

By the end of studying **Act 3 Scene 6** I need to know;

Plot: Lennox and another lord, in code, discuss their suspicions over Macbeth's true nature; the lord informs Lennox that Macduff has gone to find Malcolm in England in order to gather an army.

Ideas: There are clear fears around Macbeth- to the degree that they must conceal their speech in case anyone else is listening. The scene constructs the idea that God is on the side of Malcolm and Macduff- thereby highlighting the illegitimacy of Macbeth's rule in the eyes of God.

<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Pious [adjective]- deeply religious Delinquent [noun]- a young person who commits a crime. He's referring to Duncan's servants, who are assumed to have murdered him. Delinquents are often petty criminals, therefore Lennox's language choice to describe them here implies that he doesn't think they did it. The subtlety of this language choice reflects how careful Lennox has to be at this time. [delinquent- adjective; delinquency- noun] Nobly [adverb]- to show high moral principles. [noble- adjective/ noun] Tyrant [noun]- a ruler who abuses his power. [tyrannical- adverb] Bestows [verb]- to present as a gift or honour. Thither [adverb]- towards that place. Exasperate [verb]- to irritate and frustrate Blessing [noun]- a prayer or God's protection Accursed [adjective]- under a curse</p>
<p>Context</p>	<p>Divine Right of Kings- The belief at the time was that God chose the king. This becomes important in this scene as Edward the Confessor, a legitimate king and therefore messenger of God on Earth. Edward is described as having healing powers, akin to Jesus, because he is the rightful king and so has superior powers. This draws a contrast to Macbeth as an unlawful king- this contrast also becomes evident in Act 5 Scene 3 when he asks a physician to create a drug that will purge the English armies; he wishes he had the same powers that Edward has. The belief was that an unjust, or not God-ordained, ruler would damage the country and bring chaos- the description the lord provides of the country (see 'deeper understanding') reinforces this idea.</p> <p>Edward the Confessor- The king of England. In 1161, after the events of the play and his death, he was canonised as a saint. The support of a saint to legitimise Malcolm serves to demonstrate his rightful place as King of Scotland.</p> <p>The legitimacy of James I's reign- Shakespeare, who was awarded patronage by King James I, would have been well aware that his plays should please the monarchy. During this time, many were questioning the legitimacy of James I as King of England as he was Scottish, with many disliking the idea of having a Scottish king ruling over England. The inclusion of the English, and support from the English king, suggests a close brotherhood between England and Scotland- they are working together within the play to ensure a legitimate king is on the throne. This certainly would have credence in 1606.</p>
<p>Themes</p>	<p>Natural order- Macbeth's murder has disrupted the natural order and brought chaos. His rule is becoming tyrannical- which is what it was believed would happen if an unjust ruler was on the throne and the country is beginning to suffer- 'our suffering country under a hand accursed!'. These ideas are further developed in Act 4 Scene 3. Lennox and the lords, along with Macduff, are seeking to restore Malcolm. As the lord comments Malcolm is 'the son of Duncan, whom this tyrant holds the due of birth' to highlight the legitimacy of Malcolm. By calling him the 'son of Duncan' the lord is alluding to the idea that Malcolm is the rightful heir- even though it was not uncommon during this time for the monarchy to pass outside of direct descendants, the precedent would still be there.</p>
<p>Deeper understanding</p>	<p>Fear resides in Scotland- There's clear fear amongst those in Scotland- something that is referenced by Macduff in Act 4 Scene 3 to Malcolm. Lennox says that the lord will need to 'interpret further' his speech based on their previous conversations. He then lists events, such as Fleance's murder of Banquo 'for Fleance fled', to question the current theory that Malcolm and Donalbain were involved in the murder of Duncan. He also suggests how 'grieved' Macbeth was at Duncan's murder that he killed the servants: 'was it not nobly done? Aye, and wise too; for 'twould have anger'd any heart alive to hear the men deny't'. The lord proclaims hope that they will give 'meat to our table, sleep to our nights, free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives'- which reflects how much the country is suffering, Macbeth is taking food, spreading fear and bloodshed.</p> <p>The holy king- The other Lord states how Malcolm has been welcomed into Edward's court- the fact that Edward is referred to as 'holy' suggests he is religious, therefore on the side of God. Macduff too has gone to 'pray' to Edward, signifying his divine role, and hopes 'help [from] Him above [will] ratify the work' helps to create the idea that God is on their side.</p>

Reading:

Lennox- Thane of the Lennox- after Act 3 Scene 4, he is now suspicious over Macbeth's actions.

Other lord- An unnamed lord who also suspects the Macbeths.

Malcolm- Duncan's son and the true heir to the Scottish throne.

Edward the Confessor- the King of England.

Northumberland- Lord of Northumberland (an Anglo-Saxon kingdom)

Siward- An English lord and Malcolm's cousin. He has an army of 20,000 men.

Macduff- The Thane of Fife- has gone to England to find Malcolm and raise an army.

<p>Quotes</p>	<p>'cause he fail'd his presence at the tyrant's feast, I hear Macduff lives in disgrace'- Macduff is disgraced in Macbeth's court as he didn't attend his feast. The last time we saw Macduff was in Act 2 Scene 4, where he revealed his intentions not to attend Macbeth's investment at Scone.</p> <p>'The son of Duncan, from whom this tyrant holds the due of birth lives in the English court'- Malcolm has fled to England and sought protection from Edward the Confessor. The lord here is reminding us that Malcolm is the rightful king.</p> <p>'thither Macduff is gone to pray the holy king'- Macduff too intends to seek Edward. By referring to Edward as 'holy' it provides a direct contrast with the unholy and devilish depictions of Macbeth. It also serves to further legitimise Malcolm as a rightful king. Edward supports him and is clearly moral- his sainthood would also mean that his qualities and credibility would be known to the audience.</p> <p>'by the help of these--with Him above to ratify the work'</p> <p>'we may again give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights, free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives'</p> <p>'that a swift blessing may soon return to this our suffering country under a hand accursed!'</p>
<p>Terminology</p>	<p>Metaphor</p> <p>Symbolism</p> <p>Ethos - credibility of Malcolm's character</p>

Links across the play:

Act 1 Scene 7- In soliloquy, Macbeth laments how 'we... teach bloody instruction... which returns to plague the inventor', suggesting that violent acts are borne out of violent acts. The lord's reference to 'bloody knives' at banquets implies the spread of violence as a result of Macbeth's actions.

Act 3 Scene 4- Macbeth's actions in Act 3 Scene 4 has led to suspicion over the Macbeths.

Act 4 Scene 3- Ross provides a similar depiction of a suffering Scotland.

Act 5 Scene 3- Macbeth asks the physician to create a potion that will 'scour these English hence'