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AMBITION, EVIL AND COURAGE: IN *MACBETH*

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to portray the key words of Macbeth, which was penned by William Shakespeare in 1606. Macbeth considered as one of the magnum opus works by Shakespeare. In Macbeth, an ambition is presented a dangerous quality. It had become the reason for the downfall of both Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and triggers a series of deaths in Macbeth. Therefore ambition is the driving force of the play. Ambit and it is also showcased how Shakespeare has depicted at the end of the play in Macbeth that shows the re-emergence and re-assertion of the natural order of the things. It ends with the defeat of the evil and the triumph of the good.

Keywords: ambition, natural evil, tragic flaw, downfall

INTRODUCTION

This paper focuses on the three major elements in Shakespeare Macbeth such as over-ambition, evil and courage. Macbeth has generally regarded as a tragedy of 'ambition', and it is to be considerable extent. Over-ambition does act as a determining passion in Macbeth. But, even more than that, we can say this play is a study of fear. Although it is ambition which leads Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to commit the murder of Duncan, it is not an ambition but fear that is analyzed in Macbeth. Fear is one of a pair of passions, Shakespeare has painted this passion against the background of its opposite which is courage. Just as 'Romeo and Juliet' sounds its love-hate theme at the beginning, as Hamlet stresses the joy-grief pair of passion. And as Othello develops the love -hatred relationship, so Macbeth develops the theme of fear against the background of courage. And is not an ordinary courage that we have here but an extraordinary courage or audacity or rashness; and this kind of courage must be regarded as a defect because it represents the excess of true fortitude. In both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, the ambition which moves them to rash deeds; and both of them witness the gradual disillusion brought about by fear, Lady Macbeth being led to final self destruction and Macbeth to the final rage of despair.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN AMBITION AND FEAR

We can see the first two acts of the play are thus struggle of two passions 'ambition' and 'fear' for victory. That struggle has been resolved by the deed which shows that ambition had the upper hand. Yet in the very moment when ambition seems to have won, fear has really taken possession of Macbeth. After the murder of Duncan, the whole play is motivated by the increasing passion of fear. Macbeth had been forced to bend up each corporal agent of this terrible fear. From the murder of Duncan onwards it is an ambition but fear that terrorizes victim into action.

EVIL IN LADY MACBETH

One of the critics said that, Shakespeare portrays three witches in Macbeth but the fourth which is Lady Macbeth. In Macbeth three witches are as synonymous with evil. When the first time lady Macbeth

encounters with three witches, they predicted by saying that you shall be the king of Scotland in future (act I, scene iii 50). First time the seed of evil thought entered into the mind of Lady Macbeth, we can see the conversation among Lady Macbeth and three witches as follow s:

MACBETH: speak if you can: what are you?

FIRST WITCH: Macbeth hail to thee, thane of gleams!

SECOND WITCH: all hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, thane of Cawdor!

THIRD WITCH: all hail, Macbeth that shalt be king hereafter!

(Shakespeare, Macbeth i.iii.46-49)

The effects of evil thoughts are much stronger in Lady Macbeth than on Macbeth. "She deliberately chooses evil, her choice being more deliberate than her husband's". Lady Macbeth embraces evil more spontaneously than her husband did. Macbeth thinks his vaulting ambition stimulates him only, but it is his wife whose reprimands force him to shake off the unwillingness he had to commit murder. When she tells anything, she means it. She literally summons the powers of darkness to overpower her; come, you spirits

"That tends in moral thoughts, unsex me here, and fill me from the crown to the toe, top full of direst cruelty"!(Shakespeare, Macbeth act.i.v.40-43)

A PROFOUND VISION OF EVIL

According to a critic , the most terrible part of the play Macbeth is stifling , baffling, murky atmosphere of fear in which everyone moves ; the mystery, darkness, doubt are on every side, the horrible rumors, that still more horrible murder, all tending to produce the state of tense, irrational fear that we connect with nightmare. Macbeth is shake spear's most profound and mature vision of evil.

COURAGE AND FEAR IN MACBETH:

Macbeth begins to argue with the deed in his mind. We find him making a soliloquy in which the theme of the tragedy is made clear. If it were done, when ties done.....

Macbeth expresses his deep fear of heaven's justice, of the unknown decrees of justice, of punishment in the present life as well as in the next life. There are strong reasons why he should not murder Duncan, he tells himself. On other side there is only vaulting ambition to spur him to commit to the murder. And we can see the extreme fear in Macbeth after killing of Duncan, meets lady Macbeth says as; the smell of the blood has still not left this hand. All the perfumes of Arabia will not wash away this blood and take away its smell from this little hand

All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little

(Macbeth.v.i.48-49)

MACBETH'S REPENTANCE:

Ultimately Macbeth repents for his sin. The evil thought has desperately embarrassed continues to madden his inmost heart. No experience in the world brings him to glory in it or make peace with it. There is nothing left for him but the despair of his speech:

To-morrow, and to-morrow and to-morrow
 Creeps in this petty pace from day to day;
 To the last syllable of recorded time;
 And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
 The way to dusty death. Out, brief candle!
 Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
 That struts and frets his hour upon the stage.
 And then is heard no more: it is a tale
 Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
 Signifying nothing.

(Shakespeare, Macbeth V.V.19-28)

CONCLUSION

Macbeth starts with darkness; the darkness itself resembles the deep and black desires which lead to tragic circumstances in the life of the protagonist. Macbeth is ambitious and that forms the tragic flaw or hamartia in his character. Violence and over ambition leads to downfall to Macbeth in this play.

Let not light see my black and deep desires ;(act i.v 51).

Therefore, the three negative features of his character give risk to dark intention and evil desires (thirst for power) in him as well as in Lady Macbeth. These finally lead to them devise dark designs to implement unlawful intentions which ultimately lead him to commit crime and suffer the wrath of not only the whole nation but also of fate.

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