

Character Analysis of Macbeth, Part-II, Paper-3rd

The play opens with Macbeth as a military hero, greatly honoured by the monarch for his valour in the battlefield. In essence, however, he is a human being whose asides and soliloquies (single speeches) reveal his personal aspirations to the audience. These are frequently at odds with what other people see of him, which he calls "golden" (I:7, 33). Even though Macbeth is a strong fighter, he is troubled by the Witches' prophecies and struggles with his confusion before, during, and after killing King Duncan. Macbeth seems irritated when Duncan declares that he wants his son Malcolm to inherit the kingdom. He has horrible conscience aches just before doing the murder.

When his wife mocks and denigrates him for being a man, Macbeth is at his most relatable and human (see especially Act I, Scene 7).

By Act III, Scene 2, Macbeth, on the other hand, has turned himself into a much more conventional villain and challenges his wife's manliness. Now, his ambition pushes him to do more heinous crimes and he starts to disobey and even defy fate and fortune. His humanity is further diminished by each subsequent murder, to the point that he seems to be the more domineering spouse. However, Macbeth's newly discovered resolve, which prompts him to "wade" into his own bloody river (Act III, Scene 4), is continuously troubled by paranormal occurrences. The spirit of Banquo making an appearance, Specifically, the presence of Banquo's ghost makes him oscillate between different mental states until he loses all sense of "what is" and "what is not" (I:3,142).

However, Macbeth's overbearing pride or hubris is now his most defining characteristic. Act IV, Scene 1, as he returns to the Witches on his own initiative, effectively illustrates this aspect of his personality. His audacity and sense of self-invincibility set him up for a terrible downfall.