

**Degree 1 (mb) (50marks)**

**English**

***Tomorrow and Tomorrow by William Shakespeare***

*Tomorrow and Tomorrow* is a piece of extract that is taken from the famous tragedy of William Shakespeare *Macbeth*. It is a long poetic speech by the protagonist Macbeth who thinks that nobody can defeat him. This speech of Macbeth has been taken from act 5, scene 5, lines 17-28.

These lines are spoken by Macbeth in the beginning of the act 5 during the time when the Scottish troops led by Malcolm and Macduff, are approaching Macbeth castle to invade it, Macbeth, the play's protagonist is confident that he can definitely defeat Malcolm's forces. Meanwhile he hears the cry of a woman and reflects that there was a time when his hair would have stood on end if he had heard such a cry, but now it is full of horrors and slaughterous thoughts that it can no longer startle him.

Seyton then tells Macbeth of lady Macbeth's death, and Macbeth delivers this soliloquy as his response to the news. In these poetic lines, Macbeth gives his philosophical view on life and its importance. He says life is but a walking shadow which means life is not permanent either he is king or a beggar it is equal for everyone and everyone has to depart from this world. And a man is just like a helpless creature on this earth who dances like a

puppet on the stage under the direction of the Almighty. Here Macbeth tells that this world is a stage and each and everyone has got his or her chance to play according to his and her will and power, at the same time, if anyone crosses his or her limits and boundaries then he or she must face the ugly and dangerous look of life. Perhaps Macbeth realises that this name and fame is only for short time and this name and fame cannot get refrain from a man's past guilt, crime and sin. Macbeth tells that life is full fury and sound which has no glory and charm if he or she has lost the charm and beauty of his soul.

Lastly, he was told of the apparent movement of the Birnam Wood towards Dunsinane Castle as the witches previously prophesied to him, which is actually Malcolm's forces having disguised themselves with tree branches so as to hide their numbers as they approach the castle. This sets the scene for the final events of the play and Macbeth's death at the hands of Macduff.

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