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Macbeth

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Supernatural Elements in Macbeth

The play *Macbeth* by William Shakespear was written in the 1600's which was intended for King James. The setting of the play takes place in Scotland during the middle ages.

Throughout the story it shows many forms of supernatural elements such as the three witches, the apparitions and banqou's ghost which all have a major effect on the fate and free will of many characters but has the most effect on Macbeth. Shakespeare uses supernatural elements such as the witches, the apparitions, and banquo's ghost.

The witches played a very important role in Macbeth's fate and free will throughout the story. The three witches in Macbeth are very unique characters who want to meet Macbeth on the heath to give him the prophecies. The witches meet Macbeth who is with Banquo and they receive their prophecies which the book says about Macbeth " 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 (Lines 48 - 50) and they also tell Banquo " Lesser than Macbeth, and greater , Not so happy, yet much happier, Thou shalt get kings, though thou be none." (Lines 65 - 67) After receiving these prophecies they both had different opinions on it , Macbeth loved the prophecies and wanted to do anything he could to make them true, but tried to get the witches to tell him more as they vanished away. Banquo was very skeptical of all of it and didn't think the

witches were worth trusting so he didn't think much of it. Banquo prophecies ultimately came true because as it says how he would be not so happy but much happier means how he had a greater life because Macbeth lived in fear with guilt after committing the murder of King duncan and how that ended up killing Lady Macbeth and made his life very hard and full of sadness while Banquo didn't have to live with that and lived his life happy until he was killed by the murders hired by macbeth. The witches prophecies are what ultimately led to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth's downfall because when he heard of all the great things they said he could be it lit a spark in him to do anything which meant murdering King Duncan with the help from Lady Macbeth, but doing that caused Lady Macbeth to go downhill and ultimately lead to her having to commit suicide after being involved because of all the guilt she felt and feeling as if she had blood on her hands all the time.

The apparitions show Macbeth many visions and make him think he is immortal and greater than everybody else. When the witches showed Macbeth the apparitions, they told him things such as "He will not be commanded. More potent than the first. The power of man, for none of women born Shall harm Macbeth, Macbeth shall never vanquish, until Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill Shall come against him. (Lines 83 - 103). These prophecies made Macbeth think that he was immortal and that nobody could hurt him which led to his death. Macduff and Malcom had enough of Macbeth's ways so they brought their troops to take on Scotland in battle to take their land back. When they were planning on sneaking into the gates of Scotland without being seen they decided to cut down a tree and carry it into the city so it looked like it was the forest marching toward Scotland which was one of the prophecies that said he wouldn't die until the Birnam wood forest marched on them so it was a loop in the system. Once they finally made

it in the gates Macbeth was ready to fight thinking no one could kill him but when it got time he started fighting Macduff he told him “ Despair thy charm And let the angel whom thou still hast served Tell thee — Macduff was from his mother's womb Untimely ripped. (Lines 43b - 46)

This was another loophole from the apparition's prophecies because he was cut out of his mom instead of natural birth. All of these loopholes within the prophecies are what caused Macbeth to die because he thought he was immortal but all the loopholes within the prophecies are what brought him to his death in the end.

Banquo ghost caused Macbeth much paranoia and caused him to feel much guilt. Banquo was murdered by the three murders Macbeth hired to kill Banquo and his son on the trail outside the kingdom, Macbeth did this because he didn't want Banquo's sons and descendants being kings after him instead of his descendants. When the murderers tried to kill Banquo and his son on the trail they failed to kill his son Fleance after they killed Banquo. After Banquo's death, Macbeth had dinner at the castle where the murderers came to tell him “ My lord, his throat is cut; That I did for him.” (Lines 16b - 17a) talking about how he killed Banquo, but the real important news of it was that he had to tell Macbeth “ Fleance is 'scaped.” (Line 21a) which angered Macbeth that he was still out there and could be king. He came back to the table after talking to the murderers to see no empty chairs and when he looked around he saw Banquo which he thought was impossible because he was dead, but Macbeth really thought someone was messing with him. In the play *Macbeth* it says “ Approach thou like the rugged Russian bear, The armed rhinoceros, or the Hyrcan tiger; Take any shape but that, and my firm nerves Shall never tremble — or be alive again, And dare me to the desert with thy sword. If trembling I inhabit, then protest me The baby of a girl. Hence, horrible shadow. Unreal mockery, hence.” (Lines 103 - 110a)

because he thought one of them was messing with him and as king he wasn't going to allow that. After he realizes it isn't a joke he starts to freak out and panic in front of everybody , but since no one else can see the ghost they all think he is going crazy.

In conclusion all of the supernatural elements filled Macbeth's head with greed , guilt , paranoia and more which led to his death in the end as long with many other characters' deaths.

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