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15. Topic:

Explanatory Question
from 'Macbeth' - 1

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"Tomorrow and tomorrow
and tomorrow ... Life is but
a walking shadow, It is tale
tale told by an idiot full of
sound and fury signifying
nothing."

- I, v

This is the oftquoted
speech of Macbeth in the great
tragedy entitled Macbeth by
William Shakespeare.

Macbeth, the tragic hero
of the play is given the pensive
news of his wife's death as
he is preparing for final battle.
Here Macbeth justifies the
philosophy of life and death
and on the transitoriness and
insignificance of life. Man
takes birth in the world for
a fixed span of life. This
fixed span of life goes on
diminishing day by day.

This allotted span of lifetime ^{man} gradually comes to an end and ^{man} suddenly creeps in his dusty grave. But like a fool, does not understand this truth of life and acts vainly and haughtily. Macbeth compares life to a brief candle that burns for few moments and goes out. He further compares it to a passing shadow. Life seems to Macbeth to be a tale told by an idiot. It has no significance, no meaning and no worth.

The present explanatory lines are not a pessimistic observation of Shakespeare but the hard reality of life that everybody has to experience during his life time in some way or the other.

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