

UNIT III - DRAMA

1. LADY MACBETH'S SOLILOQUY

Act - I Scene V

(William Shakespeare)

ESSAY ANSWER

What do you come to know from Lady Macbeth's soliloquy?

Introduction

When the scene opens we see Lady Macbeth reading her husband's letter. The letter talks about Macbeth's meeting with the witches and their prophecies. She decides to make her husband King at any cost.

Macbeth's letter

Macbeth wrote in his letter that the witches met him while he was returning from the war. Their knowledge of things was more than that of human beings'. One of the witches said that Macbeth would become King. Lady Macbeth said to herself that Macbeth had already become the Thane of Glamis and the Thane of Cawdor. He would certainly become King but his kind nature stood in the way. She wished to pour courage into his ears.

Lady Macbeth's thoughts

Then a servant came and said that King Duncan was coming to Macbeth's castle that night. Lady Macbeth was extremely pleased to hear it. She requested the spirits to unsex her and put in murderous thoughts in her. Her blood should be made thick. Her breast milk should be replaced with gall.

Lady Macbeth's plans

While Lady Macbeth was thinking so, Macbeth came. He told her that Duncan was visiting their castle that night. He had planned to return the next day. Lady Macbeth told him that people could read strange matters from Macbeth's face. During Duncan's visit Macbeth should bear welcome in his eye, hand and tongue. He should look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it. All that Duncan wished should be provided for. But Lady Macbeth should be allowed freedom to act as she wished.

PARAGRAPH ANSWERS

1. What was the content of Macbeth's letter?

Macbeth wrote in his letter that the witches met him while he was returning from the war. Their knowledge of things was more than that of human beings'. One of the witches said that Macbeth would become King. Lady Macbeth said to herself that Macbeth had already become the Thane of Glamis and the Thane of Cawdor. He would certainly become King but his kind nature stood in the way. She wished to pour courage into his ears.

2. What were Lady Macbeth's plans?

While Lady Macbeth was planning for the future, Macbeth came. He told her that Duncan was visiting their castle that night. He had planned to return the next day. Lady Macbeth told him that people could read strange matters from Macbeth's face. During Duncan's visit Macbeth should bear welcome in his eye, hand and tongue. He should look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it. All that Duncan wished should be provided for. But Lady Macbeth should be allowed freedom to act as she wished.

SHORT ANSWERS

1. What did Macbeth know about the witches?

The witches met Macbeth on the day of his success. They spoke to Macbeth and from their speech Macbeth could understand that they had more knowledge than human beings.

2. How did Lady Macbeth react after reading Macbeth's letter?

Macbeth had already become the Thane of Glamis and the Thane of Cawdor. Lady Macbeth said that he would become King too as the witch prophesied. But she feared Macbeth's nature. He was full of human kindness.

3. What did Lady Macbeth wish to do with her husband?

Macbeth was full of human kindness. Lady Macbeth wished to pour her spirits into his ears. She wished to chastise him for his kindness and meekness. These were the things that stood in the way of his becoming King.

4. What did Lady Macbeth wish when she heard of Duncan's arrival to her castle?

She requested the spirits to fill her with murderous thoughts and unsex her. She wanted to be filled with cruelty. Her blood should be made thick and her breast milk should be replaced with gall.

5. What did Macbeth tell his wife about Duncan?

He told her that King Duncan was visiting their castle that night. He had plans to return the next day.

6. What did Lady Macbeth advise her husband?

People could easily read Macbeth's thoughts by looking at his face. Hence, he should bear welcome in his eyes, hands

and tongue. He should look like the innocent flower but be the serpent under it. All that Duncan wished should be provided for. But Lady Macbeth should be allowed freedom to act as she wished.

COMPREHENSION

I. State whether the following sentences are true or false.

(Refer Text Book, "Medley - 3", Page No.50)

1. The witches met Macbeth on the day of success. - **True**
2. Lady Macbeth is too full o' the milk of human kindness.
- **False**
3. Macbeth was hailed as the Thane of Cawdor. - **True**
4. Macbeth is too full o' the milk of human kindness.
- **True**
5. Macbeth is not ambitious by nature. - **True**

II. Choose the correct alternative for each question.

1. They met me in the day of success: and I have (have/had) learned by the perfect est report.
2. When I burned (burned/was burning) in desire to question them further, they made themselves air, into which they vanished.
3. That thou mightst not lose (lose/loose) the dues of rejoicing, by being ignorant of what greatness is promised thee.
4. The king comes (has come/comes) here to night.
5. Thy letters have (have/had) transported me beyond this ignorant present.

III. Fill in the blanks for the following.

1. Whiles I stood rapt in the wonder of it, came missives from the king.
2. Thane of Cawdor; by which title, before, these weird sisters saluted me.
3. Chastise with the valour of my tongue.
4. So please you, it is true: our thane is coming.
5. That my keen knife see not the wound it makes.

IV. Explain with reference to the context.

1. *And I have learned by the perfectest report, they have more in them than mortal knowledge.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Shakespeare's "*Lady Macbeth Soliloquy*". Here, Lady Macbeth reads Macbeth's letter about his meeting with the witches.

Explanation:

Lady Macbeth is reading a letter written by her husband. Macbeth was returning victorious from the war. Then he met the three witches. From the report of the witches Macbeth could understand that the witches had more knowledge than human beings.

2. *'Hail, king that shalt be !'*

Context:

This passage is taken from Shakespeare's "*Lady Macbeth Soliloquy*". Macbeth says what one of the witches prophesied.

Explanation:

Macbeth was returning victorious from the war. Then he met the three witches. When he wanted to question them, they

disappeared. Then the king's messengers came and hailed Macbeth as 'Thane of Cawdor'. The witches had already called him with that name. One of the witches said that Macbeth would become king.

3. *Yet do I fear thy nature; It is too full o' the milk of human kindness.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Shakespeare's "*Lady Macbeth Soliloquy*". Here, Lady Macbeth talks about Macbeth's nature.

Explanation:

While Macbeth was returning victorious from the war, one of the witches said that he would become king. Reading Macbeth's letter, Lady Macbeth said that he had already become Thane of Glamis and Thane of Cawdor. She said that he would certainly become King. Yet she feared Macbeth's nature that he was kind in his heart.

4. *And chastise with the valour of my tongue All that impedes thee from the golden round.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Shakespeare's "*Lady Macbeth Soliloquy*". Here, Lady Macbeth says what she will do to Macbeth.

Explanation:

Macbeth had already become the Thane of Glamis and the Thane of Cawdor. Lady Macbeth said that she would arrange for his becoming King as the witches promised. But Macbeth was full of human kindness. She wanted to pour her spirits of courage into his ears.

5. *Come, you spirits that tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here.*

Context:

This passage is taken from Shakespeare's "*Lady Macbeth Soliloquy*". Here, Lady Macbeth expresses her wish to be unsexed.

Explanation:

A servant informed Lady Macbeth that King Duncan was coming to Macbeth's castle. It was great news to Lady Macbeth. She was much pleased to hear it. She said that Duncan's arrival was going to be fatal to him. She requested the spirits to unsex her and make her manly.

1. லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத்தின் தனிப்பேச்சு

போரிலிருந்து திரும்பி வரும்போது சூனியக்காரிகளைச் சந்தித்ததைப் பற்றி மேக்ஸ்பெத் எழுதிய கடிதத்தை லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத் வாசிக்கிறாள். சாதாரண மனிதர்களுக்கு இருக்கும் அறிவை விட சூனியக்காரிகளுக்கு அதிக அறிவு உள்ளது என்று மேக்ஸ்பெத் குறிப்பிடுகிறாள். அவர்கள் மறைந்த பொழுது தூதுவர்கள் வந்து மேக்ஸ்பெத்தை "தேன் ஆப் காட்ஸ்" என்று அழைக்கின்றனர். ஒரு சூனியக்காரி மேக்ஸ்பெத் அரசனாவான் என்று கூறுகிறாள்.

மேக்ஸ்பெத் அரசனாக வேண்டும் என்ற ஆசை லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத்துக்கும் இருந்தது. மேக்ஸ்பெத் அன்பு நிறைந்தவன். இது லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத்துக்குக் கவலையை உண்டாக்கியது. மேக்ஸ்பெத் தவறான வழிகளில் செல்லமாட்டான். தன்னிடம் இருக்கும் உறுதியான தன்மைகளை மேக்ஸ்பெத்துக்குத் தரவேண்டும் என்று லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத் விரும்புகிறாள்.

அப்பொழுது ஒரு வேலைக்காரன் வந்து அரசன் டங்கன் அன்று இரவு மேக்ஸ்பெத்தின் கோட்டைக்கு வர இருப்பதாகக் கூறுகிறான். இது லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத்துக்கு மகிழ்ச்சியை உண்டாக்குகிறது.

அப்பொழுது காகை கரைகிறது. இது டங்கனின் வாழ்க்கை முடியப்போவதற்கான அறிகுறி என்று லேடி மேக்ஸ்பெத் நினைக்கிறாள். கொலை செய்யும் எண்ணத்தைத் தனக்குத் தரும்படியும், தன் பெண் தன்மைக்குப் பதிலாக ஆண் தன்மையைத் தரும்படியும் அவள்

ஆவிகளிடம் வேண்டுகிறாள். தனது இரத்தம் துடிக்க வேண்டும் என்று அவள் விரும்புகிறாள். தனது மார்பகங்களில் உள்ள பாலுக்குப் பதிலாக அங்கு பித்த நீர் இருக்க வேண்டும் என்று விரும்புகிறாள்.

இந்த சமயத்தில் மேக்பெத் வருகிறான். அவனது கடிதம் தனக்கு மகிழ்ச்சியை அளித்ததாக லேடி மேக்பெத் அவனிடம் கூறினாள். அரசன் டங்கன் அவர்களது கோட்டைக்கு வரவிருப்பதாக மேக்பெத் கூறுகிறான். அவன் எப்பொழுது திரும்பிச் செல்வான் என்று அவள் கேட்கிறாள். அவன் அடுத்த நாள் செல்ல இருப்பதாக மேக்பெத் கூறுகிறான். அரசன் திரும்பிச் செல்லமாட்டான் என்று லேடி மேக்பெத் கூறுகிறாள். மேக்பெத் தனது முக பாவத்தை மாற்றிக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் என்று அவள் கூறுகிறாள். அவனது முக பாவத்தை வைத்து அவனது எண்ணங்களை மற்றவர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்வார்கள் என்று கூறுகிறாள். டங்கனை வரவேற்கும் குறிகளைத் தனது கைகள் மூலமாகவும், கண்களிலும், பேச்சிலும் மேக்பெத் காட்டவேண்டும் என்று அவள் கூறுகிறாள். இதைப் பற்றிச் சிறிது நேரம் கழித்துப் பேசிக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று கூறிவிட்டு அவள் புறப்பட்டுச் செல்கிறாள்.