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(20) Topic:
Explanatory Questions
from "Macbeth" - 6

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Stars, hide your fires!

Let not light see my black and
deep desires. The eyes wink
at hand; yet let that be
which the eye fears, when
it is done, to see. - I, iv

This is the part of
soliloquy uttered by Macbeth
the protagonist of the tragedy
entitled Macbeth by William
Shakespeare.

Having been excited
by the third prophecy of the
witch Macbeth develops wrong
ambition in his mind to catch
the throne through the murder
of King Duncan's proclamation
about his elder son Malcolm
to be the Prince of Cumberland
aggravates Macbeth's ambition
to the greatest height. Macbeth's
conscience does not allow him

to think over the heinous plan of killing Duncan. He realises that this brutal crime can't be executed in the light of stars. That is why he prays to the evil powers to cover up even the twinkling of the stars. He is afraid of the fact that even the least light would expose his black and nefarious deed. He thinks that his action of the hand may not be seen by his eyes.

Thus this mental conflict of Macbeth compels the spectators of the play to conclude that Macbeth is by nature not a murderer. He is certainly a noble person driven to the path of sin due to his tragic trait, that is his ambition.