

Read the TEXT OF MACBETH. I shall focus on the significant points.

#### Act 1 Sc 5

Lady Macbeth reads the letter of Macbeth . As she reads the prophecies of the Witches, her thoughts leap to the crown for her husband, and prepares to urge him to murder the king. She sums up Macbeth's character that he is too tender and gentle to achieve his goal. He lacks wickedness to achieve his ambition. So she decides to whip him into action with 'valour of her tongue'. She calls upon evil spirits to render her devoid of compunction. She even plans to stab king Duncan with a sharp knife in the darkness of night.

Lady Macbeth has the capacity for pity, and this is why she is compelled to call upon evil spirits .When Macbeth arrives , Lady Macbeth addresses him echoing the greetings of the Witches. She tells him that is the last night in Duncan's life. She advises Macbeth to deceive the world with his innocent looks and gestures and welcoming words. 'you shall put/This night's great business into my dispatch'---Lady Macbeth intends her husband to play a passive role. She intends to manage the whole affair of murdering the king. She hopes to have supreme authority and power---'our nights and days to come/ Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom'. Macbeth does not commit himself and says, 'We will speak further'. But Lady Macbeth seems determined.

#### Act 1 Sc 6

Duncan comes to the castle of Macbeth as his guest to honour him. He remarks on the pleasant atmosphere of the castle which is dramatically ironic. Banquo is also ironically mistaken as he says that Macbeth's castle is the place of the natural feelings that tie men together with love, devotion and reverence. The castle is a place of unnatural evil.

#### Act 1 Sc 7

This scene opens with a soliloquy by Macbeth which has been taken as the supreme expressions of his 'visual imagination'. He is excited with the prospect of gaining power. He contemplates on the possible consequences of the deed of murder. He gives three reasons for not performing the murder; it would be imprudent, it would violate the blood- tie of a kinsman, the allegiance of a subject and the duty of a host, and Duncan has been so blameless a king that to kill him would be monstrous.The whole world would weep for him. When Macbeth tells Lady Macbeth, "We will proceed no further in this business", she accuses him of not loving her and of lacking manhood. To this Macbeth replies that murder is inhuman and not a sign of manliness. She then shows how ruthless she can be in urging her husband to commit the crime. She could have dashed out the brains of her baby in order to murder Duncan if she had taken a vow to do so. Macbeth appreciates her manly spirit not knowing that she has become evil and unnatural by calling upon the evil spirits to unsex her.

To be continued...

