

**GOOD AND EVIL – A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SIMILARITY AND  
SUPERNATURAL ELEMENTS IN WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE’S *MACBETH* &  
*THE TEMPEST*, VALMIKI’S *RAMAYANA* AND VYASA’S *MAHABHARATA***

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**Abstract:** Shakespeare, Vyasa and Valmiki are the biggest luminaries in literature. The study observed some similarities and supernatural elements in their writings. Shakespeare plays the *Tempest* and *Macbeth* present numerous opportunities for comparison. In analysing the action of the corresponding plays, we find that supernatural occurrences serve as the catalyst for all key turns in the plots of the plays. They all have the same traits of using their supernatural abilities for dramatic effect. They use supernatural elements in their plays to get through the challenging points. As a result, the pleasant endings are attributed to the supernatural components since otherwise, their plays may have ended in tragedy. The unexpected happy turn in the plot and the miracles are solely responsible for the denouement stand by men’s side. It emphasises the characters and has elements of both the epics and the plays. Social conventions and gender roles are upheld by the epic. While *Macbeth* fills the play with darkness and blood and fills the air with fear. A number of supernaturally inclined character aid Rama in saving his wife Sita from the Rakshas and the Sri Lankan monarch Ravana. Ravana is the enemy and his supernaturally inclined character has ten heads in one body. Unrealistic depictions are transformed into mythical components in the *Ramayana*. Because of the supernatural components, including the benevolent spirit Ariel and Prospero, who uses his magical abilities to organize the play’s other characters’ actions with the aid of Ariel, the storylines in the *Tempest* seems almost magical. In both the epic and the play, supernatural aspects are prominent and serve as the main inspiration for the plot development. The study attempts to bring out the similarities and also analyses the supernatural elements in the Shakespeare’s play *the Tempest* and *Macbeth* and Valmiki’s *Ramayana* and Vyasa’s *Mahabharata*. Hence, it focuses on the good and evil and the supernatural elements used by both godly figures and evil and who win at the end.

**Keywords:** Supernatural, magic, Influence, good, evil, prophecy, death.

*Mahabharata* was an epic, in accordance with Hindu mythology. This epic primarily focuses on the battle, commonly known as the *Mahabharata* to Kurukshetra conflict. The war for the Hastinapura throne began as a result of a dynasty battle between two groups of cousins, the Kauravas and their hundred brothers on one side, and the Pandavas and their five brothers on the other.

For eighteen days, the Pandavas and Kauravas engaged in battle in the Mahabharat war. This war was sparked by Shakuni. The war's mastermind, Shakuni was involved in the planning. He was a key opponent in the *Mahabharata*. He was the prince of the country of Gandhari, and the maternal uncle of the Kauravas. He was the son of Subala, the king of Gandara. In the game of dice, he was a true expert. He encouraged Duryodhana from an early age to turn against the Pandavas, which precipitated the war. Shakuni developed a loathing for the Pandavas, and he persuaded the Kauravas to turn against them. Shakuni also convinced Duryodhana to invite the Pandavas to Hastinapura for a game of dice. It established the reason behind the *Mahabharata* war. Shakuni dead father's bone was used to make the dice for the dice game. The dice give the number he requested in accordance with Shakuni's instructions.

The Pandavas held their palace and treasure until they lost them and they also lost their Indraprasatha to Duryodhana, as the game began. Once more, Yudhishtira lost his brother in this gambling game. Yudhishtira eventually lost Draupadi. Duryodhana humiliated everyone while dragging Draupadi. Everyone wanted to assist her, but once could save by lord Krishna was Draupadi. Shakuni smiled when he realized his scheme was turning into a war as a result of the Pandavas' ensuring rage.

Shakuni sided with Duryodhana during the battle of Kurukshetra, leading his army in battle against the Pandavas. On day eighteen of this conflict. Bhima killed Duryodhana, while Sahadev used his axe to kill Shakuni. We have a strong understanding of how Duryodhana was affected by the Shakuni and how this led to the Kurukshetra war. While also being the cause of the battle in Shakespeare's Macbeth, lady Macbeth. She convinced her husband to assassinate King Duncan. With the aid of the King of Norway, King Duncan and Macdonald engage in combat in Macbeth's opening scene. The conflict Banquo and Macbeth returned to the castle. They spot the three witches then; the witches made a forecast for them. The initial prediction was that Macbeth will succeed as thane. Another prophecy stated that your friend Banquo's descendants would seize the throne after you become King of Scotland. The thane of Cowder will be appointed as the next monarch of Scotland. This implies that Macbeth's heir will not be in power in Scotland. Because of the individual in that position.

King Duncan dismissed the post of Thane of Cowder. He betrayed the King; the Duncan dismissed the post of Thane of Cowder. He betrayed the king, the Duncan, the King, chose Macbeth new received, the thane of Cowder's title and the estate. Macbeth informed his wife lady Macbeth of this information. Lady Macbeth makes plan to assassinate King Duncan. At the conclusion of the conversation, Macbeth was prepared to murder King Duncan. Lady Macbeth began the plan by moving forward. As the Guards drank it, they

passed out and lost consciousness. Now that King Duncan was dead, Macbeth walked to his chamber and stabs him, lady Macbeth then stages a murderous scene, suggesting that the guards were to blame.

When the guards first saved Duncan's dead body, they were horrified. Before the guards could speak or wake up. Macbeth killed them, and he planned the situation so that the guards were the murderers, and he provides a justification for why he killed the guards. He couldn't control his rage because he was so loyal to the King Duncan, so he killed the guards. Although he claimed that he betrayed the monarch, the guards were telling the truth of they were still alive. The Scenario was in favour of Macbeth because King Duncan had passed away and his son was fleeing the land, so he said that the son may murder the king. The populace declared Macbeth to be the king of Scotland, when Macbeth propagated the rumors. The witches were making prophecies, Banquo becomes suspicious as a result, believing that his son will succeed him as king of Scotland. Therefore, Macbeth hires killers to kill Banquo and Fleance. Once more, Macbeth got the opportunity to interact with the three witches, but the claims that their impossible prophecies were true. Macduff goes to England in search of Malcolm. As he will succeed the current kin. Macbeth during this period. But Malcolm had already arrived thanks to Macduff's plot. But he also brings a 10,000-man English force, at this moment, Macbeth gradually lost his influence. Lady Macbeth was also mentally ill at the same period. Hallucinations force lady Macbeth to pass away quickly. She kept recalling instances involving Duncan's death. After that, the entire country of Scotland turned against Macbeth and Macduff killed him.

### **COMPARING SHAKESPEARE'S, *THE TEMPEST* AND VALMIKI'S *RAMAYANA***

Between 1610 and 1611, William Shakespeare wrote the play *The Tempest*. A tragic comedy unfolded. Miranda, the protagonist of this drama was abandoned on a lonely island for a number of years. The evil scheme carried out by Prospero's brother Antonio and the King of Naples, Alonso, was that ultimately led to the Duke of Milan being exiled to an uninhabited island. The Maharishi Valmiki wrote the Sanskrit epic known as the *Ramayana*. This epic described the life of Rama, the main character of this Ithihas, and how he carried out his obligations as a son, brother and husband in a just manner by his intelligent actions and virtues. Both the *Tempest* and the *Ramayana* contains magical themes throughout the plot. The components, which made the narrative, aid in the plot's advancement by igniting the reader's interest. The play the *Tempest* opened with a shipwreck close to Prospero's Island with the term itself acting as an agent of a superpower, Ariel, a decent spirit who served as the protagonist Prospero's slave, carried out this deed. He learnt magic through books and how that he had magical abilities, he had influence over a variety of spirits, including Ariel and Caliban.

Then, in the *Ramayana*, various supernatural beings both plagued and aided Rama on his trip during the fourteen- years vanvas period and the difficult time of trying to rescue Sita. Rama's battled with demons, his incarnation a lord Vishnu, a godly figure to ordinary human Rama, the evil Soorpanagai's use of a beautiful woman to seduce Rama and Lakshmana, his

ability to taken the forms of old saints and deer, the presence of flying chariots or vimanas, the presence of large numbers of human-like monkeys, Hanuman's status, which attracts the readers to believe themselves as a character in this epic. Without these supernatural components, the plot would not develop or be engaging.

In the *Tempest*, Prospero would not have survived on the island with his daughter Miranda for twelve years if he had not learnt any magic like Ariel, Caliban the Sycorax and many others, there would be no Shipwreck, no help for Prospero, and no disguise of Ariel as a beautiful woman serving food to Antonio, Alonso, Gonzalo and Sebastian while they were under the influence of illusions, causing them to go crazy. In other worlds, there wouldn't have been a *Tempest* play, and the number of Shakespearean plays would have diminished.

Shakespeare had never shied away from including paranormal themes in his plays and it was only because of these that his plays have become so inventive. In contrast, the supernatural aspect of the *Ramayana* completely dominates the narratives. The Sri Lankan king served as the Ravana's adversary in this story. He was a supernatural being with ten heads, yet it was thought that occasionally he had just nine heads since he to persuade Lord Shiva, cut one off. He was hailed as a profound scholar, a wise king and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva. Brahma bestowed a boon on Ravana that would render him unbeatable against all of Brahma's creatures save of mankind. Additionally, Lord Shiva decided to grant him the boon that the Bhramasura requested: the ability to reduce to ashes anyone whose head he placed his hand.

In this epic, a character by the name of Hanuman had greatly aided Rama. For his bravery and cunning, Lord Sun also gave Hanuman a prize in the shape of immortality. He was one of the enigmatic characters with the power to transform into either a huge figure or a body the size of a peanut. Hanuman was well known for his action of lifting up and flying with the entire Sanjeevi hills, when he was unable to find the appropriate medicinal herb for Lakshman during the war. When Ravana and his demons set fire to the tail of Hanuman, he caused a big scene by setting the palace of Ravana on fire with his monkey mischievous behaviour. Kumbhakarna, who was Ravana's brother, was yet another significant magical figure. He was a peculiar guy, enormous in size, with an endless desire and thirst and he used to sleep for six months.

Ariel was supernatural elements in the *Tempest* that Prospero frequently praised since it carries out all of his instructions. Ariel had been imprisoned in a "Cloven pine" as retribution of its refusal to comply with Sycorax's orders. It was freed from the penalty by Prospero, who also vowed to let it free one day. Ariel was responsible for a number of magical occurrences, including stopping Antonio and Sebastian's plot to kill Alonso while he dozed off and the marriage of Ferdinand and Miranda. Ariel was also in charge of gathering up all the supernatural spirit that were present on the island.

Any work with a supernatural component present would undoubtedly have a distinctive aesthetic, an allure and a following. The supernatural beings and God like figures. Despite being impossible and unbelievable, the actions taken by the animals made sense to

the readers who were deeply invested in those superstitions plays and epics, despite being unrealistic and unbelievable. However, superstitions were simply a technique and many individuals didn't believe those things. There was no evidence showing that the situation was entirely fictitious.

Beginning with *Tempest*, the Ariel took the shattered ship reconstructed it and kept it safe. Prospero and the other characters ultimately utilized the same ship to travel back to their respective destinations. Before Shakespeare's play used magic to good effect, it was thought of as a sinister pastime. It was up to hand and minds to choose whether to employ the magical abilities for good or for evil. Similarly, to the *Ramayana*, Ravana and his purposes while Rama and his supporters used them for good.

Since there was a body of water separating the two places when Rama and his supporters considered how to get there, the monkey built a bridge to Sri Lanka. Because of the assistance provided by godly figures, the bridge was fashioned to stone with the name of Rama engraved on it, and those stones float on the water. Both sides employ magical Astra's and engages in physical warfare throughout the *Ramayana* conflict. As a way to enhance mystical elements. During the battle, Rama served one of Ravana's heads, but the head grew back exactly where it had been amputated. Rama thought Ravana was unbreakable, but after learning about the death point on his belly bottom, Ravana became vulnerable.

Sita was saved from their palace after Rama slew Ravana. Finally, after all these long battles, these events reach their climax. Rama was glad to see Sita again, but he had questioned about Sita's loyalty to him because of the other nobleman in the room and his own thoughts. When a guy is unable to even believe his own wife, what advantage are all these battles serving? Sita was fired up and prepared to pass the flame the Lakshmana had created. She claimed that the god of fire may take her life if she had committed any wrongdoing. Despite all the entertainment Sita passed through the flame unharmed it scorching fiercely. The flame then changes into flowers, Signifying Sita's purity of soul and innocence.

### **Conclusion**

By contrasting Indian classics with classic works of international literature. We can see that at the conclusion of the story, the evil characters perished. Shakuni's brutality against the Pandavas in the *Mahabharata* causes the Kurukshetra to be split, which sparks a conflict. Dharma prevailed during the conflict, and bad guys like Shakuni and Duryodhana and his brothers were killed. The *Mahabharata* character known as the Shakuni was comparable to Lady Macbeth. In play *Macbeth*, Lady Macbeth convinced her husband to murder King Duncan her husband to murder King Duncan and it result with death of lady Macbeth and Macbeth. The dharma was demonstrated here as well. One person influenced another on both this drama and the epic, which causes conflict. They lost their lives on the king as well. The treason against their king was shown in both the play and the epic.

Shakespeare's the *Tempest* and Valmiki's *Ramayana* both made extensive use of supernatural elements to portray the entire course of the story from beginning to conclusion through the employment of their respective characters. These factors were what mostly

caused the events in these stories. These would be on sign of this fabled drama and greatest epic if all supernatural aspect were eliminated from the narrative. These components contributed to the story's uniqueness and intrigue. In the drama and the epic, the supernatural components were thus shown as the primary effective soul.

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