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### The Most Treacherous Character in Macbeth

Macbeth is the most treacherous person of all the characters in *Macbeth* since he showed how untrustworthy, deceptive, and cruel he can be. He killed several people in order to stay as king. After he kills someone, he hides all his tracks and covers his evidence. When Macbeth killed Duncan, he hid his tracks by making it seem like the guards standing outside Duncan's bedroom were the ones that murdered him (Shakespeare pg.69). Macbeth wants to keep his throne, and he'll stop at nothing to stay as king. He did everything and anything he could to keep his throne by killing innocent people, making him the most treacherous person of all.

To begin with, Macbeth was the one who came up with the idea of killing Duncan. Lady Macbeth said, "What beast was't then that made you break this enterprise to me?" (Shakespeare pg.43). Macbeth told Lady Macbeth his thoughts about killing Duncan and she merely got power hungry at the idea of him being king (Shakespeare pg.39-45) Lady Macbeth did try to convince Macbeth to kill Duncan, but it was his idea to kill the king in the first place. Macbeth didn't know how long it would take for the prophecy to come true. He knew that he could be king a lot faster if he just got Duncan out of the picture. Even though Macbeth hesitated at first, he decided to kill Duncan in the end.

Furthermore, Macbeth had a choice of killing the king from the very beginning. Lady Macbeth was trying to persuade Macbeth into killing Duncan so they could rule (Shakespeare pg.41-43). Yet, in the end, he was the one who got to make the final choice. When Macbeth said to Lady Macbeth, "If we should fail—" (Shakespeare pg.43), he practically agreed to kill

Duncan. Duncan had never done anything to Macbeth that would make him want to kill him. Knowing that, Macbeth still chose to kill him in order to be king. No matter what Lady Macbeth said to him, he was the one that had the final choice.

Lastly, Macbeth was a cruel and malicious man. He decided to kill Macduff's wife, his children, and anyone else who would be in line for his inheritance (Shakespeare pg.131). He was ruthless, not caring about who he killed as long as he was still the king. He killed an innocent family just so they wouldn't interfere with his plans. Everyone that he killed, everything that he did, was because of the witch's prophecy (Shakespeare pg.17). He could have waited and see if he would one day become king, and prove that the prophecy was true without having to kill Duncan, but he didn't. He decided to get rid of anyone that he thought would strip him of his title as king.

Thus, the most treacherous person of all was Macbeth. He lied and killed so many innocent people just to be king. He was cruel to the very end; even when his wife died, he didn't show much remorse (Shakespeare pg.177). Even though Macbeth didn't kill Lady Macbeth, he practically drove her to insanity with all the people they murdered. Lady Macbeth did convince Macbeth to kill Duncan (Shakespeare pg.41-43), but all the other people he killed was his decision. Several people became a threat to him, and he decided to get rid of them all without a second thought. In the end, so many lives were sacrificed for one man's desire to be king.

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. New York, NY: Washington Square Press, 1992. Print.