



Macbeth Act 2

Act 2, Scene 1: Starts with B telling F about his issues sleeping

Banquo states:

an authoritative
command,
message or signal

"A heavy **summons** lies like **lead** upon me,
and yet I would **not sleep**"

a large weight

rest or symbolically- death

- B tells M that he dreamt of the weird sisters last night
- M tells B that he wants to discuss the **'business'** of the witches when time becomes available.



Did she just give
away something?

HBH thinks:

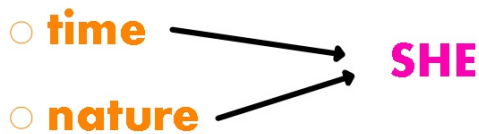
This statement of "business" is a connector with which Banquo is unaware, but that we, the audience, should be. Remember Macbeth and Lady Macbeth have thrown this around in regards to the murdering of KD, and as you will see, they continue to throughout the play.

Furthermore, it is interesting that Banquo could sleep until he dreamed of the witches and now he can't. This could be guilt for not doing more to curb M from 'stirring' the prophecy; it could also be foreshadowing a 'longer' sleep ahead.

Act 2, Scene 1 continued

Something to notice:

PRONOUNS



HBH states:

"Why is this important to know? Pronoun usage often guises the general feelings toward a subject based on the gender. Meaning, the fact that time and nature are noted a female indicates a deep respect referring typically to a mother figure. An archetype not usually disregarded (taken lightly) or disrespected."

Also, to notice:

That, although Lady Macbeth is a female, she uses fear/scare tactics and manipulation to control the world around her. She is the evil version of 'Mother Nature.' Shakespeare juxtaposes [puts them at odds] them on purpose.

What is the purpose of M and B's conversation?

double entendre [this means something has 2 meanings]

Act 2, Scene 1 continued

to split, separate

M tells B

"If you **shall** **cleave** to my **consent**, when 'tis/

will

be on my side

time

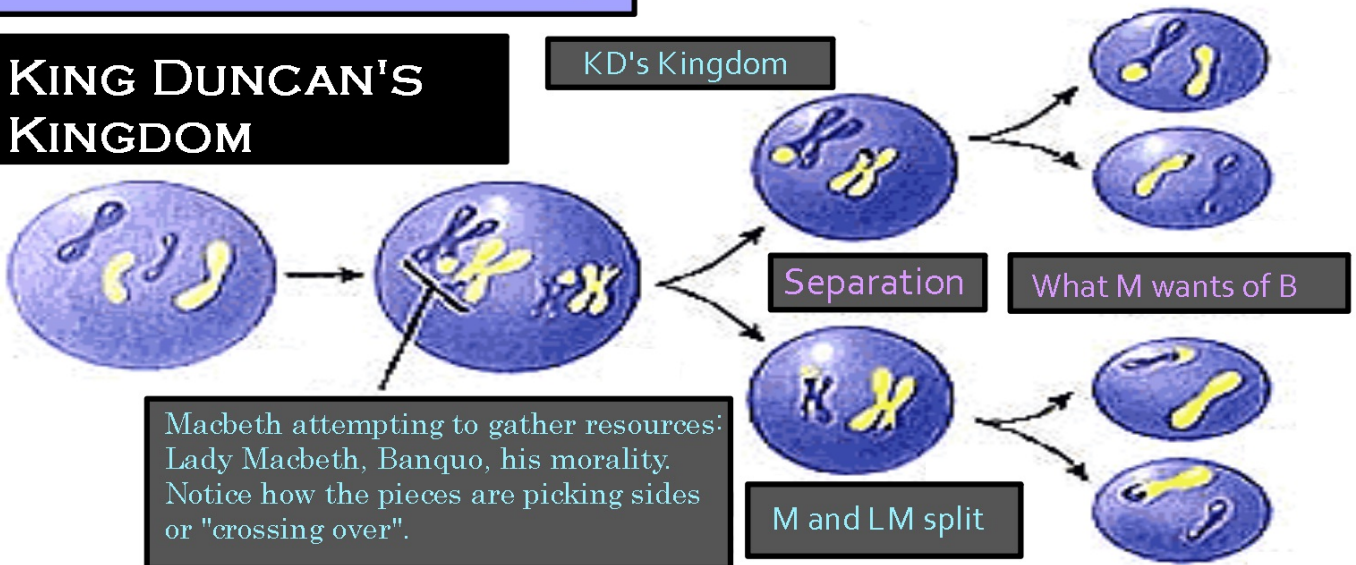
It shall make **honor** for you."

rewards/titles

Macbeth's Plans for Cleavage

KING DUNCAN'S KINGDOM

KD's Kingdom



Act 2, Scene 1 continued...

Banquo is quick to realize what Macbeth is playing at and his need to be suspicious.



Act 2, Scene 1...

"Is that a dagger which I see before me,
The handle toward my hand? Come, let me clutch thee.
I have thee not, and yet I see thee still.
Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible
To feeling as to sight? Or art thou but
A dagger of the mind, a false creation
Proceeding from the heat-oppressed brain?"

Where in this soliloquy
does Macbeth give up
good for evil?



Soliloquy covers his quickly
disintegrating Christianity:
and is struggling between
good and evil. Macbeth
acknowledges that KD will
either go to heaven or hell,
and with that, M will lose
his remaining morality.



Notice: Once again, we are bombarded with the murder
plot of KD with M and he statement as "bloody business"
as if it has been concluded.

**The BELL rings, and M says, "I go and it is done" with M
assuming LM has completed the "bloody business."**

ACT 2, SCENE 2: KD'S MURDER-- THE PLAY BY PLAY

M: thinks LM has killed KD

LM: tells [us] that the deed is not done: Chamberlains are drunk and snoring. KD looks like her dad while sleeping, thus she cannot kill him.

M: comes in. "I have done the deed."

M: Who is in the other bedroom?

LM: Malcolm and Donalbain

analysis:

Because M cannot say "Amen," he is concerned about not being able to receive any more blessings. Even though he is in need of one, he will soon find out that goodness is no longer on his side.

Malcolm/Donalbain: wake up

D: laughs

M: cries "Murder"

M/D: pray, go back to sleep

M: "one cried "God bless us" and "Amen" the other," but he cannot say Amen

LM: don't worry about this

M: Why couldn't I say Amen, I need a blessing.

LM: You have to stop thinking like this; it will make you mad.

**OH NO! Macbeth
has murdered King
Duncan!**



ACT 2, SCENE 2: KD'S MURDER-- THE PLAY BY PLAY

M: I heard a voice cry "Sleep no more. Macbeth does murder sleep".

LM: What do you mean

M: "Sleep no more...Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor/
Shall sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more."

LM: Wash the blood off of your hands. Why did you bring the daggers back here? Take them back to the chamberlains and smear them with blood.

M: refuses "I'll no more"

LM says: he is "Infirm of purpose," She goes to return the daggers.

M: who is knocking:

inability
to wash
hands
clean

LM: My **hands** are of your color, but I shame to wear a **heart** so white.
I hear knocking too.

M: To know my deed 'twere best not know myself./
Wake Duncan with thy knocking. I would thou couldst.

heart that
contradicts
the color of
hands.

Act 2, Scene 3: A Quick Look into King James and Banquo



Porter is a dense historical allusion:

"The Gunpowder Plot"

- Assassination attempt on King James I
- Henry Garnet, Guy Fawkes, and others responsible attempted to blow up Parliament
- They hoped to reestablish Roman Catholic Church

King James I

Shakespeare is offering homage to King James.

Does so by including Banquo within the prophecy and showing a line of kings.

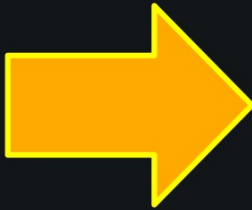
He flatters King James by mentioning his lineage later in this play.



Act 2, Scene 3 Porter uses an extended metaphor:



door to Macbeth's castle



gate to hell

ironic metaphor b/c KD is already dead

knocking: a perpetual knock, like someone already needs in

Act 2, Scene 3 Important information about the Porter:

Serves as comic relief

Who entered the "gate to hell" first?

tone=bitterly scornful

Foreshadowing: "I pray you remember the Porter"

lechery: excessive indulgences in sexual activities

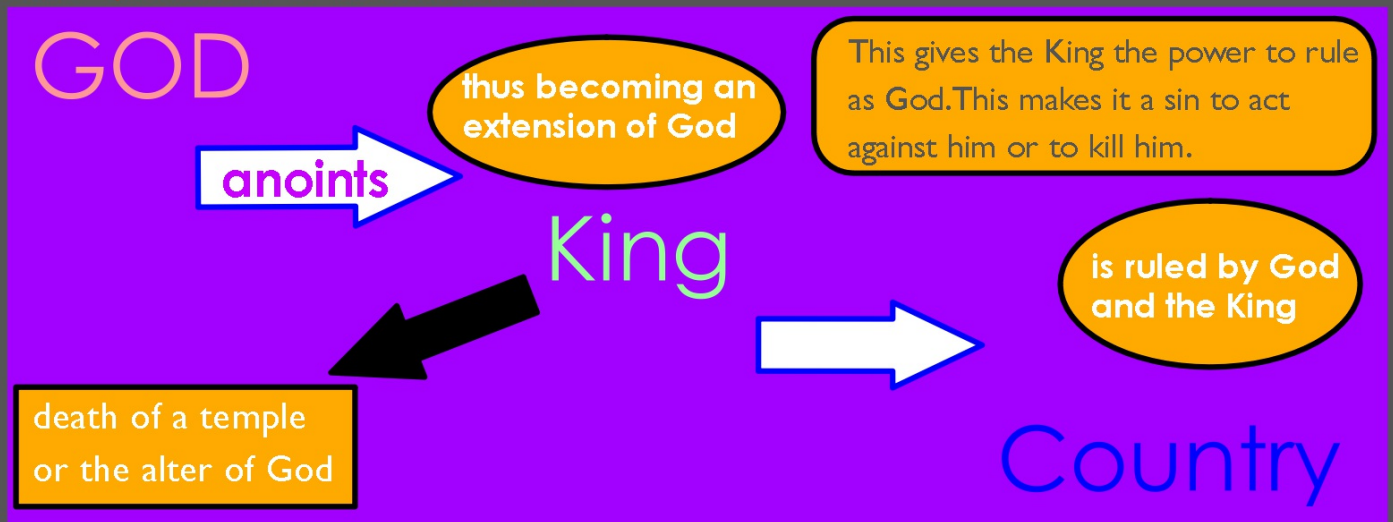
The Porter believes drinking leads to 3 things:

nose painting:
drinks
inhibits/prohibits
performance

sleep:
if you drink to
much, you will
pass out

urine:
drink a lot
means to
urinate a lot

Act 2, Scene 3 continued



Macduff: KD asked him to come in a "timely" manner

dramatic irony: not timely, when dead

How "timely" was Macduff if King Duncan is already dead?
Why does Shakespeare choose to highlight the fact of time?

sacrilege:
the most terrible sins
against God...and
now through the
extension of such,
the King as well

Act 2, Scene 3

Lennox: weather was "unruly," nature went crazy

prophesying with accents
chimney's blown over,
lamenting heard
strange screams of death
bird clamored
earth was feverous and shook

King Duncan's death is
the connection to nature.

Macduff finds KD dead: "Awakes" the house

"Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit/
and look upon death itself"

Night is the earth sleeping, a replica of death that reoccurs circularly. He means to wake them up out of the pretend death and see the real thing.

Act 2, Scene 3 continued

LM: "What's the business?"

We all know that the 'business' is KD's death. But since the audience doesn't, they have no idea what she is referring to and it adds to the dramatic irony. Doesn't she pull off looking not guilty?

Banquo states "contradict yourself, and say it is not so"

M: lived a blessed time, nothing of important left in life, renown and grace is dead [goodness is dead].

Now that KD is dead, there is nothing important left for M to live for.

M is hinting at the other step that he must o'erleap for the crown. Not only does Donalbain not yet know of his father's death, but he also doesn't know that he and Malcolm are next on M hit list.

D: "what is amiss"

M: is making a joke of mortality, especially since he is the one that stopped KD's life short.

M: you are, and do not know't

Side note definition:
prithee = I pray thee

Lennox: chamberlains did it, found with daggers smeared w blood

Act 2, Scene 3 continued

Think about this:

If they (the chamberlains) killed King Duncan, then who killed them?

So we are told:

M: "O, yet I do repent me of my fury, that I did kill them."

But the answer:

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth killed EVERYONE.

and we enter into an issue of logic...

Act 2, Scene 3

said:

Macduff:

"Wherefore did you so?"

Macbeth:

"Who could refrain/
That had a heart to love, and in that heart/
Courage to make's love known?"

Banquo:

"Fears and scruples shake us./
In the great hand of God I stand, and thence/
against the undivulged pretense I fight/
of treasonous malice."

meant:

Macduff:

Why would you do that?

Macbeth:

Who wouldn't have been able
to stop from avenging the
death of someone that you
loved by killing their murder?

Banquo:

We are all unsettled with this
death. I promise with a hand of
justice and good, that I will
fight to avenge King Duncan's
death.

But, if Macbeth killed the Chamberlains because they killed KD, then why didn't he tell the others that KD had been murdered? Why did he act like it was also a surprise?



So... who believes what about the murders?

Because Macbeth has told on himself...oops. Hurry, Lady Macbeth fix this: "Help me hence" <faints>



Malcolm and Donalbain flee assuming they will be next to go 'amiss.' Donalbain says, "Where we are,/there's daggers in men's smiles." Lennox thinks the chamberlains. Banquo and Macduff believe Macbeth revealed too much.

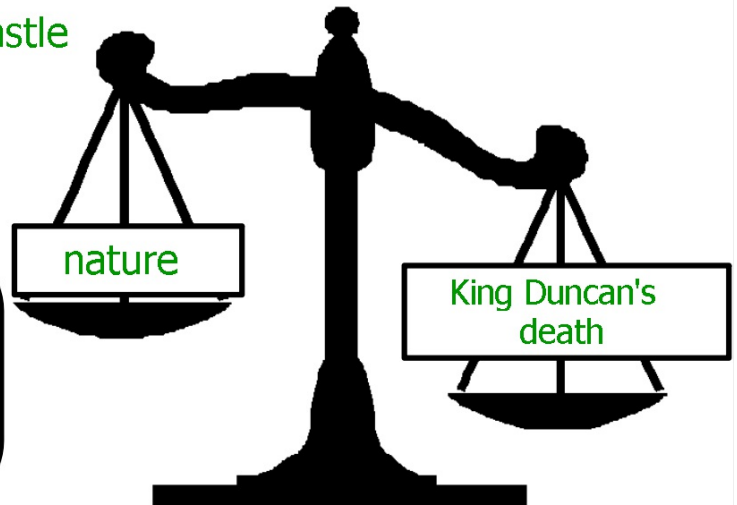
Act 2, Scene 4: Outside Macbeth's Castle

This scene serves as an explanation of what we already knew:

The weather has been uncontrollable.

The earth shook nervously.

His horses escaped and ate each other



The horses ate each other? I wonder...

Macduff notes that Malcolm and Donalbain are suspected because they fled.

This is a theme to pay attention to. The idea of fleeing and manhood is a way for Macbeth to redirect guilt/suspicion.

Macduff: "Adieu, Lest our old robes sit easier than our new."

Summary Points:

KD's body is headed to Colmekill to be buried.

Macbeth is being crowned KING in Scone.



Questions to think about:

Macbeth tries to hide his ambition and ignore its effects, but evidence of it seeps into the world around him. What are some of the symbols Shakespeare uses to represent the dangers of Macbeth's ambition?

Shakespeare uses the drunken porter at the beginning of Scene 3 to provide comic relief, a humorous break from intense emotion. However, the porter's speech also ironically comments on Macbeth. Explain the connections that can be made between the porter's words and Macbeth's actions.

