

LADY MACBETH

The raven himself is hoarse

That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan

Under my battlements. Come, you spirits

That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,

And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full

Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;

Stop up the access and passage to remorse,

That no compunctious visitings of nature

Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between

The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,

And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,

Wherever in your sightless substances

You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,

And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,

That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,

Nor heaven peep through the blanket of the dark,

To cry 'Hold, hold!'

→ LM uses

symbolism and

metaphor to

portray her

ambition to

obtain power

MACBETH

ACT ONE SCENE V

unsex me = take away my womanly feelings

compunctious visitings of nature = human compassion

gall = bitterness / spitefulness

ministers = demons

pall = cover/cloak

dunnest = darkest

hold = stop

Enter MACBETH

Great Glamis! worthy Cawdor!

Greater than both, by the all-hail hereafter!

Thy letters have transported me beyond

This ignorant present, and I feel now

The future in the instant.

LM implies possession of supernatural powers as well as mentioning spirits in the first paragraph, hinting for similarities to the witches.

MACBETH

My dearest love,

Duncan comes here to-night.

LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he purposes.

LADY MACBETH imperative

O, never

Shall sun that morrow see!

Your face, my thane, is as a book where men

May read strange matters. To beguile the time,

Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,

Your hand, your tongue: look like the innocent flower,

But be the serpent under't. He that's coming

Must be provided for: and you shall put

This night's great business into my dispatch.

Which shall to all our nights and days to come

Give solely sovereign sway and masterdom.

MACBETH

We will speak further.

LADY MACBETH

Only look up clear;

To alter favour ever is to fear:

Leave all the rest to me.

By describing him in detail and by predicting the how he will react, we see their connection; how well Lady Macbeth knows him.

she says that his expressions are obvious

→ smile

look passive

death

murder



The tone of the conversation between Lady Macbeth and Macbeth illustrates that they are familiar and close with each other.

to beguile the time, look like the time = to deceive men, you must look like a normal man

Lady Macbeth uses imperative tone when speaking to Macbeth showing her dominance over his decisions. imperative

to alter favour ever is to fear = don't let fear or guilt show in your face

purposes = intends/plans

by the all-hail hereafter = when you are hailed as king

LADY MACBETH

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That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan Under my battlements. Come, you **spirits**

That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here, And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full

Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;

Stop up the access and **passage to remorse,**

That no **compunctious visitings of nature**

Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between

The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,

And take my milk for **gall, you murdering ministers,**

Wherever in your sightless substances

You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,

And **pall** thee in the **dunnest smoke of hell,**

That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,

Nor **heaven** peep through the blanket of the dark,

To cry 'Hold, hold!'

MACBETH

ACT ONE SCENE V

unsex me = take away my womanly feelings

compunctious visitings of nature =

human compassion

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She wants to get rid of her husband's traits in order to kill Duncan and gain more power

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LADY MACBETH

And when goes hence?

MACBETH

To-morrow, as he **purposes.**

LADY MACBETH

O, never

Shall sun that morrow see!

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May read strange matters. **To beguile the time,**

Look like the time; bear welcome in your eye,

Your hand, your tongue: **look like the innocent flower,**

But be the **serpent** under't. He that's coming

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to beguile the time, look like the time = to deceive men, you must look like a normal man

purposes = intends/plans

LM uses language referring to death and the supernatural showing her violent nature and ambition

Reveals plans to deceive men
evil
refers to murder
She wants everything

she wants to get rid of her husband's traits in order to kill Duncan and gain more power

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LADY MACBETH

The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements. Come, you spirits
That tend on mortal thoughts, unsex me here,

imperative

And fill me from the crown to the toe top-full
Of direst cruelty! make thick my blood;

metaphor - to make her stronger

Stop up the access and passage to remorse,
That no compunctious visitings of nature

very strong

Shake my fell purpose, nor keep peace between
The effect and it! Come to my woman's breasts,

connection

And take my milk for gall, you murdering ministers,
Wherever in your sightless substances

imperative

You wait on nature's mischief! Come, thick night,
And pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell,

superlatives

That my keen knife see not the wound it makes,
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personification

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In current times the Egalitarian nature of society means that the

purposes = intends/plans

to gain features of "woman" to overcome something hard/ambitious. This is similar to contemporary audience and present gender roles

to beguile the time, look like the time = to deceive men, you must look like a normal man

to alter favour ever is to fear = don't let fear or guilt show in your face

Metaphor & simile

Gender roles between both time periods is similar. Macbeth wants to be a lady