



2.4 – Macduff talks to an old man

Audience

Where are we going to go next all the characters have said they are off to different parts of the Scotland

What will happen to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth

Who will be King – currently Scotland has no King

Setting

Locations: We assume its outside, but is it outside Macbeth's Castle – does the old man live there? Is he the ghost/shadow of Duncan?

Time: This scene happens at night - *and yet the dark night strangles the travelling lamp*. What is this old man doing up when he should be in bed? The king is dead; the old man is awake.

Conditions: the old man talks about animals eating each other, '*a falcon towering in her pride of place was by a mousing owl hawked at and killed*' The natural rules of sovereignty have been disrupted by the murder of Duncan and this is reflected in the natural world around the character.

Space: the space no longer welcomes Macduff or Ross. We assume it's still Macbeth's castle but he's not there, gone to Scone to be crowned king.

Character

Status: Old Man is referred to as 'good father'. It's a sign of respect and he's the oldest living character in the play.

Predicament: Ross wants to do the right thing, go to Scone and endorse the crowning of the new king but he needs an ally in Macduff. Macduff want to get to Fife but has accommodate Ross

Stakes: Ross: I need to gain Macduff's trust. **Macduff:** I need to gain time

Identity: Macduff is the hasty lord, Ross is the indecisive subject

Language

Pre-scene: Who did Macduff and Ross speak to before the scene happened?

Under poem: Macduff/now/not?/deed/slain/day/pretend/suborned/sons/them/deed/still/up/like/Macbeth

Pronoun: the old man uses *I* and the thanes use *you* and *they* – it feels unpeopled

Iambic: Look at how the character's finish off each other lines

Hear: Ross asks six questions in the scene. Macduff gives clear, precise answers demonstrating a clear plan and understanding of the situation.

Impact

See: an old man and two men without a king

Reminds: them of the dead king and the recent transition of power between Elizabeth and James : succession

Think: about who is going to crown Macbeth and what the thanes are going to do

Feel: this is an odd moment in the play as there is no king, no one is in charge apart from the writer

React: confused, uncertain to reflect the uncertainty in the play.