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Macbeth Analytical Essay

**“Is this a dagger which I see before me (Act 2, scene 1)”**

Macbeth is a tragic play written by Shakespeare and was first performed on stage in 1606. It demonstrates the devastating effects of the lust for power and money, both in physical and psychological aspects. The story revolves around a young general, named Macbeth, who gets a prophecy from a trio of witches that he will become the King of Scotland one day. Under the constant pressure of his wife and the magical hallucination if the prophecy, he kills the current King of Scotland. King Duncan, and overpowers the throne. He is then immediately captured by guilt and paranoia and to destroy these feelings; he starts killing more people and making more devastation, popularizing him as a tyrannical ruler. Under the influence of all these circumstances, he and his wife, Lady Macbeth, soon go into madness and ultimately die. Macbeth proves in the real sense that excessive lust for power blinds a man and he may commit anything, even murder, to satisfy his desire.

In Macbeth, there is a significant sequence in Act 2, Scene 1, where Macbeth is found self-talking in darkness when he sees a dagger, and the immediate urge for killing the King Duncan takes over him. He sees a dagger in front of him and can’t believe that the dagger is really in front of him. He is still thinking that he is hallucinating. That is why he questions himself in the words “**Is this a dagger which I see before me."**

**“It is the bloody business which informs**

**Thus to mine eyes. Now o'er the one half-world."**

One another thought, he sees blood on the dagger which was not there before. He is undoubtedly hallucinating now as he is blinded by the evil emotion of killing his enemy.

“**I go, and it is done; the bell invites me.**

**Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell**

**That summons thee to heaven or to hell.”**

Finally, Macbeth goes on murdering King Duncan, with the ring of a bell by his wife, and visualizes ultimately killing his opponent.

In short, Macbeth is another successful effort to prove that the lust for power and prestige blinds a man.

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William, and Arthur Wilson Verity. *Macbeth*. At the University Press, 1901.