

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Stains of Guilt

In *Macbeth*, the image of blood appears again and again, reminding us of guilt, fear, and the terrible price of ambition. From the moment Macbeth commits his first crime, blood follows him, symbolizing his growing regret and paranoia.

On the night Macbeth kills King Duncan, he is shaken by what he has done. Looking at his hands covered in blood, he asks, "Will all great Neptune's ocean

wash this blood clean from my hand?" He believes no amount of water can remove his guilt. Instead of seeing blood as something that can be washed away, Macbeth feels as though it will stain him forever. This moment shows how deeply the murder affects him, even though he tries to act strong.

Lady Macbeth, on the other hand, does not seem disturbed at first. When Macbeth worries, she tells him, "A little water clears us of this deed." She believes that they can forget the crime if they do not think about it. However, as time passes, she begins to feel the weight of what they have done.

Later in the play, blood imagery returns in one of the most famous scenes. Lady Macbeth, now haunted by guilt, starts sleepwalking. She rubs her hands together as if she is trying to clean them and whispers, "Out, damned spot! Out, I say!" Even though there is no real blood on her hands, she imagines it, unable to erase her guilt. Unlike earlier, when she was calm and confident, she now feels trapped by what they have done.

As Macbeth continues to kill to keep his throne, blood follows him. After ordering Banquo's murder, he sees Banquo's ghost at a feast, covered in blood, staring at him. Later, when facing his final battle, Macbeth declares he is too deep in blood to turn back. He realizes that his choices have sealed his fate, and there is no escape.

Blood in *Macbeth* is more than just a sign of violence—it is a symbol of guilt that cannot be ignored. No matter how hard Macbeth and Lady Macbeth try to forget what they have done, the image of blood reminds them, and the audience, that guilt stays with them until the end.