

### Macbeth - Water Image

David Tran

In the opening scenes of the play, Shakespeare cleverly uses the image of water to show/indicate changes in the environment, plot and the characters

Shakespeare's Macbeth is the story of a loyal army general whose desires and self-afflictions for power and glory provide the drive to usurp the throne of King of Scotland. Throughout the play, Shakespeare uses images to depict the changes in the mood and atmosphere through specific objects as the plot unfolds. One such <sup>image</sup> object, water, is one whose physical form as well as its significance and meaning undergoes a gradual change. From Macbeth's noble beginnings to his tragic <sup>defeat</sup>, the significance of water transforms from a pure, good and holy substance to a dirty liquid tainted by the <sup>actions</sup> of Macbeth?

Water to indicate changes in atmosphere

Fresh from the savage battlefield, Macbeth and Banquo are highly praised hailed by the King Duncan after hearing news of their success in <sup>Here</sup> result Macdonwald's defeat. Shakespeare projects Macbeth as a noble to the King <sup>loyal</sup> but his appearance quickly ~~changes~~ reverses to a traitorous villain.

The changes in Macbeth's behavior parallels the ~~and~~ <sup>description of</sup> the <sup>battle</sup> war by the captain of "Shipwrecking storms, <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~ that spring whence comfort seemed to come discomfort swells."

The <sup>spring</sup> water represents the perceived honorable personality of Macbeth ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> foreshadows his ~~and~~ change of heart to take the throne, ~~from which his ambitious goals~~ to take the throne. The <sup>spring</sup> spring represents Macbeth's obligations to the King but <sup>also</sup> foreshadows his growing ambition for <sup>a stake at the</sup> the King's throne. Just a

Even the tempestuous rainstorm of the sea failed to obstruct Macbeth from his objective. ~~It~~ foreshadows the blood which <sup>water fails to clear</sup> cannot be washed away. <sup>lady</sup> ~~Macbeth~~ <sup>Macbeth</sup> of their guilt.

Shakespeare portrays the <sup>future</sup> water image as evidence of the ~~disturbance~~ <sup>disturbance</sup> of the social order as recognized by the Gods. The nature of water, ~~controlled by~~ <sup>and</sup> conjured the God would be considered pure and holy.

It is a reminder ~~Macbeth~~ <sup>Macbeth</sup> quickly ~~debates~~ <sup>debates</sup> himself whether not to ~~Macbeth's~~ <sup>Macbeth's</sup> relationship with Duncan ~~and~~ <sup>turns to</sup> ~~deceit~~ <sup>deceit</sup> as his wife urges him to pursue his <sup>honest</sup> "vaulting ambitions."

Blood taints the water of the earth

Water as pure, earthly

Paragraph #2

~~From the beginning of the play,~~ Shakespeare defines water as this earthly and natural creation of God. ~~When~~ Banquo and Macbeth see the Three Witches, Banquo This is evident when Banquo and Macbeth first meet the 3 weird Sisters. The two Thanes hear of the prophecy then, Banquo, confused says. "the Earth hath bubbles as water has, And these are of them." <sup>Shakespeare draws a comparison between the</sup> ~~he compares the earth~~ <sup>also</sup> and water as godly creations ~~with~~ containing bubbles from which the spirits have emerged. As a sign which leads to the regal backstabbing by Macbeth. When things have not yet changed for the worst, the imagery of water remains untouched. ~~shinks up his plan,~~

Paragraph #4

As quickly as the plot progresses, the meaning of water changes to one of burden

~~As quickly as Macbeth sees an opportunity to make the prophecies true, he takes it upon himself to the opportunist in his wife coerces her hesitant husband to go forth.~~  
The blood of Macbeth's victims, symbolizes his and Lady Macbeth's guilt as conspirators.

The blood upon Lady Macbeth and Macbeth's hands remain a constant reminder of their guilty roles ~~of~~ the murders. The remorse felt by both grows proportionately as ~~successful~~ <sup>life after</sup> ~~life is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~take~~ <sup>place</sup>. after the slaughter of godly Duncan and his servants guards Macbeth is too petrified to think clearly so his wife <sup>casually</sup> advises him to "Go get some water and wash this filthy witness from your hand." Here, water, an ingredient essential to vitality is used by Shakespeare to conceal the ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> terrible of all the crimes ~~against~~ <sup>against</sup> the world <sup>as a sin</sup> against God.

But, Macbeth, haunted by his ~~own~~ <sup>own</sup> actions cries:

Will all great Neptune's Oceans wash this blood clean from my hands? No, this my hand will ~~reave~~ <sup>reave</sup> the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green one red."

But,

The image cannot ~~wipe away~~ <sup>dispel</sup> memories of the tremendous blood ~~not only of Macbeth but also his wife's shoulder, on both their~~ <sup>on</sup> shoulders

