

Degree - 2
Paper - 3
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(19.) Topic :
Explanatory Questions
from "Macbeth" - 5

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Here is the smell of blood "
All the perfume of Arabia will
not sweeten this little hand
Oh! Oh! Oh! (V, i)

These words have been
uttered by Lady Macbeth in
the 'sleep walking scene' of
Shakespearean tragedy entitled
Macbeth.

After the assassination
of King Duncan Lady Macbeth
is afflicted by a deep psychological
disease. Rubbing her hands together
as she walks in her sleep Lady
Macbeth speaks to herself that
her hands still smell foul with
the blood of King Duncan. She
remembers the bell she had
rung twice to signal for Macbeth
to commit Duncan's murder.
The image of blood was so
magnified in her imagination
that even if she washed

her hands² with the water
of all the oceans, the spot
of blood would not be cleaned.
And even the sweet smelling
perfume drawn from all the
flowers of Arabia, the foul
smell of blood would not go
from her heart.

To conclude, Lady
Macbeth is very repentant
about the dreadful sin in
which she has been associated
with her husband. Just after
Duncan's murder she had
consoled Macbeth by saying
that 'a little water clears
us of this deeds.' Ultimately,
the impact of black and
bloody deeds overpower her
and drive her to madness

