

Edward Jones, II

Mrs. Pincus / 11-2

VoucherLight's Weakness

Mention the play Macbeth *In the play Macbeths*

Shakespeare uses the images of night and day to portray death / evil and life / good. Shakespeare uses the images of darkness and night as a time for any evil thoughts, plots, or deeds. He also uses darkness and night to describe evil-like things such as the witches. The images of light and day are generally used for life, hope, and redemption. When these two images interact with one another or counteract against one another, it occurs during a time of tension or nervousness. *- which one usually "wins"?*

Night and darkness are commonly used through literature to portray evil and death. Evil plots are discussed in dark rooms and mysterious murders occur in dark abandoned alleys. Shakespeare used it in this same way but also added a twist. The darkness was not limited to one person alone, rather it consumed those who were touched or influenced by it. Shakespeare reverses the laws of nature by saying that the darkness can consume the light. *- Set this quote up who says it, to whom & when?*

"By th'clock 'tis day.

And yet dark night strangles the traveling lamp

Is't night predominance or the day's shame

That darkness does the face of the earth entomb

When living light should kiss it? (II.iv.8-12)

After Duncan was killed, some start to recognize that darkness seems to be taking over light. Evil is setting on MacBeth and he begins his dramatic change of human nature. The evil has come in and taken hold MacBeth and will lead him down a horrible road.

Shakespeare uses day and light for somewhat of an opposite to night and death. There are instances in the play when Shakespeare uses light for a preserver of life. During Act 3, Sc 3, the murderers go to kill Banquo. Throughout the scene there are references to light. The first murderer declares that there is some light of day left and when Banquo & Fleance enter the scene, they are carrying torches. These references to light represent life but after Banquo was murdered the light went out. This signifies the life of Banquo ending. It also signifies that once again the darkness has come and consumed the light. Evil has taken power over good. ~~---~~

need actual quote

The images of night and death were intertwined throughout the play. Night is used to mark death as ^{is} Duncan's murderer. "There's husbandry in heaven; / Their candles are all out." (I.i.6-7) Banquo speaks just before MacBeth goes to kill Duncan. All the lights in heaven, sun and stars needed to hide him from this horrible deed.

Light and day are used ^{as} a representative of life and good. It counteracts with the darkness trying to keep a sense of goodness. Shakespeare has the darkness prevail over the lights to show how evil possesses and destroys light. He

alludes to that in the scene where Macduff and Malcolm are testing one another.

"Angels are bright, though the brightest fell." (IV.iii.27) This is a reference to Satan and how he was a mighty angel but evil overtook him. MacBeth was a might and loyal warrior under Duncan. Then he met the witches and there he was first influence by evil. Over the course of the play, it is ^{apparent} noticed that the evil takes more and more effect on MacBeth. After he was first influenced by the evil, he still required the darkness to hide him. He kills Duncan in the dark while he can still hide, and then he goes on to meet the witches again in the dark, while he can still hide. Later in the play he kills Macduff's family, presumable in the day. Over the course of the play, MacBeth becomes more and more possessed by his evil dark desires. Once he is fully corrupted he can do anything without fear of being discovered or beaten. Shakespeare alters nature by allowing for the darkness to consume the light. This is shown by MacBeth's light converting to darkness. Sleep is shown to be an escape from the evil of night. It is a peaceful time, which is very similar to death. "Shake off this downy sleep, death's counterfeit" (II.iii.88) After MacBeth killed Duncan; he is informed that he shall no longer sleep:

... "Sleep no more!

MacBeth does murder sleep" ... (II.ii.46-47)

"Still it cries, "Sleep no more!" to all the house

"Glamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore

Cawdor

This is important
↓
could be expanded

Why in this order

If it intensifies throughout the play, then a chronological order makes more sense

Shall sleep no more. MacBeth shall sleep no more." (II.ii.54-57)

MacBeth has had his peaceful sleep taken away from him and now can only dwell in the nightmares of the night, which the evil brings. He is not the only one affected; Lady MacBeth loses her sleep and is taken to the nightmares of the night. During Act 5, Scene 1, a doctor comes to check on Lady MacBeth. It is there that he finds that she is sleepwalking and saying things in her sleep. The evil thoughts have crept in and have forced her into these horrible dreams. It can only be assumed that MacBeth went through a similar type situation.

Shakespeare uses the images of night and day to show a pessimistic view toward mankind. People, once affected by evil thoughts and deeds, cannot shake their desires. The evil corrupts them and they are changed into evil monsters. If people can turn away from evil plots and desires, mankind would not be in such an evil state.

*Think about how the play ends
Is it light that triumphs? Is the
sun shining?*

*What ultimate
message is Shakespeare
sending?*