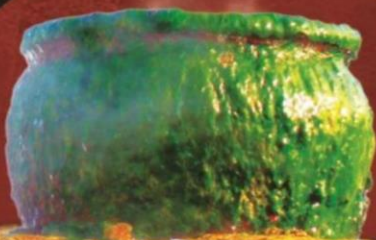


Critically Annotated Shakespeare

# MACBETH



EDITED BY  
NILANKO MALLIK

Macbeth - Critically Annotated  
Shakespeare

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**Critically Annotated  
Shakespeare**

**Macbeth**

*Edited by*  
**Nilanko Mallik**  
MA, PhD (AM)



*This book is dedicated  
to  
all those who would like to  
Shake all spheres  
with learning, knowledge  
and performance*



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## About The Author

*Macbeth: Critically Annotated Shakespeare* is set to be the first in a series of books set to provide detailed critical explanations of the lines, along with hints on performances.

The book is meant for students, teachers, scholars, researchers, and also for performers. A lot of the annotations look at how the parts should be performed, and they are mentioned by placing two star/asterisk marks before the note number in the explanations.

A visible advantage of the book is that the annotations are on the same page as the text, so that the readers don't have to flip through pages to look at the annotations and turn back to the text. The flow of reading is not disturbed as the annotations are on the same page.

Besides giving annotations - which not only provide explanations of lines, but also offer character trait discussion and discussion of other issues, so that students will find lots of matter for academic needs – the book also provides background information on the playwright and the times, about his works in general, and then explores some topics related to the text, covered under *Textual Analysis* section.

The references don't just list the works which have been cited, but also list other quality works which students can resort to (hence, I have not written 'Works Cited' but 'References').

Last but not the least, the illustrations enhance the knowledge of the readers and make the book a wonderful academic, and leisurely read, as well as a read for performers and directors.

I hope the book will be well received. Like all first editions, typing and/or other errors might have crept in, despite the best scrutiny. My earnest request to the

readers is to patiently pardon me. Suggestions for future improvements are welcome by email communications.

**Nilanko Mallik**

Kolkata 2016

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The sources for the text of Macbeth are

1. *Online archive at MIT <<http://shakespeare.mit.edu>> which, in turn, uses The Complete Moby(tm) Shakespeare*
2. *The New Cambridge Shakespeare, which, in turn, uses the Riverside Shakespeare.*



# About The Playwright

# 1

No one knows when William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-upon-Avon. We know he was baptized on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 1564, at the Holy Trinity Parish Church. It is presumed that his birth was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, as the *Book of Common Prayers* stated that a child be baptized on the next Sunday or the day considered holy, unless there were other reasons. Kay (1992) opines, If Shakespeare was indeed born on Sunday, April 23, the next feast day would have been St. Mark's Day on Tuesday the twenty-fifth. There might well have been some cause, both reasonable and great -- or perhaps, as has been suggested, St. Mark's Day was still held to be unlucky, as it had been before the Reformation, when altars and crucifixes used to be draped in black cloth, and when some claimed to see in the churchyard the spirits of those doomed to die in that year. . . .but that does not help to explain the christening on the twenty-sixth (54).

He was the third child and eldest son of John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. His father made his early living by making and selling gloves, but rose high in public life, becoming alderman in 1565 and bailiff in 1568, but later on, fell from grace and as imprisoned. Shakespeare received his education at King Harvard VI's Grammar School, Stratford. However, he did not go up to university and was officially no scholar. We know little of what he did (or where he was after leaving school). Davies put forth the theory that Shakespeare

fled from Stratford after running into trouble for deer stealing, and falling into the hands of Sir Tomas Lucy, the local magnate (Pressley). Another source says that he was a local schoolmaster. However, scholars have branded these years - 1578-82 - as the first “lost years” of Shakespeare.

However, we do know that he married Ann Hathaway, who was the daughter of a farmer. The marriage took place in November 1582. Their first child was a girl called Susanna, who was baptised on May 6, 1583. They had two more children - Hamnet and Judith - on February 22, 1585. Hamnet died at a very early age. Susanna’s daughter, Elizabeth (died 1670) was the bard’s final direct descendant. From 1585-92, we again lose track of him, and this is the second “lost years” of Shakespeare.<sup>1</sup> Theories abound that he was making his skills as an actor, teacher (Aubrey 1898) or gathering the plots of his plays.

The records become clearer after 1592. From the mention of Shakespeare’s name in the (in)famous letter/pamphlet named “Groatsworth of Wit”<sup>2</sup> by the playwright Robert Greene in September 1592, we come to know Shakespeare was becoming a playwright - a rival to contest with the ‘University Wits’, Marlowe, Peele, Nashe, Kyd and Lodge. In it, Shakespeare is alluded to as an “upstart crow”. This tells us that Shakespeare had already become famous enough to earn this jealous comment. However, we do not know of his works of the period. That is why it is believed that we do not have all the plays of Shakspeare.<sup>3</sup> Shakespeare wrote plays teeming with human emotions, and was a master in depicting human state of mind. He also wrote a few poems and 154 sonnets.

Shakespeare obtained a grant of arms in 1596; the following year he bought New Place at Stratford. He

retired from public life in 1610, and went to live at Stratford, but continued to write till 1613. He died on 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1616. At his grave, the following epitaph is inscribed:

*“Good friend, for Jesus’ sake forbear  
To dig the dust enclosed heare.  
Bleste be the man that spares these stones,  
And curst be he that moves my bones.”*



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<sup>1</sup>Findings now reveal that in 1589, William Shakespeare’s name appears in a court case. His name is listed with his parents, against the other party, John Lambert, over a land dispute in Wilmcote. This does not suggest that Shakespeare was physically present at the place - the names of all the dwellers might have been mentioned so that none was excluded. So, the lost years, despite the little peep-hole, remains till 1592.

<sup>2</sup>A groat was a coin of small value.

<sup>3</sup>The latest addition to the list is *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, although it is still disputed.



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## ABOUT THE BOOK

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Nilanko Mallik, a former student of Presidency College, Kolkata (now Presidency University), where he studied for undergraduate as well as postgraduate degrees, is a researcher in Neurolinguistics and Shakespeare in Performance. He was selected at Durham, Lancaster and Sheffield (UK) for pursuing his Ph.D. He earned his doctorate by researching reading of Shakespeare as an alternative medicine in treatment of aphasia and other speech disorders (an area under Neurolinguistics). He is the founder of the online journal Intercontinental Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies ([www.ijims.org](http://www.ijims.org)). He is actively involved in international research and has several publications in international peer-reviewed journals, and has also been selected at international conferences both as presenter and as chair. His research can be followed by visiting [www.researchgate.net/profile/Nilanko\\_Mallik](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nilanko_Mallik). Besides academics, Nilanko Mallik enjoys playing the piano.



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