "from his mother's womb untimely ripp'd." When Macbeth realizes that he has been tricked, he gives up and is killed. King Duncan's son becomes the new king of Scotland.



Thank You