

The witches' apparitions only give Macbeth more arrogance and a false sense of security and confidence.

→ he is told that "none of woman born" will hurt him.

however the harsh truth is revealed by Macduff in Act 5: "Macduff was from his mother's womb unnaturally ripped"

ultimately, Macbeth was tricked by the witches and their equivocal language to conceal the truth.

Act 5 Scene 8 - Macbeth "these juggling fiends no more believed"

Lady Macbeth acts very strong and dauntless however she isn't as brave as she pretends to be - she says she'd kill the king herself but couldn't because he looked too much like her dad sleeping. It is apparent that she isn't as stoic as we thought when she becomes emotional and driven mad through guilt.

foreshadowing examples are used to convey Macbeth's guilty conscience and how his prophecies are not turning out as he expected.

→ the quieter the characters get, the harder it is to tell the difference between what is real and what isn't.

Act 2 Scene 1 and floating dagger Lady M. and the blood on her hands

IRONIC → as characters start to become suspicious, or even more, they become wary DOWNFALL Act 3 "there's daggers in men's smiles"

Duncan trusts the wrong men - with disastrous consequences.

Macbeth trusts the witches.

Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband's trust

Appearances are deceptive in the play and some characters fall too much. This line lies between appearance and reality representing the line between good and evil.

Appearance / Reality

even Shakespeare is limiting what the audience sees → for example the killing of Duncan is done offstage

this shows that Shakespeare wants a certain amount of pity/sympathy to be shown towards M. and showing him to be killing the king would create a much worse impression of his tragic hero.

when he learns of his father's death, he doesn't trust the 'loyal servants' around him.

CONTEXTUALLY → at the time, regicide was seen as the greatest crime (runs against the theme Right of Kings). AND, the year prior to publishing Macbeth, the gun-powder plot happened so Shakespeare didn't want to offend or arouse suspicion.

Macbeth's greed for power is so strong he is willing to lie (even to the king).

Both Lady Macbeth and Macbeth hide their true feelings in order to get what they want.

→ Act 1 Scene 3, Macbeth - "stains, hide your fires, let not light see my black and deep desires"

→ Act 1 Scene 7, Macbeth - "false face must hide what the false heart doth know"

when Macbeth is preparing his home for his guests to be a serene, peaceful and welcoming place - we know that he is planning to kill King Duncan and after the king is killed, both Lady Macbeth and Macbeth are surprised and shocked - they appear to be taken back when they were the ones to kill him

Lady Macbeth manipulates her husband by calling him a coward and belittling his masculinity.

Act 1 Scene 7 - "when you durst do it, then you were a man" she also advises Macbeth "to look like the innocent flower but be the serpent beneath" Act 1 Scene 5.

Duncan's comment in Act 1 Scene 4 is naive and ironic - "there's no art to find the mind's construction in the face" (he believes it is easy to see a man's true self by looking @ his face).

By the end, Macbeth's relationship with Lady Macbeth has broken down - he is ruled by blind ambition whereas she feels unimportant and guilty.

Act 3 Scene 2 Macbeth tells his wife to "be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck".

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