

Student Essay on Macbeth Was Solely Responsible for His Downfall

Macbeth Was Solely Responsible for His Downfall by William Shakespeare

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Essay

Though Macbeth is responsible for his own actions, his human nature, the witches prophecies and Lady Macbeth's persuasions also play a part in Macbeth's downfall.

Shakespeare's Macbeth is set in Elizabethan time when people firmly believed in the existence of witches and their evil supernatural powers.

When Macbeth is confronted by the witches prophecies telling him he will be king but that Banquo's sons will be king and not his own, Macbeth feels his title as king is threatened. Should anything happen to him.

After Macbeth tells his wife of the witches prophecies, she feels Macbeth will have to overcome his humanity in order to fulfill his ambitions. She begins to persuade her husband he must kill the king in order to gain his title.

Before Macbeth kills the king he naturally weighs up the odds and realises he is in a good position already, after leading an army to victory he is well respected by those around him.

However he can't help wanting more than what he has and feels that after his efforts he feels he deserves better.

However Macbeth knows in his heart what he has done is wrong and soon becomes paranoid that someone might kill him for his title as he did to King Duncan before him. Why else would Malcolm and Donalbain flee the country?

It is at this point Macbeth's downfall sets in as he feels he has already compromised on his humanity. Macbeth continues to kill those around him who threaten his title until he is killing for revenge and for reasons that make us believe Macbeth has lost his sanity, until he has lost all his humanity he possessed that earned him his respect and is left with nothing more than a title.

In the end, though it is Macbeth who kills the king, his human nature to want more than he has, and ambition to fight for what he wants along with the influences of the witches prophecies and Lady Macbeth's persuasions all play a part in Macbeth's downfall.