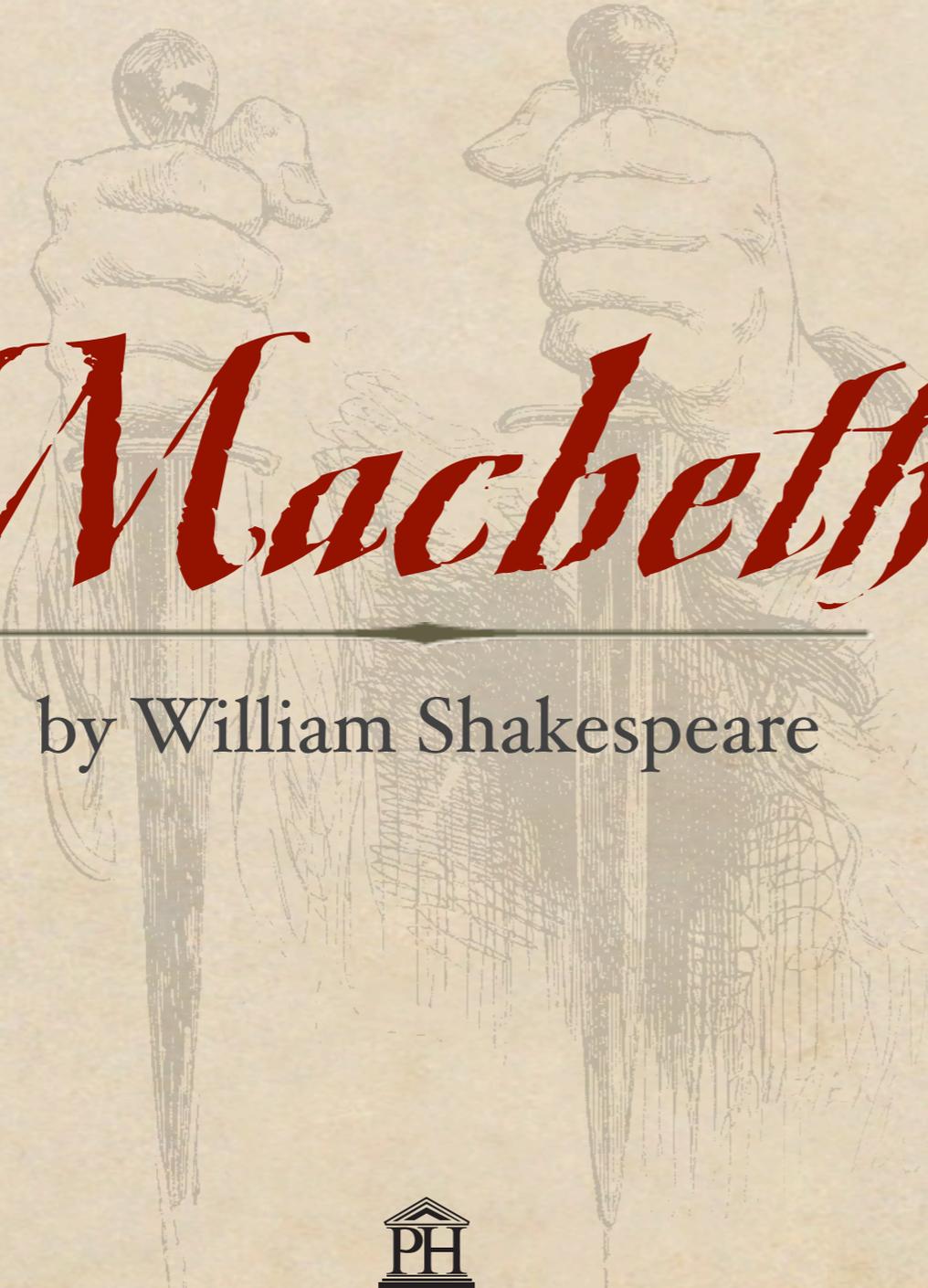


LEAD-INS TO LITERATURE



# *Macbeth*

by William Shakespeare



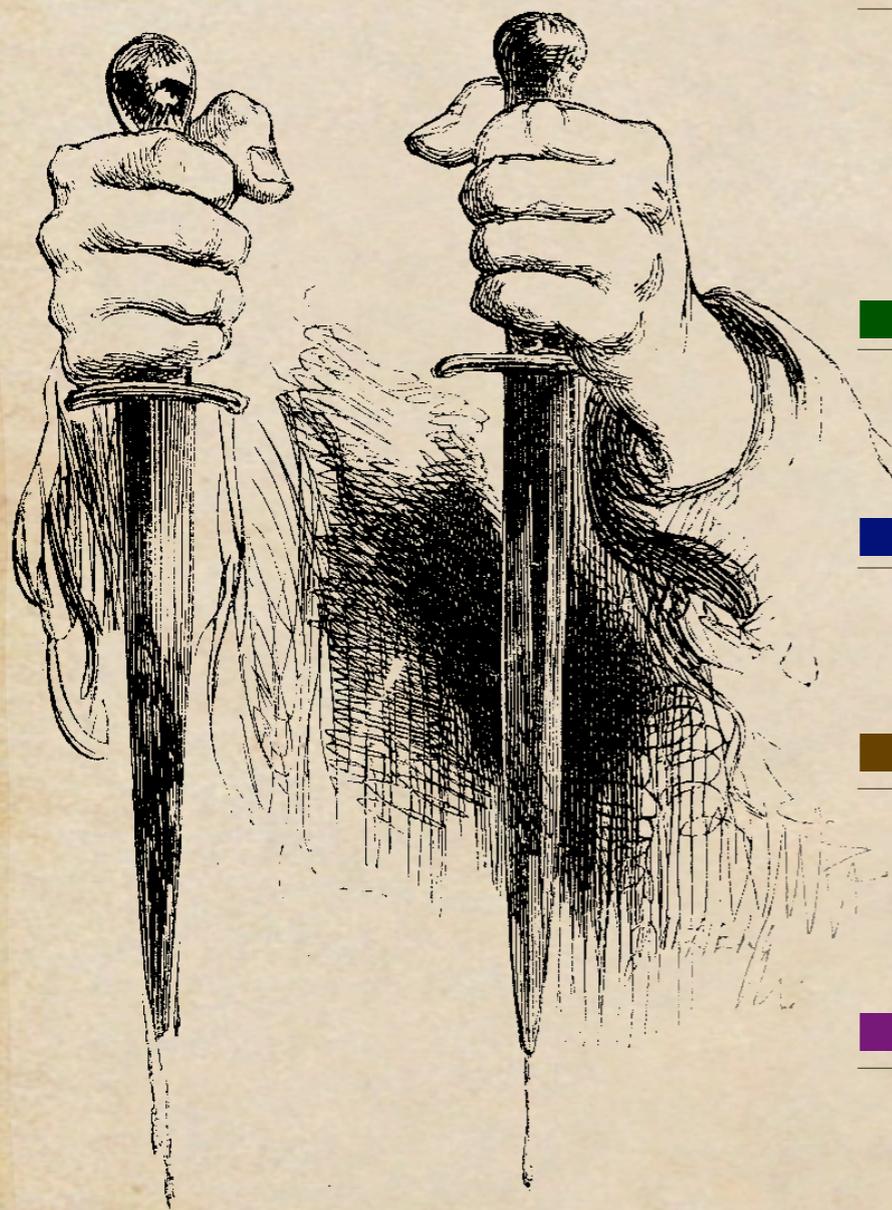
PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.



# *Macbeth*

by William Shakespeare

## *Table of Contents*



### ■ Introduction 5

---

Background

Source of Macbeth:

Holinshed's Chronicles

Elizabethan/Jacobean Period

### ■ Theater & Audience 22

---

Shakespeare's Theaters

The Groundlings

### ■ Dramatic Conventions 34

---

Asides

Soliloquies

### ■ Narrative Conventions 49

---

Witches

Ghosts

Messengers

### ■ Shakespeare's Language 62

---

Punctuation

Inverted and Elliptical Sentences

Poetry

Prose

### ■ Literary Techniques 77

---

Metaphor and Simile

Allusion

Pun

### ■ Themes 92

---

Free Will vs. Fate

Disrupting the Natural Order

What Becomes A Man?

Unbridled Ambition

### ■ Characters 97

---

Witches

Macbeth

Lady Macbeth

Duncan

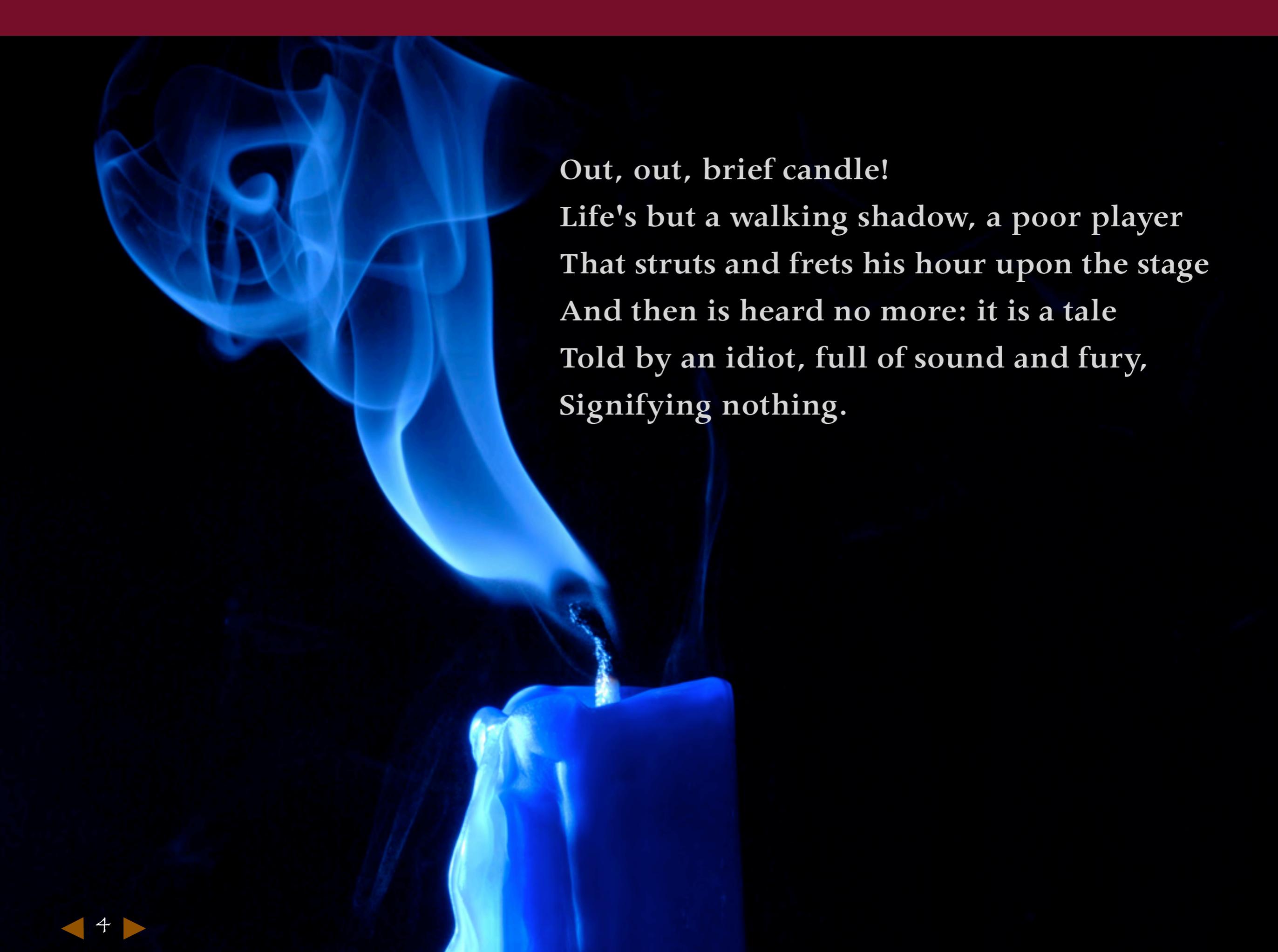
Banquo

### ■ End Notes 123

---

Productions

Biography

A lit candle is shown at the bottom of the frame, with a bright flame. From the flame, a thick, billowing plume of blue smoke rises upwards, filling the left and center portions of the image. The smoke has a wispy, ethereal quality. The background is a solid, deep black, which makes the blue smoke and the white candle stand out prominently. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

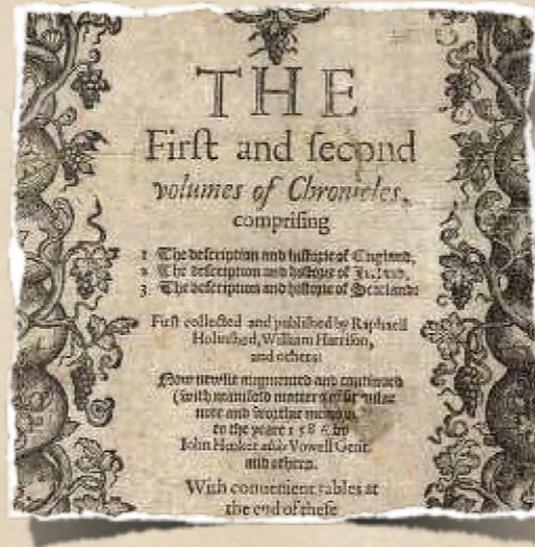
Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more: it is a tale  
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,  
Signifying nothing.

# *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

## INTRODUCTION



Background



Source of *Macbeth*:  
Holinshed's *Chronicles*



Elizabethan/Jacobean  
Period

# *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

In feudal Scotland, a semi-barbaric country of rival clans and chieftains, treacherous murders lead to more and more bloody violence.



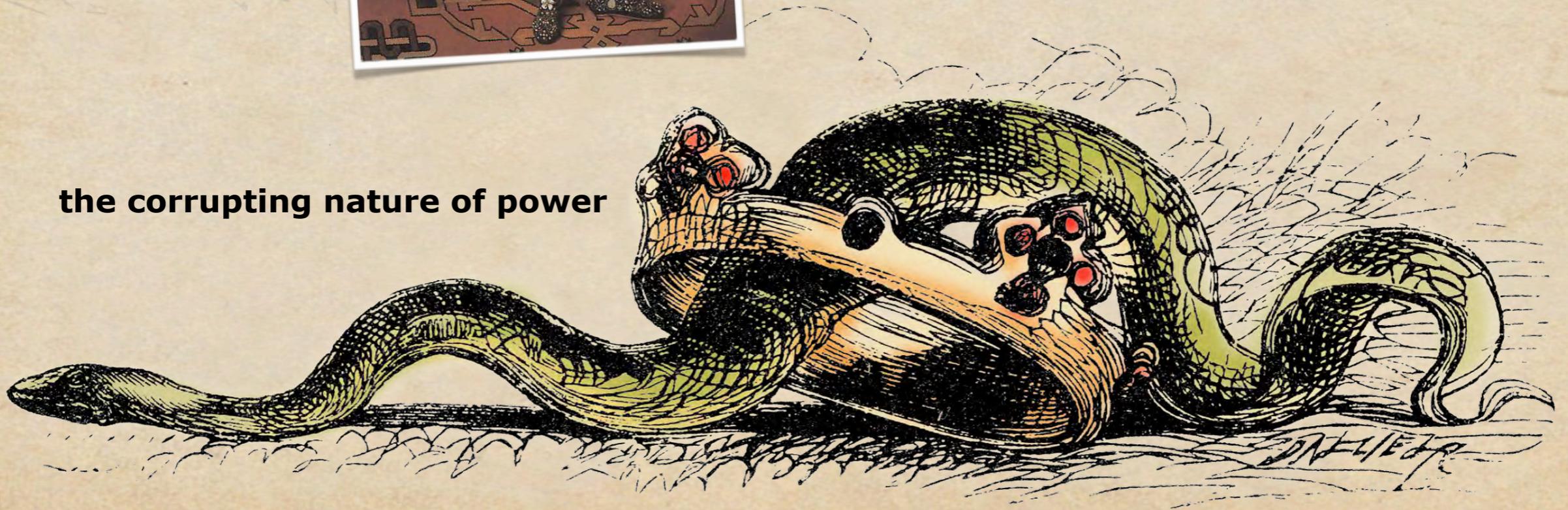
# *Macbeth*

by William Shakespeare



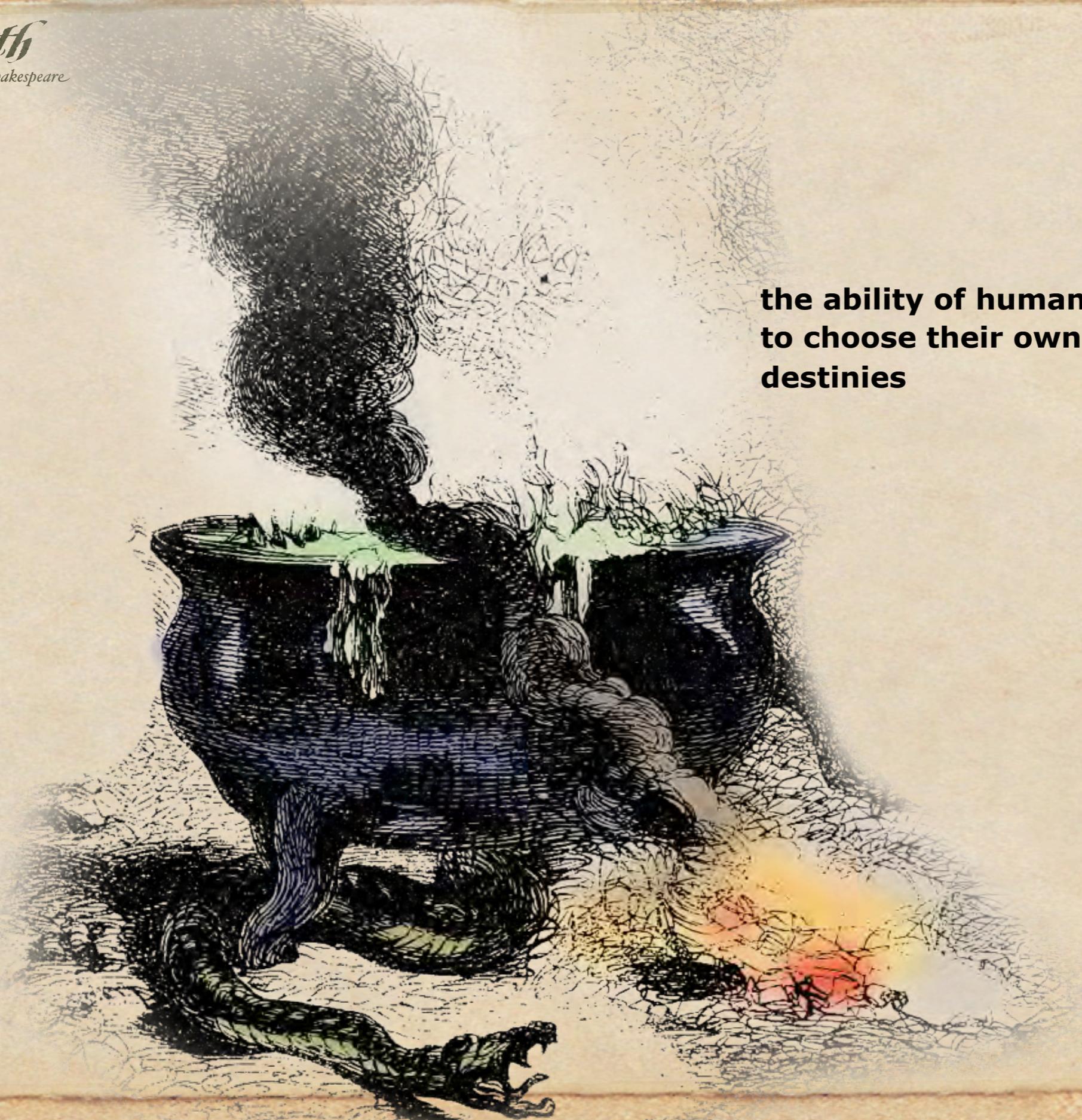
Written during the reign of King James I,  
who ruled England from 1603–1625,  
*Macbeth* speaks to

**the corrupting nature of power**



*Macheth*  
by William Shakespeare

**the ability of humans  
to choose their own  
destinies**



*Macbeth*  
by William Shakespeare

**the effects of guilt  
on human behavior**

