

P.p1 downfall of his dukedom and the rise

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0px; font: 11. 0px Helvetica; color: #000000; -webkit-text-stroke:

#000000}span. s1 {font-kerning: none}The discovery of power can have an emotional and physical transformative impact on the life of an individual.

Shakespeare represents this through the subversion of the traditional role of protagonists as an inherently good and sympathetic character, rather

portraying Prospero as a man of ambiguous morality due to his obsession

with the acquirement of knowledge. Written from the context of the

Renaissance, in which the discovery of knowledge and enlightenment was

valued above all, Shakespeare again challenges the values of his content in

a way that has resonated throughout time. He portrays the relationship

between knowledge and power as being inextricably linked, as Prospero's

discovery of knowledge and subsequently power through his magic books

lead to both the downfall of his dukedom and the rise of his tyranny upon the

island, as he becomes infatuated with control, lording it over the inhabitants

of the island, such as Ariel which is evident through the dialogue " Dost thou

forget/ From what a torment I did free thee?". However, Shakespeare utilises

dramatic irony to emphasise how Prospero's own scheme forces himself to

recognise the suffering he causes his usurpers, and his epiphany that his

actions are immoral is evident through the rhetorical question in " shall not

myself, as a human be kindlier moved than thou art?". This epiphany forges

his destiny and allows him to make an authentic self-discovery which

ultimately has positive emotional impacts upon himself, as in the

conventional restoration of order, Prospero recognises that for him, power is

incompatible with a moral life and casts off his magic, leading him to

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discover new and changed values of mercy, atonement and morality and thus new ideas stimulated about being virtuous and being a good leader.