

Deception

“The Thane of Cawdor lives! Why do you dress me in borrowed robes?” (Macbeth, 1.3)

The robes introduce the extended imagery of clothes, which suggests deception.

“New honours come upon him Like our strange garments, cleave not to their mould, But with the aid of use”

The imagery of clothes continues, Banquo seems to suggest that these clothes do not fit Macbeth (and that Macbeth is trying to forcefully fit into his new position).

“But signs of nobleness like stars shall shine on all deservers” (Duncan), “Stars, hide your fires, Let not light see my black and deep desires” (Macbeth)

Macbeth is once again putting on a false appearance of “signs of nobleness”, and Macbeth hopes that the stars will hide their fires so that his “black and deep desires” will not be exposed

“Look like th’innocent flower, but be the serpent under’t”

Lady Macbeth’s urging Macbeth to put on a false appearance and use deception to achieve his goals.

“porter of hell-gate” – by breaking of Aristotle’s Unity of Place, Shakespeare juxtaposes Inverness to be hell (and suggests Macbeth is an equivocator and all that)

“Will it not be received, when we have marked with blood those sleepy two...that they have done’t?” (Macbeth)

He uses deception to put the blame of the murder to the chamberlains of king Duncan

“False face must hide what the false heart doth know” (Macbeth), “There’s no art to find the mind’s construction in the face” (Duncan)

A false appearance must be used to hide bad intentions, and Macbeth especially makes use of the fact that Duncan says that he is unable to find out the mind’s construction in the face.

“O full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife!” (Macbeth)

Macbeth reveals that he acknowledges that his thoughts and ambitions are evil in nature.

Malcolm also uses deception to find out if Macduff is truly his ally. Learnt what his father has not:

- Deception can be used as a potent tool to achieve your personal goals despite your shortcomings:
 - o Malcolm (shortcoming is that there is no art to tell the mind’s construction in the face) uses deception to find out ^^
 - o Macbeth uses deception to achieve his own goals

Ambition VS Loyalty

“For all's too weak, for brave Macbeth...Like valour's minion carved out his passage” (Captain, describing Macbeth as a brave and valiant warrior”

“Assisted by that most disloyal traitor” (Duncan)

Duncan calls the old Thane of Cawdor that most disloyal traitor, and this foreshadows what is going to happen all over again

“All hail Macbeth, hail to thee, Thane of Glamis (Cawdor, that shalt be king hereafter” (Witches)

These are the seeds of Macbeth's ambition, and the catalyst to all his consequences

“Or have we eaten on the insane root that takes the reason prisoner?” (Banquo)

Suggests that these ambitions are irrational and impossible (yet Macbeth immediately starts plotting for Duncan's death).

“Thou wouldst be great...would not play false and yet wouldst wrongly win” (Lady Macbeth)

Shows that Macbeth is extremely evil, for he plays false in order to wrongly win his own ambitions.

“Lechery, sir, it provokes and unprovokes: it provokes the desire but it takes away the performance” (Porter)

Refers to Macbeth's ambitions and lechery for power (and how he is turning out to be an unsuitable ruler as he broke the natural order)

“renown and grace is dead” (Macbeth)

Highlights that his own renown and grace (with which Duncan crowned him Thane of Cawdor) is now dead.

“Nought's had, all's spent where our desire is got without content” (Lady Macbeth)

Says that though their ambitions are achieved, they haven't gained any substantial happiness.

Fate VS Free Will

“This supernatural soliciting, cannot be ill, cannot be good”

Macbeth ponders about whether what the Witches have told him is good or bad.