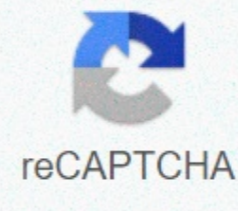




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Paradoxes in macbeth witches

I haven't seen such a bad and fair day. -1.3.39 Macbeth -> Banquo (Paradox)1. The day is bad because the witches are pulling up a storm, and fair because of Macbeth's victories on the battlefield. 2. Unknown to Macbeth, his very first words in the play echo the words of the witches eerily: Fair is foul, and foul is fair (1.1.11), and so the audience immediately sees the catastrophic inseparability of Macbeth and the forces of darkness.3. The resemblance of Macbeth and the witches: witches are evil, but they give adviceMacbeth seems to be a hero, but he is a murderer and a traitor. Less than Macbeth and bigger. -1.3.68 First Witch -> Banquo (Paradox)Banquo will be less than Macbeth, as he will never be King of Scotland himself. In fact, Banquo is now nothing more than a corpse in a ditch. His heirs, however, are destined to become not only kings of Scotland, but also of England from Shakespeare's time. Not so happy, but much happier. - 1.3.69 Second Witch -> Banquo (Paradox)It is self-contradictory in saying that Banquo himself will not be happy, but at the same time he will be happy for his sons. This supernatural request / Can't be sick, can't be good. -1.3.143-144 Macbeth -> himself/audience (paradox)The temptation to believe and act in the prophecy of the witches is good and bad. This is the first place where we see MbS constant internal struggle and conflict. He continues to be tormented by the choice of ambition or morality. And nothing is, but what is not. -1.3.155 Macbeth -> himself/or audience (paradox)what Macbeth considers fair/true/correct, in reality it is worth nothing and it is wrong/ falseif he knows that he will become king, his temptation to kill the king confuses him. All our service, / In every point done twice and then done twice -1.6.18-19 Lady Macbeth -> King Duncon (Equivocation)Lady Macbeth talks to the king about how excited she is to have him in the house and how they will work hard. This is dramatic irony because we know that Lady Macbeth is planning to kill him. If I had died only an hour before this chance, / I had lived a blessed time -2.3.107-108 Macbeth -> Lennox, Ross and Banquo (Equivocation)He wants everyone to believe that he is sad about Duncan's death and that he would rather die before Duncan because he does not want to live in a time when the king was murdered. Macbeth expresses his guilt for what he has done, a guilt he lays down over the course of the play, and Macbeth orders the murders of Banquo and Macduff's family. At the same time, he tried to wash his suspicions. And although I could / With naked power sweep him out of my gaze / And offer my avouch it, but I may not, / For certain friends who are both his and mine, / Whose dear I can not fall, but blow his case / Who I beat myself -3.1.134-139 Macbeth -> hired killer (Equivocation)He asks the two killers to hide his true plans to kill Banquo from the public for many because they have mutual friends and they will not be happy that Macbeth kills Banquo. You can't say I did -3.4.61 Macbeth -> Spirit of Banquo (Equivocation)Macbeth says he killed Banquo, but Banquo can't accuse him of murder since he hired a murderer to kill Banquo. The instruments of darkness tell us truths, / Win us with honest little things to betray / In the deepest sequence (I.iii. 123-125) Context: Macbeth and Banquo have just heard the prophecy of the witches, and Banquo is trying to understand everything he has learned. Contradiction: Theme: Paradox: Wouldn't play wrong, and yet you would get it wrong I.V 20-21. Context: Macbeth has just learned that he has become Thane of Cawdor, this is the first time that the witches prophecy has come true. Contradiction: The contradiction is that Banquo believes that this small victory for Macbeth could lead him to bigger worse things. Revelation: The revelation is that he realizes that his future may not be as bright as the witches describe it. Theme:HopeParadox: Ross's good news has bad effects. But I fear your nature, it is too full o'th'milk of human goodness (I. v. 23-25) Context:Lady Macbeth has just received a letter from Macbeth in which he talks about how witches told him he would become king. She believes that his femininity/friendliness will keep him from getting that position. Contradiction: Too much kindness is a weaknessTheme: Ambition You would be great; / Art not without ambition, but without / The disease should visit it (I.iii). Context: Lady Macbeth has just heard the witches' prophecy that Macbeth will become king. Contradiction: For Macbeth to be big, he must be bad. Revelation: This contradiction shows that in a world where fair is foul and foul fair, what is normally :great cannot come without any element of disease or evil. Topic: Strength and weaknessParadox: For Macbeth to be great, he must be bad. Nothing in his life was like leaving him (I.IV 7-8). Context: Malcolm has received news of the execution of The Thane of Cawdor and forwards the message to Duncan. Contradiction: Death was the greatest achievement in Thane's life. What it shows: It shows that the life of Thane was worthless, but he seemed studied in dyingthemes: Moral & Sanity I dare everything that can become a man; Who dares to do more is not one (I, vii, 47-48) context: one of Macbeth's monologues when he discusses what it means to be a man. Although Macbeth believes that certain qualities and tendencies make someone male, you can lose your masculinity if they over-express those qualities. Contradiction:Macbeth states that Masculinity is actually female. This is contradictory because masculinity is often seen as the opposite of femininityRevelation, when someone is absorbed into his ego and loses control of his temper, their male qualities can actually turn into weakness. Subject: Male vs. feminineParadox: Being overly male is female My eyes are made to the fools o'th'other sinne, or otherwise worth the rest (II.i.44-45). Context: Macbeth doubts his decision to kill Duncan and doesn't know if he will get away with it. When he says this line, he thinks about the moral implications of committing the crime. Contradiction: The eyes can either be deceived or they can be the most powerful senseTheme: Moralparadox: What I see is either real or false What made them drunk has made me bold; what they have deterred has given me fire. (II, ii, 1-2) Context: Duncan was murdered, and Lady Macbeth drank like Duncan's Chamberlains. Contradiction: Alcohol, which makes others weak, makes Lady Macbeth strong. Theme: AmbitionParadox: What weakens others strengthens me to know My deed, 'was best not to know my self (II, ii, 76). Although this statement seems to make a logical sense, it does indeed have some meaning. Macbeth believes he won't be able to think about the murder and digest it without separating his own role in the murder. Macbeth tries to avoid the remorse that would result from linking his own actions to Duncan's murder. Naught had spent everything, Where our desire will get without content./Tis to be safer, which we destroy/Then by destruction live in dubious joy (3.2.8-9). Context: Lady Macbeth experiences feelings of guilt and shares her concerns with Macbeth. Revelation: It is better to be dead than to live with the guilt of the livingTheme: Repentance/MoralParadox: Death is safer than being better with the dead, who we have sent to peace in order to win our peace, than on the torment of the Spirit to lie in restless ecstasy. (III, ii, 19-23) Context: Macbeth agrees with Lady Macbeth and continues to talk about his guilt. Contradiction: Macbeth says that death is peace and life tortureRevelation: Macbeth believes that he will find peace when he is dead, instead of being alive, because during his life he will always struggle with the guilt of his murders. Another interesting idea here is the dual meaning of peace. Theme: Death/ReueParadox: Our fears in Banquo remain deep, and in his kingdom of nature reigns what fear would be (43). Context: Discusses Banquo's murder with the two killers, and Macbeth justifies his desire to kill Banquo. Contradiction + What it reveals: Macbeth fears Banquo's natural ability to govern and thinks that righteousness is dangerous. Subject: Moralparadox: It is exactly what is good that must be killed. Ay, my good lord: safe in a ditch he behaves, with twenty ditched gases on his head (Act 3, scene 4, 26-27, p51) Context: Murderers confirm that Banquo is dead. Contradiction: The killers say that security has gases in their minds. Revelation: Macbeth shows a trend of preferring death instead of living. (See above) Theme: Ambition + MoralParadox: It is safer to be dead than alive. Angels are still bright, although the brightest fell; although anything that would be evil would carry the eyebrows of grace, but grace must still look like this. (IV, iii, 22-24) Context: Malcolm and Macduff test each other and discuss Macbeth's tyranny. Contradiction: If evil things try to appear graceful, grace would still seem graceful. It seems like some foul might not be graceful, but this quote implies a kind of virtue in lazy things. Just like the Shibolet, fair is foul and foul is fair, this paradox swaps the roles of virtue and evil,this paradox has a greater meaning in the game because Macbeth constantly challenges expectations of what we think is normal. Whether it's madness or evil, Macbeth emphasizes that actions are characterized only by how they are seen by society, not by what they really are. Subject: Opposite is the truthParadox: Bad seems good, but good must also seem good. But I remember that I am now in this earthly world, where it is often laudable to do harm to be regarded as dangerous madness at some point (71). Context: Lady Macduff talks to the messenger just before the killers arrive and she has been warned that she is in danger. Contradiction: Lady McD says that harm is good and good harmfulTheme: Opposite is the truthparadox: Harm is honorable and honor is harmful. Malcolm: Fight it like a man. Macduff: I will; But I also have to feel it as a man. (IV.iii.221-224) Ross notifies Macduff that his family was brutally slaughtered on Macbeth's orders. Dealing with loss to be brave (male) vs. being a man and feeling grief (female)It shows that male men can feel feelings similar to women. GenderTo be male, you have to have grief like a woman. ... And with something sweet, forgotten antidoten cleanse the stuff'd bust of this dangerous stuff that weighs on the heart? (V.iii.44-46). I draw in the dissolution and begin to doubt the incantation of the Sour Fend, who lies like the truth... (V.v.41-43).