

Degree - 2
Paper - 3
English Hons

22. Topic :

Explanatory Questions
from "Macbeth" - 8

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than imagines. My thought,
whose murder yet is but fantastical
shakes so ~~my~~ my single state
of man that functions is smothered
in surprise, and nothing is
but what is not. I, iii

These lines have been
taken from Act I, Scene iii of
the celebrated Shakespearean tragedy
entitled Macbeth.

Macbeth, the general
of King Duncan's army is
returning back to his home
with grand victory over the
Thane of Cowder and the Thane
of Glamis. He is confronted by
the three weird sisters. They
have predicted him to be the
Thane of Cowder and the Thane
of Glamis and the King hereafter.
As soon as he approaches

he is ~~confronted~~ to these two
 titles. In the present soliloquy
 Macbeth is pondering over the
 third prophecy of the witches
 which can be practicalised
 only by murdering the king.
 But being dominated by the
 imagination and sensibilities
 he begins to be fearful at
 the mere thought of murder.
 His stamina is getting paralysed
 and that exists around him seem
 to him unreal.

Thus it appears that
 imagination is both the strength
 and weakness of Macbeth and
 vivid imagination and a
 man in whom the imagination
 is so strong cannot be wholly
 bad. He is dominated and
 tyrannised by the imagination.