

2. Why does the dramatist represent the murderer as bringing the news of Banquo's murder to Macbeth in the midst of the banquet scene?

3. Point out the instances of dramatic irony that occur in this scene.

4. What is there in the appearance and actions of the ghost that terrifies Macbeth on each occasion that it enters?

5. (a) What explanation does Lady Macbeth give to the lords of her husband's strange behaviour?

(b) What means does she use to bring Macbeth back to his proper senses?

6. After the departure of the guests, Lady Macbeth at once gives way to a mood of deep dejection. How do you account for this?

7. In speaking of Banquo, in Scene I., Macbeth had said, "We wear our health but sickly in his life, which in his health were perfect." How is it that, now that Banquo is dead, he is still unsatisfied?

8. (a) Why did Macbeth decide to consult the weird sisters again?

(b) How does Macbeth's mental state, as expressed in lines 135-140, differ from that of the earlier part of the play, as expressed, for instance, in Act I., Scene III., ll. 143-147? Account for the change that has taken place?

(c) How does Macbeth himself account for his state of mind during the banquet scene?

SCENE V.

This scene adds little to the play. It is generally supposed that Shakespeare did not write it, but that it was added later by a playwright named Middleton.

1. *angrily.* *Angrily.*

2. *beldams.* Literally, fine ladies (*belles dames*): here used ironically for old hags.

7. *close.* *Secret.*

15. *Acheron.* A river in Greece, supposed to lead to the lower world; hence 'the pit of Acheron' is the entrance to the lower world.