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Macbeth

The character of Macbeth in the play Macbeth is portrayed as a brave, loyal, and respected soldier. He is known as a heroic soldier and is praised for his bravery and skill in battle. Towards the end of the play Macbeth's ambition drives him to do unheroic things to become king. In the play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* shows us ambition, guilt, and power to get his throne to be king.

At the start of the play *Macbeth* is seen as a very brave and respected warrior and soldier. He was very loyal to king Duncan. Whenever *Macbeth* sees the witches his ambition starts. The witches tell him that he will become king of Scotland and Thane of Cawdor. At first he doesn't want to murder Duncan and is scared about it. "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well It were done quickly: if the assassination Could trammel up the consequence, and catch With his surcease success; that but this blow Might be the be-all and the end-all—here, But here, upon this bank and shoal of time, We'd jump the life to come." (Shakespeare 1:7: 1-7). Even though he was scared and hesitant about it, his wife Lady Macbeth, persuades him into murdering

Duncan. Once *Macbeth* Murdered Duncan his ambition struck and made him commit even more murders including Banquo. *Macbeth* doesn't want Banquos prophecy that all his descendant will become king to come true. "To be thus is nothing; But to be safe thus. Our fears in Banquo Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature reign that which would be feared." (3:1: 53-56)

Lady Macbeth is more ambitious than *Macbeth* and she will do whatever it takes to achieve her goals and to get what she wants. Whenever she heard the witches prophecy she immediately started plotted Duncans murder and was calling *Macbeth* weak and was questioning his masculinity. "What beast was 't, then, That made you break this enterprise to me? When you durst do it, then you were a man; And to be more than what you were, you would Be so much more the man." (1:7: 53-58)

The downfall of *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* was caused by there ambition. When *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth* decided to muder Duncan this lead more murders such as Banquo, Macduff's family, and even *Lady Macbeth*. *Lady Macbeth* who was so ambitious was even overcome by her guilt and anger that she killed herself. "Out, damned spot! out, I say!" (5:1: 37). At the begininng of the play *Lady Macbeth* was the more ruthless one while *Macbeth* was scared and felt guilty for the murder of Duncan. As the play goes on *Lady Macbeth* starts to feel more guilty and *Macbeth* becomes more ruthless and isnt scared and is willing to kill anyone in his way. To be thus is nothing, But to be safely thus. Our fears in Banquo Stick deep, and in his royalty of nature Reigns that which would be feared. 'Tis much he dares,(3:1: 52-56) Whenever *Macbeth* realizes that the witches Prophecy might be true he become ambitious to kill Macduff

and be king. “All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis! All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor, All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be king hereafter!” (1:3: 51-53)

In Macbeth, Shakespeare doesn't show Macbeth's ambition as inherently destructive. He shows it as something that can become inherently destructive if it isn't controlled or used properly and that is exactly what happened in this play. Macbeth was overconfident in himself and was picking battles he couldn't take like Macduff. Lady Macbeth's ambition became uncontrollable until the point where she was feeling so much guilt she was sleepwalking and killed herself. Lady Macbeth's death sparked Macbeth's ambition even more and made him even more dangerous and powerful. After Lady Macbeth's death Macbeth plans to kill Macduff because he feared of losing his power. He became less scared of Macduff after hearing the Witches prophecy that no man born to women could kill Macbeth. “Be bloody, bold, and resolute; laugh to scorn The power of man, for none of woman born Shall harm Macbeth.” (4:1: 90-93). After hearing this prophecy Macbeth thought that he was invincible and wasn't scared of anything. This confidence had led to the death of Macbeth. Macbeth knew he was being beaten and still decided to keep fighting because he thought he was invincible and he wasn't.

The conclusion of this play is that no matter how big and powerful you think you are you are never invincible. Macbeth thought he was invincible and that caused his death. No matter

what power you have it has to be controllable and guided. Most importantly the power you hold has to be put to good use and not be greedy with it.

Works cited

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