

"THIS DEAD BUTCHER AND HIS FIEND LIKE QUEEN" are Malcom's final words, a true picture of Macbeth and his wife.

Looking through the scenes of the play and finding the differences in characters I will map the changes of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth .

In the second scene of the play, Macbeth is praised for being loyal, brave and savage in battle by the sergeant and Ross. Here Macbeth's violence and killings are praised because they have preserved the rightful king. Duncan is grateful to Macbeth and says when the treacherous Thane of Cawdor is captured he will be executed so awards Macbeth the title 'Thane of Cawdor'. The irony here is that Macbeth, the new Thane will be even more treacherous.

In the next scene, act 1 scene 3, after Macbeth meets the witches, he tells us his thoughts in his first soliloquy. He is already thinking of murder by himself, without the witches giving him this idea. But for the moment he views a murder as only 'fantastical', meaning it only exists in his imagination. He asks himself, if the witches' predictions were evil, why have two good things they foresaw been true, and if the predictions were good, why is he reacting so violently to himself. In act 1 scene 4 Duncan says that his eldest son Malcom will succeed him as king. This is unconventional as the Thanes normally elect the king and Macbeth sees this as provocative. To him Malcom is just another obstacle between himself and the throne. Macbeth gives another soliloquy revealing his 'black and deep desires', although he calls upon the stars to 'let not see' them. Macbeth's mask of loyalty and honour hides these feelings from Duncan.

By this stage we know that Macbeth's character is changing, and his inner greed to have more power and be king is overcoming his loyal and brave personality. To show his gratitude to Macbeth, Duncan says he will visit him at his castle. Doing this he gives Macbeth the perfect opportunity to fulfill his ambition.

In act 1 scene 5, when Lady Macbeth finds out from her husband's letter that the king is coming, she sees the opportunity to kill Duncan and make Macbeth king. She knows Macbeth's ambitions, but says he lacks the ruthlessness, and although Macbeth will take an opportunity, he wants to earn his honours honestly. When Macbeth arrives she tells him he must deceive Duncan and hide his real thoughts, saying people can read his thoughts through his face. She tells him to 'Look like the innocent flower but be like the serpent under it'.

In act 1 scene 7 Macbeth cannot decide whether to kill Duncan or not. He says that if the murder could be done quickly and without consequence, he must do it quickly. He knows Duncan is his 'kinsman' and that Macbeth is his host and subject, and should therefore protect him. He also knows the murder would be wrong and he would end up paying for it. This is a moral problem for Macbeth, who is a decisive man and it makes him hesitate. Macbeth's conscience persuades him not to kill Duncan because of Duncan's kindness and goodness, and Macbeth would be condemned to 'deep damnation' if he kills the king. Macbeth admits that it is only his selfish ambition driving him and worries, as Lady Macbeth did, if his ability to achieve it is as great as it needs to be. When she comes in he tells her he will not murder Duncan. He does not tell her the reasons for not murdering Duncan he admitted earlier, but saying that Duncan had given him 'new honours' and he wants to enjoy the 'golden' opinion of everyone. He does this because he does not want to admit to Lady Macbeth that he has a conscience and is unhappy about doing wrong or evil, and does not want to be seen as weak. Lady Macbeth gives a strong and powerful speech to him accusing him of being a coward and bringing into question his manhood. She tells him that before she went back on her word, as he did, she would throw her own baby sucking milk at her nipple and "dash'd the brains out".

Her forceful use of language conjures up images of horror, and it shows how far she would go to get her own way. Macbeth again changes his mind about the murder

because of his wife's attack, but is still worried what would happen to them if they failed. She says that if he keeps his nerve they would not fail. At the start of act 2 scene 1 Macbeth talks with Banquo about the witches predictions. Banquo admits he has had disturbed sleep caused by 'cursed thoughts' and has been troubled as the witches have made a lasting impression on his mind. Macbeth puts on the 'mask' as his wife had told him earlier and pretends not to have thought about the witches predictions. After he leaves Banquo and Fleance Macbeth sees a vision of a dagger floating in front of him, covered in blood and is pointing towards him. He thinks the dagger is 'inviting' him to do the murder. A once fearless soldier is now tormented by visions of blood and fear of the unknown. He fears he is going insane. The bell rings and he goes to commit the murder, the evil deep in him and his great ambitions driving him to do it. In the next scene Macbeth comes in and says to Lady Macbeth that he killed Duncan as he slept. He feels terrified and knows that he will never be forgiven for this crime. She tells him to wash his hands to get rid of the blood on them but he says he has so much blood on his hands, rather than clean the blood off, he would turn the water red. He starts to feel that death is unimportant and he is no longer blessed.

When Duncan is found dead and the guards are found drunk and with bloody knives Lennox says it appears to be the guards that killed the king. Macbeth says that he was so angry when he saw the dead Duncan, he killed the guards. This was not part of Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's plan and shows that Macbeth is starting to go his own way. Malcolm and Donalbain flee the country afraid that they may also be suspected of Duncan's murder.

Macbeth now proclaims himself king, fore-filling his ambitions. Time passes and Macbeth is an established king but still feels insecure. He remembers the witches predicting Banquo's sons being kings and also fears that Banquo knows too much about the meeting with the witches and is becoming suspicious. He also tells us he fears Banquo as he is brave, clever and wise and is the only man he fears. He is so insecure Macbeth arranges for Banquo and his son Fleance to be killed. By making others commit the murders Macbeth does not feel guilty for the deaths of Banquo and Fleance. Until now Macbeth has counted on the witches predictions being true, but now wants to prevent predictions that Banquo's children will become kings. He has again not told Lady Macbeth about his further plans of murder. He does not need to rely on her any more and does not tell her what is going on. Macbeth's final words in this scene tell us he has committed himself to the path of evil.

At Macbeth's banquet the murderers arrive and tell Macbeth that Banquo was killed but Fleance escaped. He thinks he sees Banquo's ghost and his reaction throws the banquet into turmoil. Lady Macbeth makes excuses for his strange behaviour saying he just needs sleep. The ghost he sees is a vision of his inner guilt and evil, like the vision of the dagger earlier in the play. The ghost and the guests have left and Macbeth tells us that he feels he is wading in blood and that his course has left him so deep he may as well carry on:

" I am in blood

Stepped in so far, that, should I wade no more
Returning were as tedious as go o'er".

At the beginning of scene four Macbeth goes to see the witches for more predictions and is shown three apparitions and a vision of the future. He is still relying on the witches for information and is ready to believe any predictions they have. Macbeth is told of Macduff leaving Scotland and being a man of action he orders all at Macduff's castle to be murdered, including his wife and children. Macbeth becomes ruthless and kill at will without feeling guilt. He is now a tyrant, ruling with fear.

Macbeth's enemies have gathered and are approaching his castle ready to attack him. Macbeth tries to reassure himself that everything will turn out all right, but he really knows that, that is a false hope. He admits that because of his actions he does not have most of the things which come with old age, friends, love and honour and regrets this. In spite of all the dreadful things Macbeth has done we are made

to feel slightly sympathetic towards him. He does not give up though. He orders for his armour to be brought to him and he will fight until the bitter end. This is the brave soldier we saw at the beginning emerging again. Macbeth says that once he would have been frightened by a shriek at night, but now he has seen so many horrors he is no longer frightened. He is then startled by a cry. Lady Macbeth has died, and this makes Macbeth feel numb. He talks about how life is pointless ending in only 'dusty death'. Macbeth sees Birnam Wood coming to Dunsinane Hill in a way he had not expected, and with that he goes out to battle. Macbeth confronts his enemies still feeling relatively safe knowing that the witches prediction that Macbeth can not be killed by 'a man not born of woman'. After killing young Siward the castle is captured and Macbeth meets Macduff. Macbeth now learns that 'Macduff was from his mother's womb untimely ripped'. Macbeth thinks the witches have tricked him and he refuses to fight. In that case says Macduff, he will be put on display like a rare monster. These words are too much for Macbeth and he hurls himself at Macduff. Macbeth is killed and his head severed and put on display for all to see.

By the end of the play Macbeth had become a butcher, killing at will, to suit himself, with no feeling and little compassion for others. From a loyal and brave soldier, he became too suspicious of people and too trustworthy of the witches, he changed to a violent and obsessed man with too great ambitions for his own good.

We first see lady Macbeth in act 1 scene 5 as she reads her husband's letter. In this Macbeth explains the situation and what has happened with the witches. At this point their relationship is very close, sharing much with each other. After reading the letter she says that he is

"Too full o' the milk of human kindness"

to be able to carry out the deed of a murder, so it is she that must persuade him and use

"the valour of my tongue"

to do so. She is confident of herself and that she can even control Macbeth to do what she wants. When she hears that the king comes to their castle that night she sees that opportunity for completing Macbeth's ambition and making him king. She starts to make plans of what she will do, and asks the spirits to 'unsex her' and "'fill me from crown to toe top-full of direst cruelty"

so she can evilly plot and help murder Duncan.

We can see her very dark side here, her almost violent way of talking and plotting, she really is the fiend we will be told about. When Macbeth comes she praises and congratulates him for his new title and says he is still worthy of more - to be king. She tells him to welcome Duncan into their castle, but to 'Look like the innocent flower but be like the serpent under it'.

Later, in scene 7 Macbeth changes his mind about the killing of Duncan, and she breaks into a rage, she insults him, calls him a coward, brings into question his manhood. She says that she would have murdered a child feeding at her breast rather than breaking a promise as Macbeth has done. Again she shows her cruelty with use of such evil and horrific language. With this Macbeth agrees to murder the king. After the murder they are both very tense and Lady Macbeth relies on drink to calm herself. She takes charge of the situation and also says that she would have killed Duncan herself if he had not resembled her sleeping father. This shows that maybe she is not as cruel and unfeeling as she wants to make out or she has weakness to do with images of other loved ones.

At the sight of the dead body of Duncan she pretends to faint, showing she can act and put on a different 'face' in front of others.

We do not see her for a while, and when we do, she is having disturbed dreams and cannot sleep. Her relationship with Macbeth is becoming worse as he does not tell her his plans to murder Banquo.

When Macbeth sees Banquo's ghost she tries to reassure guests and make excuses for him, again showing her talents at acting and hiding things. Macbeth does also not tell his wife about the murder of Macduff's family and their relationship is breaking rapidly.

By act five Lady Macbeth is walking in her sleep, and constantly re-lives the night of the murder. the doctor says he cannot cure her. By this stage her character has changed from being a ruthless, cruel and evil person to being slightly 'innocent' losing through her madness the evil in her. She soon kills herself "by self and violent hands". This makes us slightly sympathetic with her, as we were with Macbeth.

Macbeth does end up a butcher, but Lady Macbeth seems to change from a fiend to a mad and quite innocent woman.