

scrubbing at the clean hands and saying “here’s a spot” despite there being no trace of Duncan’s blood on her. This helps to add to the underlying understanding of the effect a conscience can have on a person that is displayed throughout the entire play. She is seen carrying a light wherever she goes as she can no longer walk in the darkness due to having killed Duncan in the darkness. She is now described as having a “disease” beyond the practise of the doctors and it is determined that she needs God, not a doctor. Eventually, this unfortunately leads to her suicide as the extra conscience of killing Duncan has taken her to a breaking point and in itself, has destroyed her completely. This adds to one of the final points regarding conscience in the play, as it shows that even the strongest of characters can be ruined by too much of it.

Therefore, through the use of Lady Macbeth slowing deteriorating to a point of utter insanity, William Shakespeare helps to push across the main concerns of the play including appearance and reality, security and mainly the effect of conscience on a person.

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