

This could imply that Macbeth a prisoner of fate and suggests that it is predetermined that he should be a murderer even without the intervention of the witches. However, it is unclear as to whether it is their actions that make him do this, or was he destined to do this anyway? It is in this sense that Macbeth's own will to action remains ambiguous.

In act 1, Scene 5, Lady Macbeth receives a letter from Macbeth informing her of his encounter with the witches along with their predictions- "This have I thought good to deliver thee, my dearest partner of greatness". Lady Macbeth interprets Macbeth's letter as a need to murder Duncan. However, it could be perceived as Macbeth intending to do this through the equivocation of the letter. By sending a letter before they meet, Macbeth may have desired for Lady Macbeth to interpret the letter in a certain way and say what he cannot. When Macbeth arrives, Lady Macbeth and he speak for the first time together on stage about Duncan's arrival.

LADY MACBETH: "And when goes hence?"

MACBETH: "Tomorrow as he purposes"

Macbeth's tone in his statement is unclear as to whether it is said in a sinister tone or simply as a matter of fact. His desires may depend on his tone though we do not get this.

Lady Macbeth is the one who starts plotting and planning Duncan's murder to which Macbeth says "we will speak further" however we don't see this happening until we see Macbeth speak explicitly of the murder and his fears about it later on in the play. The absence of this scene could be employed by Shakespeare to further create ambiguity as well as having the Gothic trait of darkness and the unknown.

When Macbeth seems to be on the point of abandoning the murder, it is not Lady Macbeth who then encourages him. In act 2 scene 1, Macbeth imagines a bloody dagger. Macbeth describes the dagger as something that is separate from him; however it could be an external projection of his inner desires to do the killing. "Thou marshall'st me" - he speaks about himself in the passive voice and gives the dagger the active role. This could be to displace agency or perhaps he is trying to trick himself as a defence mechanism. Murder is personified as something separate to Macbeth by placing agency on a psychologically self protected measure.

Macbeth gives inanimate objects and nature the active roles to displace agency and this is seen when he says "the bell invites me". There is the separation of his choices and himself which is a common Gothic tradition of the division of self. He now gives the active role to the bell, perhaps believing that now that the bell has rang, it is a sign for him to murder Duncan.

Macbeth further displaces agency in act 1 scene 4 when he speaks of Malcolm being in Macbeth's way of being king. "stars hide you fires, let not light see...the eye winks at the hand" - here is the sense of invisible agency. If the eye blinks, it cannot see what the hand is doing and therefore absolves him of any blame. The gothic tradition of dividing self is also seen in the way in which Macbeth removes himself from the agent of responsibility as well as the Gothic tradition of darkness by evoking the night so that god can't see his sinful act.