

## Green *Macbeth*

### An Ecocritical Reading of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

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"The very beginning of Genesis tells us that God created man in order to give him dominion over fish and fowl and all creatures. Of course, Genesis was written by a man, not a horse. There is no certainty that God actually did grant man dominion over other creatures. What seems more likely in fact is that man invented God to sanctify the dominion that he had usurped for himself over the cow and the horse."

(Kundera 286)

In an article published on March 10th 1967, 'The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis', Lynn White, Jr. asserted that the Judeo-Christian mandate expressed in Genesis played havoc with Man's<sup>1</sup> consciousness – it gave him absolute power to suppress and subdue the earth. He argues:

Christianity is the most anthropocentric religion the world has ever seen.... By destroying pagan animism, Christianity made it possible to exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects. (1205)

In my paper I wish to read Shakespeare's tragedy, *Macbeth*, Ecocritically, while also, applying to it certain Ecofeminist readings. There are two things that I need to justify before I commence with my arguments – the choice of the text, and the choice of the theories. The Elizabethan world view, a view which