

# **Crown and Circuit: The Metamorphosis of Leadership in *Henry V* by William Shakespeare and *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson**

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**Abstract:** *William Shakespeare's Henry V and Walter Isaacson's Steve Jobs explore the evolution of leadership in two distinct contexts, yet both figures share a common trajectory from mortal leaders burdened with human vulnerabilities to near-mythic figures of power. This paper examines how both Henry and Jobs navigate personal challenges, rise to authority, and craft their leadership personas in ways that transcend ordinary leadership, positioning themselves as figures who leave a lasting, almost divine legacy. At the start of Henry V, King Henry struggles with the weight of kingship, facing doubts and moral dilemmas while proving his legitimacy. Similarly, Steve Jobs, in Isaacson's biography, confronts significant challenges, including his tumultuous early career at Apple and personal flaws like his perfectionism and temperamental leadership style. Both leaders initially embody mortal frailty, making them relatable figures facing immense pressure to lead. As they progress, both Henry and Jobs transform their leadership. Henry invokes divine right, framing his rule as part of God's will, particularly during the Battle of Agincourt. This invocation not only consolidates his authority but also inspires loyalty among his followers. Jobs, through his visionary product launches and transformative innovations like the iPhone, crafts an image of a tech prophet whose leadership reshapes the industry. In both cases, their leadership becomes more than mortal; it is seen as almost divinely guided. The paper also explores how both leaders manipulate public perception, using their elevated personas to secure loyalty and consolidate power. Henry's rhetoric of divine right and Jobs' iconic public appearances create lasting images of their leadership. Both figures ultimately leave behind legacies that blur the line between myth and reality, shaping their respective worlds and establishing them as near-divine figures in history and modern culture. In conclusion, both Henry V and Steve Jobs demonstrate the dynamics of leadership that evolve from human vulnerability to mythic power.*

**Keywords:** leadership, divine right, power dynamics, legacy, transformation