

Macbeth's inner state and its disintegration from that of the Macbeth of the beginning of the play is manifested in no better way than his hallucination at the dinner table the night after Banquo is killed. The noble and glorified in war thane of Glamis, a man of sanity and valor, as king is dropped down to a creature of illusion and internal fear. The vision of Banquo's ghost also more than a symbol of Macbeth's moral depravity, it is a manifestation of his fear for his soul. A man who was ^{to be} dispassionate in his deeds would not have such a spirit manifest itself to him and at this point of the play Macbeth is still suffering the internal pangs of guilt. Once his manifestation of his guilt is gone, however, he is back to his disintegrating evil self and he plans to see the weird sisters again. He makes a pledge to do more evil to correct things and in relation to his inability to return to good says, "I am in blood/ Stepp'd in so far that, should I wade no more/ Returning were as tedious as go o'er; So now he rationalizes that his soul is already lost by his two previous murders and to try to rectify things with a few more will not hurt the estate of his already evil ridden soul. He says, ^{don} "I have are yet but young in deed," preparing himself for more odious events to come.

Meeting the weird sisters, who are cooking themselves up an extra special supernatural stew with the help of their goddess, Macbeth receives two prophecies that bolster his faith in himself and his power as a bloody despot and one which tells him who his next victim will be. His show of the Stuart kings of Scotland shows Macbeth the futility of his efforts, but instead of having a deleterious effect on his bloodlust the vision and finding out that Macduff ~~is going to~~ has gone to England for help, enrages him and he orders that Fife be sacked. He now is totally murderous in nature and has not a single compulsion towards good, his conscience is gone and with it any guilt or fear for his soul. His role as an unconscious doer of evil is evidenced by his, "From this moment/ The firstlings of my heart shall be/ The firstlings of my hand." And his heart now is fully and completely evil. What more odious crime could he commit than the murder of defenseless women and children? Macbeth is now lost and fully damned, and with the sanction of the apparitions he is feeling quite comfortable in what he is doing.

Macbeth disappears for quite a few lines and reappears in the face of the English, Macduff, and Malcolm unafraid in the sanction of his two immortalizing prophecies. The development of his inner works is complete. His protecting prophecies fulfill themselves in reverse but Macbeth does not fall down wailing and cursing or asking for forgiveness, ~~but~~ instead Shakespeare has him die animal like with no worries about what has happened to his soul or character. This dying without a word of repentance on the part of Macbeth shows us that through his liaison with evil Macbeth's soul has been completely destroyed by his tyrannical and merciless killing that got and preserved him the crown of Scotland.

The core of the play revolves around Macbeth's disintegration and his immersion in evil. His villainization, corruption and his being won over to evil is a gradual and deepening process. One device that I have used to show this is the amount of cold bloodedness that he displays before and after his murders. This quality grows with each slaying he has a part in and is indicative of his internal moral and spiritual state. Accordingly as his coldbloodedness grows his need for moralizing and worry for his soul decreases, so that in the end we see he has progressed in evil to an animalistic level with no thought of his soul. The one thing we must remember in the depiction of the character of Macbeth is that he is a creature in a state of internal process and his inner decline is where the core of the play lies.