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Macbeth

The Tragedie of Macbeth was made to dramatize the physical and harming effects of ambitions and powers. This play is often known as *Macbeth*, written by William Shakespeare during the 11th century in Scotland. Throughout this play, the protagonist Macbeth, Thane of Glamis, finds out that he could become king. In order for Macbeth to become king he has to kill King Duncan, his best friend Banquo, and Fleance so he can claim the throne. During all of this Macbeth meets three witches who tell Macbeth to not worry about anything and to just listen to him. Macbeth has to overcome lots of obstacles to become king. The supernatural elements such as the witches, the apparitions, and Banquo's ghost influence Macbeth to do things he wouldn't do on his own.

The first supernatural element Macbeth has to face are the three witches, who convince him to listen to them. During the play the witches are referred to as the "weird sisters". This is demonstrated when all of the witches together said,

"The weird sisters,

hand in hand,

Posters

of the sea and land,

Thus do go about, about,

Thrice to thine and thrice to mine,

And thrice again to make up nine.

Peace, the charm's

wound up.” (Shakespeare 1:3:32-37).

The witches are talking about what they are doing and describing themselves to Macbeth. Since the witches are trying to help Macbeth become king they make three prophecies to help him reach his goal. These are discussed when witches one, two and three say, “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.” (Shakespeare 1:3:48-50). The witches are telling Macbeth what his prophecies are. Along with the prophecies the witches also make prophecies about Macbeth and Banquo. As witches one, two and three say, “Lesser than Macbeth, but greater./Not so happy, yet much happier./Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none.” (Shakespeare 1:3:65-67). The witches are telling them what will happen in the future for them.

However, the witches are not the only thing Macbeth had to face, there were also apparitions. The witches didn't just tell Macbeth about his prophecies; they also cast spells that brought the apparitions. This is addressed when the witches are adding all the different things into the cauldron and they say, “Double, Double toil and trouble./Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.” (Shakespeare 4:1:10-11). During this spell the witches are preparing for the apparitions to appear. There are three different apparitions throughout this story, “an armed head, a bloody child, and a child crowned, with a tree in his hand.” (“Macbeth” [Folger]). Each apparition told Macbeth a different thing about Macduff or just in general. The bloody child says to Macbeth, “Be bloody, bold, and resolute./ Laugh to scorn/ The power of man, for none of women born/Shall harm Macbeth.”(Shakespeare

4:1:87-89). This apparition was trying to encourage Macbeth not to be scared of anything not born of women, as they cannot hurt him.

Along with the witches and apparitions, Banquo's ghost also influences Macbeth to do things he wouldn't normally do. Macbeth has hired two murders to kill Banquo and his son Fleance so he can become king. This is stated on the Shakespeare Learning Zone when the source states that, “A murderer tells Macbeth that he has been successful in killing Banquo, but that Fleance escaped.” Macbeth doesn't know what to do and is hoping Fleance won't become king. After Macbeth finds out that Fleance escaped, he goes to his banquet. When Macbeth goes to the table to sit, the table is full and Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost while everyone thinks he is crazy. Lady Macbeth is getting aggravated with this and says,

“Sit, worthy friends. My lord is often thus,
And hath been from his youth. Pray you, keep seat.
The fit is momentary; upon a thought
He will again be well. If much you note him,
You shall offend him and extend his passion.
Feed, and regard him not.

Are you man?” (Shakespeare 3:4:54-60)

Lady Macbeth doesn't know what Macbeth is talking about and thinks he is crazy.

Throughout the story, you can determine how the witches, apparitions, and Banquo's ghost influence Macbeth to do things he wouldn't do on his own. The overall key point of this story is to show you to never trust in the wrong people and never try to take a shortcut around challenging situations. Macbeth shows us that he trusted in the

wrong people and got stabbed in the back for it in the end. This lesson is important for many situations in the real world, as being influenced by people who promise you power can often lead to disaster.

Works Cited

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