Context

Thre witches told Macbeth that he will become king

Lady Macbeth persuaded Macbeth to murder Duncan when he visits their house

Banquo fears that Macbeth will be overly affected by prophecies of the witches, and warns him

Summary

Right before going to murder Duncan, Macbeth hallucinates and sees a dagger

Tries to grab it in the beginning, and dagger becomes covered in blood during his soliloquy

Persues to murder Duncan after hears signal from lady Macbeth, the bell

After

Macbeth killed Duncan, but is troubled with fear of consequence, meets Lady Macbeth

Corrupting Power of Ambition

* Corrupting nature cause one to loose saneness
  + Motif – Hallucination -> supernatural warning
  + Sees a dagger (motif) which symbolizes the consequence of killing Duncan
  + Dagger is a supernatural warning given to Macbeth
  + Repetition “I see thee …”
    - 1, Diction shows understanding of consequence
    - 2, Remembers that he needs to kill, shown by connotation “instrument” – sees dagger as tool for killing. Shows mind being corrupted by ambition
    - 3, See imagery of dagger with blood -> Tries harder to warn Macbeth
      * Macbeth respond with “nature seems dead”
      * nature -> the imagery is not natural, but also confirm he is going to kill Duncan, shows corruption from ambition
* Show ambition corroding away loyalty
  + Wolf – normally represent loyalty but juxtapose with Tarquin(represent betrayal)
    - Contrast loyalty and ambition, show ambition corrupted away loyalty
  + “I threat he live, heaven or to hell” – oxymoron to show Macbeth’s lost in loyalty
    - Duncan is summoned to heaven because characterized as a good king
    - Hell is what is left for Macbeth, in consequence for his betrayal

Develop Macbeth’s Character

* Easily motivated – Killing is mainly motivated by Lady Macbeth
  + Equivocation to avoid directly referring to killing Duncan
    - “bloody business”, show Macbeth’s coward nature
    - Contrast with previous denial state, easily motivated by lady Macbeth
      * Perseus the action but not fully own will
  + Develop Motif of Bell to show motivation for the assassination
    - The signal for killing is Lady Macbeth striking the bell
    - Lady Macbeth’s dominant position, and uses it to motivate Macbeth
    - Macbeth is easily moved
    - Later used to develop the guilt in Lady Macbeth