

A TEXT BOOK OF ENGLISH (B)

Rapid Reader & A Book on ESP & Project

With financial aid from the Government of West Bengal,
this book is to be distributed to students of XI
free of cost. This book is not for sale.



West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education

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THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND TO SECURE TO ALL ITS CITIZENS :**

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November 1949, do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

PREFACE

The Expert Committee on School Education in collaboration with the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has developed *Rapid Reader & A Book on ESP & Project* as English (Second Language) textbook for class XI to be studied in all Government, Government sponsored, Government aided and Government affiliated schools of West Bengal.

In *Rapid Reader & A Book on ESP & Project*, learners are exposed to a collection of Shakespeare's plays in prose form that have been adapted from the *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles & Mary Lamb. Prose versions of Shakespeare's two tragedies (*Macbeth*, *Othello*), and three comedies (*The Comedy of Errors*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*) have been chosen to give the students a taste of the great dramatist. The language of each text has been modified keeping in mind the age-appropriateness of learners.

The book also takes care of the need that students face in using the English language in life-centric situation. Therefore, the ESP section of the book aims to develop students writing skill, while the Project area is meant to inspire critical and creative thinking among students. Serious thought has gone into ensuring that the book is relevant and thought provoking to students.

The Government has decided to distribute this book free of cost. We are grateful to Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Minister In-Charge, Department of School and Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, for his initiative.

Suggestions, views and comments to improve the book are welcome.

January, 2017
Vidyasagar Bhavan

Dr. Mahua Das
President
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FOREWORD

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee constituted The Expert Committee on School Education to review the pedagogical aspects of school curriculum, syllabus and textbooks in 2011.

The committee in collaboration with the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has developed Rapid Reader & A Book on ESP & Project as English (Second Language) textbook for class XI to be studied in all Government, Government sponsored, Government aided and Government affiliated schools of West Bengal.

This book presents a wide variety of Shakespeare's plays, ranging from the early comedy (*The Comedy of Errors*) to the richest "sunny" comedies (*As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night*) and his two famous tragedies (*Macbeth*, *Othello*), in prose version that have been adapted from *Tales from Shakespeare* by Charles & Mary Lamb. In doing so, the book attempts to acquaint students with the rich and varied dramatic works of Shakespeare. Care has been taken to adapt the language in such a manner that the book becomes students friendly.

The section on ESP aims to help students develop writing skills in various domains so that students may be able to use the language in different practical and realistic situation. The section on Project is meant to improve students thinking skills, and improve their ability to use their imagination.

The Government has decided to distribute this book free of cost so that all students may easily benefit from it. We are grateful to Dr. Partha Chatterjee, the Minister In-Charge, Department of School and Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, for his initiative.

We express our gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) Mahua Das for her valuable suggestions. We are grateful to those who have directly or indirectly contributed to the development of this book.

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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



Chapter 1

The states of Syracuse and Ephesus were enemy states. Hence, there was a cruel law in the state of Ephesus, stating that if a merchant of Syracuse was seen in Ephesus, he would be put to death unless he paid a thousand marks for the ransom of his life.

Aegeon, an old merchant of Syracuse, was seen in the streets of Ephesus, and brought before the duke, either to pay the fine or receive the death sentence. But Aegeon had no money to pay the fine. So the duke had to order him a death sentence as a rule. But before giving the sentence, the duke asked him to tell the story of his life and the reason for his being in Ephesus.

Aegeon said that he was not at all afraid of death as his pain and sufferings had made him tired of life. He also told that there was not a heavier task for him than to relate the incidents of his unfortunate life. Still, he began to narrate his story.

“I was born at Syracuse and was brought up to be a merchant. I married a lady and lived happily. But some time later, I was obliged to go to Epidamnum, and had to stay there for six months. I was to be there for some time more, so I called my wife to that place. Soon, there she gave birth to two boys who were exactly alike in appearance. They were so similar that they could not be differentiated from one another. At the same time, a poor woman who was lodged there also gave birth to twins who were very similar in appearance. As their parents were extremely poor, I bought these twins to attend upon my sons.

My sons grew to be fine boys and my wife was proud of them. She, however, wanted to return home. I, at last, agreed. We set out for home. It was a bad day because a violent storm soon arose and it grew so terrible that the sailors seeing no chance of saving the ship, escaped in a boat, leaving us alone. We feared that the ship could be destroyed any moment.

My wife and children wept continuously. Seeing them weep, I feared for their life. All my thoughts were bent on contriving means to save them. I thought of a plan trying to save our lives. I bound my younger son and the younger slave to a spare mast and likewise directed my wife to do the same with the elder ones. Then, we tied ourselves up to the respective masts along with the children. She took care of the elder ones and me of the younger ones. Soon the ship hit a mighty rock and split to pieces. Clinging on the slender masts we were supported above the water. I, having the care of the two children, could not help my wife. They were separated from me and drifted away further. But while they were still in sight, I saw them to be taken aboard on a boat of fishermen, maybe from Corinth. Seeing them safe, I then struggled to save the two children, who were under my care and after a while,

we were also rescued by a ship. The sailors, knowing me, welcomed and assisted us and took us safely to Syracuse. But from that time, I don't have any news of my wife and my elder son.

My younger son, upon being eighteen years, wanted to know about his mother and brother. He often asked me for my permission to go in search of his elder brother along with Dromio, the younger slave, who had also lost his brother and desired to search for him. Initially I was scared for the loss of this son; but, after much hesitation, I gave consent as I also wanted to see my wife and child. It has been seven years and my son has not returned. I have searched for my son throughout the world for five years. I have been to the farthest Greece and through the bounds of Asia and while returning home, now, have landed here in search of him because I didn't want to leave any place unsought on this earth. This is the story of my life and I would be happy to die if I had known that my wife and sons were living safe."

Thus, Aegeon narrated the story of his life and stated the reason why he had landed to this country. The duke, on hearing the story, was moved. He pitied Aegeon who had brought about the peril to himself at the cost of his sons and wife. But it was not in his power to alter the law of the land, otherwise he would have pardoned him. So, instead of dooming him instantly, he gave him one day to try to pay the fine either by begging or borrowing money from someone.

This day of grace was not a great favour to Aegeon as he knew none in Ephesus who would help him to pay the fine. He could not hope to get any help from anyone. So, he went with the jailor to spend the night in his custody.

Aegeon thought that he did not know anyone in Ephesus, but when he was in danger of losing his life for the search of his son, that son and the one who was lost in his childhood, were both present in the city of Ephesus.

Aegeon's sons were not only similar in appearance but were also named alike, both being called Antipholus. Similarly, the twin slaves were also named Dromio. Aegeon's younger son, Antipholus of Syracuse, whom his father was searching, came to Ephesus that very same day. He was accompanied by the younger Dromio. He was also a merchant of Syracuse and was in the same danger as his father. He would also have been arrested had he not met a friend who informed him of the peril of the old merchant of Syracuse was in, and advised him to pass himself off as a merchant of Epidamnus. Antipholus Younger agreed to do. When he heard of the fate of a merchant of Syracuse he felt sorry for him. He could not imagine that it was his own father that he had heard of.

The Elder Antipholus had lived at Ephesus twenty years and being a rich man, could have paid the fine for his father's life but he knew nothing of his father as he was very young when he was saved by the fishermen after the shipwreck. The fishermen, who

saved his mother and the two children, took them away from their mother with the intention to sell them.

Elder Antipholus and Elder Dromio were sold to the duke Menaphon, a famous warrior. He was the uncle of the duke of Ephesus, and he took the boys to Ephesus when he went to visit the duke, his nephew.

The duke of Ephesus liked Elder Antipholus and made him an officer in the army when he grew up, where he established himself as a brave warrior. He once saved the duke and the duke rewarded him by marrying him to Adriana, a rich lady of Ephesus. At the time that his father came there, Elder Antipholus was living with Adriana.

Antipholus of Syracuse, or Antipholus Younger, after he parted with his friend, wanted to move around the city and observe the manners of the people and so he gave Dromio Younger some money to carry to the inn where he intended to dine.

Dromio Younger was a pleasant fellow and when Antipholus Younger was bored and sad, he used to make him happy by jesting with him. So Dromio was allowed a freedom of speech which was greater than was usual between master and their servants.

When Antipholus Younger had sent Dromio Younger away, he thought about his lonely search for his mother and his brother, of whom he did not have any news and he said sorrowfully, "I am like a drop of water in the ocean, which, seeking to find its fellow drop, loses itself in the wide sea. So I unhappily, to find a mother and a brother, do lose myself."

When he was thinking of his useless travels, Elder Dromio came there. Antipholus Younger mistook him for Dromio Younger and wondered how he came so early. He asked him about his money. Elder Dromio also mistook Antipholus Younger for his elder brother and said that he was sent by his mistress to fetch Antipholus for dinner. He also said that the food would be cold if he did not go home. Antipholus Younger thought that Dromio was jesting and he again asked about his money. Dromio once again talked of his mistress and that she wanted him to go home for dinner. Antipholus asked, "What mistress?" Dromio replied, "Why your worship's wife, sir." To this answer, Antipholus Younger, having no wife, got so angry that he said he that sometimes he talked freely to Dromio but he was at that time not in a mood to jest with him. He again asked him about the money and said that as they were strangers in that land, Dromio should not have trusted the money in any other's custody. Dromio, on hearing that they were strangers in that land thought that Antipholus was jesting with him and he suggested that he could jest while having dinner. Now Antipholus Younger lost all patience and beat Elder Dromio. Dromio fled to his mistress and reported that his master would not come for dinner as he had no wife.

Adriana got furious on hearing that her husband had refused to acknowledge her. She thought that her husband meant that he was in love with another lady. She flew in a violent

rage and reproached her husband. Luciana, her younger sister, tried to bring her out of her groundless suspicions.

Antipholus of Syracuse, returned to the inn and found his Dromio with the money in safety and was about to chide him for his jests when Adriana came in. She addressed Antipholus Younger as her husband, not doubting him and chided him for looking at her strangely. She then told him how well he had loved her before they were married and said that now he loved someone else and not her. She asked him why she had lost his love. Antipholus was astonished and asked whether it was him that the woman was talking to. In vain he tried to convince the woman that he was not her husband and that he had been in Ephesus only two hours before. But she insisted on his going to her home and seeing no other way, he followed her to his brother's house. He then had dinner with Adriana and her sister, where Adriana called him her husband and the other her brother. Antipholus thought he must have been married to her in his sleep or was sleeping now. And, Dromio Younger, too, was surprised to find that the cook-maid, who was his brother's wife, claimed him to be her husband.

Now, when Antipholus of Syracuse was having dinner with his brother's wife, his brother the real husband, returned home to dinner with Elder Dromio. But the servants did not allow them inside as their mistress had ordered not to allow anyone inside the house. When Elder Antipholus repeatedly knocked and said they were Antipholus and Dromio, the maids laughed at them and said that Antipholus was at dinner with his wife and Dromio was in the kitchen. Antipholus got angry and went away, surprised to hear that a gentleman was dining with his wife.

When Antipholus had finished his dinner, he was surprised because Adriana still claimed to be his wife and hearing that Dromio had also been claimed by her cook-maid they escaped from the house at the first chance that they could get. However, Antipholus was attracted to Luciana though he did not like Adriana's jealous temper. Dromio also was not satisfied with his wife in the kitchen so both of them were happy to get rid of their wives.

As soon as they left the house, they met a goldsmith who called Antipholus Younger by name and gave him a gold chain claiming that he had ordered him to do so. Antipholus could not convince him that he was not the man who had ordered him to do so. But the man left the chain with him and went away. Antipholus, after the strange happenings, decided to leave the place immediately and ordered Dromio to get things on board thinking that strange things were happening and the place was bewitched.

Immediately after leaving the chain with Antipholus of Syracuse, the goldsmith was arrested for a sum of money he owed. Just at that moment, Antipholus of Ephesus happened to pass that way. Seeing him, the goldsmith claimed for the money he owed to him for the delivery of the gold chain that Antipholus had ordered. Antipholus demanded that he did

not get the delivery of the chain and the goldsmith claimed that he had done back. However, both were arrested and taken into custody.

When Elder Antipholus was being taken to prison, he met Dromio Younger, who had come to tell him that the ship was ready for sail. Antipholus mistook him for his own slave and ordered him to go and get the money from his wife for which he was arrested. Dromio was surprised because his master was sending him to the same house from which they had escaped. However, he decided to obey the order of his master though he did not like to face Dowsabel, who claimed to be his wife.

Adriana gave Dromio Younger the money and as he was returning with that, he met Antipholus Younger, his master, who had met with strange adventures where many saluted him as an old acquaintance. Some offered him money that they owed, some thanked him for his kindness and a tailor showed him the silks that he had bought him, insisting that he gave his measurement for some clothes.

Antipholus Younger thought he was among sorcerers and witches and Dromio Younger too could not help him as he wanted to know how his master got free from the arrest and he gave the purse of gold that he got from Adriana. Thinking that Dromio had gone mad, Antipholus prayed to God to relieve them from this confusion.

Now another lady came up to him and she ,too, called him Antipholus Younger and told him that he had dined with her that day and asked him to give her the gold chain that he had promised to give. When Antipholus denied having known the lady or to have promised her anything, she demanded that she be given back the ring that she had given him. On hearing of her ring and the demand to return the same, Antipholus Younger called her sorceress and fled from that place leaving the lady astonished at his wild behaviour. She too had mistaken Antipholus of Syracuse with his elder brother with whom she had dined.

When the married Antipholus was denied admittance into the house, he resolved to dine with this lady with the object to avenge the insult of the refusal of admittance to his house the previous night. The lady received him cordially and Antipholus having being despised by his wife, promised to present this woman the gold chain that he had previously ordered for his wife. On hearing of the gold chain, this lady, being overwhelmed gave Elder Antipholus a ring, which Antipholus of Syracuse refused to have received from her. Now this lady, thinking Antipholus Younger to be out of his mind, resolved to go to Adriana and tell her that her husband had gone mad. While she was relating her story, Antipholus, the husband, came with the jailor for the money that Adriana had already sent with the other Dromio, who had delivered it to the other Antipholus.

Adriana believed the lady because Antipholus accused her of shutting him out of the house. She remembered how he had denied to have known her or to be her husband at dinner-time the previous night. She, therefore, paid the money to the jailor and ordered her

servants to bind him and take him to a dark room till the doctor was called to cure his madness. Antipholus vainly tried to deny the allegations and his anger only made matter worse as it convinced them that he had surely gone mad. Elder Dromio, who confirmed what his master had said, fell into the same position as his master.

Soon after, a servant came and reported that Antipholus and Dromio had broken loose from captivity as they were seen roaming in the next street.

On hearing this, Adriana with her sister and some people went to fetch her husband once again. They found the other twin brothers at the gates of a convent in their neighborhood and were again deceived by their likeness.

Here, Antipholus Younger was perplexed as the goldsmith accused him that he had denied having received the chain and refused to pay for the same. In fact, he was wearing that round his neck after this man had given him that. Antipholus protested that the goldsmith had freely given him the chain and he had not seen him after that.

When Adriana saw him and claimed him to be her husband who had broken free from captivity, and wanted him to be captured again along with Dromio, Antipholus and his servant ran to the convent and begged the abbess to give them shelter.

The lady abbess was not to give up a man who had sought his help. So she herself tried to enquire and find out the real cause of the disturbance. She was a wise lady and so she questioned the wife about the story she told of her husband's madness. She enquired if the cause of madness was due to a loss of merchandise at sea or the death of a dear friend. When Adriana denied both then the abbess reflected that it could be for his affection to another lady that had driven him to this state. Actually, it was not the love of another lady but the jealous temper of his wife that had often led him to leave his house and suspecting that, the abbess to find out the truth, asked Adriana if she had not chided her husband enough. To this, Adriana confessed that she had not allowed her husband to sleep in bed without answering her, nor did she allow him to eat without facing her questions. Even when they were alone she brought up the topic in her conversation. She had thus tried her best to remove the lady from her husband but had failed to do so.

The lady abbess, thus getting the true picture of their marital discord, informed Adriana that it was for her jealous temper, she had turned her husband mad. She had not let him sleep which made his mind light, nor eat properly which caused his indigestion nor could he talk freely which debarred him from any kind of relaxation or recreation. So her continuous brawls have affected his temper so severely turning him insane.

Luciana would have excused her sister saying that she always reprehended her husband mildly and she said to her sister, "Why do you hear these rebukes without answering them?" But the abbess made her see her fault so plainly that her sister could only answer, "She has betrayed me to my own reproach."

Adriana, though ashamed of her conduct demanded her husband to be returned to her, but the abbess did not want the gentleman to be delivered to the care of such a jealous woman, herself thinking of means and ways to recover him from his state as gently as possible.

During the course of this day, in which so many errors had happened because of the similarity of the two twin brother pairs, the old Aegeon's day was passing by and he was doomed to die if he could not pay the fine imposed on him for being in Ephesus.

The place of his execution was near the convent and he arrived there just as the abbess retired to the convent. The duke himself attended this place so that if anyone came forward to pay the fine, he could pardon the old man at that moment.

Adriana stopped this procession, and cried out to the duke of her husband's lunacy and the desperate situation that she was in because the abbess refused to deliver her husband to her care. Just as she was speaking, her real husband who got free from captivity came before the duke demanding justice complaining of his wife's order to bind and confine them on charge of lunacy. He then related in what manner he and his servant had broken the bands and escaped the prying eyes of his vigilant keepers. Adriana was surprised to see her husband as she thought that he was in the care of the convent.

Aegeon, seeing his elder son mistook him for Antipholus of Syracuse and thought that his son would pay for his fine and that he would be relieved. Aegeon spoke to him with fatherly affection and hoped to be released soon from his state. But Antipholus denied having known this person and said that he had never seen his father since the storm that happened in his infancy. Aegeon thought that his son might be behaving in that manner because of grief and anxieties that he had faced so long in his search for his brother or that he was ashamed in such a state. In the midst of this confusion, the abbess and Antipholus of Syracuse as well as the other Dromio came out to the astonishment of Adriana who saw two husbands and two Dromios.

And when the duke saw the two pairs to be so alike, he at once made out the roots of the problem. He had heard of the tale related by Aegeon and understood that they were his sons and the twin slaves that he had bought.

Now Aegeon was very happy as the sorrowful tale that he had related to the duke in the morning came to a happy conclusion by the end of the day. He had found both his sons and also his long lost wife who was the abbess of the convent and disclosed her identity at that moment.

When the fishermen took her son and the slave child, she entered a nunnery and due to her wise and virtuous disposition she was raised to the status of the lady abbess of this convent. Little did she know that when she was trying to protect the two strangers, she was actually protecting her own sons!

The exuberance of the family reunion almost erased the recollection of the pending sentence that hung over Aegeon till then. At length when the family calmed down, Antipholus of Ephesus offered to pay the ransom for his father's release but the duke pardoned Aegeon and did not take the money. And the duke followed the abbess and her two sons along with their father to hear at leisure about the happy conclusion to the hence sorrowful tale. The two twin Dromios also congratulated each other on their fortunes and each praised the other for their looks, their joy knowing no bounds on finding the other safe.

Adriana had also profited from her mother-in-law's advice. She never ever ventured to unjustly suspect her husband or be jealous of him.

Antipholus of Syracuse married the fair Luciana, the sister of his brother's wife and Aegeon, with his wife and the two sons lived at Ephesus for many more years. But the unraveling of this confusion, did not however, completely resolve future issues where one brother may be confused with the other one, making altogether a pleasant and diverting Comedy of Errors.

Word Notes

Obliged : bound by duty

Differentiate : to make difference from one another

Contriving : scheming

Clinging : sticking to Drifted away: washed away

Alter : change

Custody : under the protection

Jest : in fun

Groundless : baseless

Bewitched : under a magic spell

Sorcerers : magicians

Allegation : accusation

Perplexed : confused

Merchandize : goods for sale

Brawls : rough or noisy fight



AS YOU LIKE IT



Chapter 2

The story begins at a time when France was divided into provinces or dukedoms. In one such province, there was a usurper, who had deposed and banished his elder brother, the lawful duke.

The duke, who was driven away from his kingdom by his younger brother, retired to the Forest of Arden along with his faithful followers. These people soon got accustomed to the lazy life of the forest and they felt it to be more relaxing than the life of a court. They led the life like that of Robin Hood of England, and to this forest many noble youths came and spent their leisure time as they did in the golden age. In summer they took rest under the shade of the trees watching the playful sports of the forest-deer. They even felt sad that they had to kill those deer for food. In winter when the cold wind blew, the duke suffered from cold but said, “These chilling winds which blow upon my body are true counsellors: they do not flatter, but represent truly to me my condition; and though they bite sharply, their tooth is nothing like as keen as that of unkindness and ingratitude.” He remarked that men might say against adversities but there are some uses of a poisonous toad. In this way the duke drew lessons from nature and he found tongues in trees, books in the flowing streams, sermons in stones and good in everything.

The banished duke had a daughter named Rosalind and like her father, she was also thrown out of the dukedom. But, she still remained in the palace being the companion of Celia, the present duke’s daughter. The discord between the duke and his brother did not at all affect the friendship between the two sisters. In fact, Celia tried to comfort Rosalind whenever she became sad thinking of her father.

One day, when Celia was talking to Rosalind in her usual kind manner, a messenger came with the news that there would be a wrestling match and they could go and watch that if they so wanted. Celia agreed to go thinking that it would amuse Rosalind.

During those times, wrestling matches were viewed by noble ladies and princesses being a favourite sport of princes. But here they thought that they would face a tragedy as a practiced wrestler was to fight an inexperienced young man.

When the duke saw that both the ladies had come to watch such an uneven match between a practiced wrestler and a young man, the duke asked them to dissuade the young man from fighting. At first Celia tried to resist the youth from taking up such an unequal challenge and then Rosalind by her kind words tried to change his mind from the ensuing fight. But after hearing the entreaties of the ladies, the youth became all the more determined to prove his valour in front of the fair ladies. He refused to listen to them but he said in such a

graceful manner that both the ladies became more concerned of him. He said, "I am sorry to deny such fair and beautiful ladies anything." He also said that he would like the ladies to wish for him and if he was defeated, he would not be ashamed and, even if he was killed there was no one to lament for him in this world. He said that he was only a person who filled up a space in this world and it would be better supplied if he vacated his space.

The wrestling match began. Celia wished that the youth would not be hurt during the bout. But Rosalind was more concerned. She had an inclination towards him because she felt pity for his friendless condition. It seemed that she had almost fallen in love for him.

The inspiration that the youth got from the ladies worked wonders for him and he defeated his opponent in such a way that for some time he could not even talk. The duke Frederick was very pleased with the youth's skill and courage and wanted to know more about him.

The youth introduced himself as Orlando, the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys. Sir Rowland de Boys was dead. But when he was alive, he was a friend of the banished duke. So on hearing that Orlando was his son, the duke was displeased and wished he had been the son of someone else.

Rosalind was very happy to hear that Orlando was the son of one of her father's favourite and confessed to Celia, "My father loved Sir Rowland de Boys, and if I had known that Orlando was his son, I would have added tears to my entreaties before he should have ventured." The ladies went to him and seeing that he was sad due to the displeasure of the duke, spoke to him kindly and Rosalind even gave him her chain from her neck and said that had she not been out of fortune, she would have given him a more valuable gift.

When the cousin sisters were alone, they talked of the young wrestler. Celia thought that Rosalind must have fallen in love with Orlando and she said, "Is it possible that you should fall in love so suddenly?" Rosalind replied, "The duke, my father, loved his father dearly." Celia then remarked that though her father had displeasure for young Orlando she herself did not feel so.

Frederick was enraged at the sight of Sir Rowland de Boys' son. It reminded him of the many friends of the banished duke. He was lately displeased with Rosalind as she was praised for her virtues and the people pitied her for her father. Now, all of a sudden, Frederick became angry and he entered the room of the ladies while they were still discussing about Orlando. So he ordered Rosalind to join her father in the forest. Celia pleaded in favour of her sister but the duke turned a deaf ear to any such requests. He said, "She is too subtle for you, her smoothness, her very silence, and her patience speak to the people, and they pity her. You are a fool to plead for her, for you will seem more bright and virtuous when she is gone; therefore don't speak for her; and the decision that I have taken is irrevocable."

When Celia could not change her father's mind to keep Rosalind in the palace, she decided to accompany Rosalind to the Forest of Arden in search of her father. Before they set out, they decided to change their clothes as it would be unsafe for two young ladies to travel alone in rich attire. Rosalind thought that one could disguise herself as a male and since she was taller than Celia, she decided to dress as a country lad and Celia could dress as country lass; and they would introduce themselves as brother and sister. Rosalind would call herself as Ganymede and Celia would be called Aliena.

In this disguise, with money and their jewels, they set out on their journey to the Forest of Arden, a long way from the duke's kingdom. The lady Rosalind, Ganymede, in accordance to her dress put on an attitude to her sister, who left the luxury of the palace for their true love to each other. So they walked along, Rosalind showing a cheerful spirit as if he was the real Ganymede, the rustic and stout-hearted brother of the gentle village maiden, Aliena.

When they reached the Forest of Arden, they did not get the inns or food or the good accommodation that they had got till then. Ganymede who had hitherto cheered her sister confessed that she could cry out of fatigue and hunger. When Aliena declared that she could walk no further, Rosalind tried to find out where they could get rest and food. But they were certain that they were lost. Just then they met a countryman and asked him where they could get some food and a place to rest in exchange of money or gold. He said that he was the servant of a shepherd who was going to sell off his house and so they did not have much to entertain them. But if they wanted they were welcome to their house. They followed the man and bought the house and the sheep and also took the man to wait on them. Thus, they decided to stay till they could find the part of the forest where the banished duke stayed with his followers.

The two sisters settled in their new cottage life very comfortably and fancied themselves to be the shepherd and shepherdess. Yet sometimes Ganymede remembered the youth Orlando and thought that he was so far away from her. But it soon came to light that he was also in the Forest of Arden following certain circumstances.

Orlando was the younger son of Sir Rowland de Boys and when he died he placed Orlando in the custody of his elder son requesting him to bring up his brother with proper care. Oliver, the elder brother, however, did not keep the request of his father and likewise did not educate Orlando in a school. Orlando, even without the care and help of his brother, grew up to be a fine man and Oliver hated him more for that. He was the one who had arranged for the fight as he wanted to get rid of his younger brother. But as fate would have it, Orlando won the wrestling match. Nevertheless, he was sad at the disposition of his brother and being friendless he wished not to live.

When Oliver heard of the victory news of his younger brother Orlando, his jealousy knew no bounds. He vowed to burn his brother alive in his chamber while he slept. This was overheard by one of the old servants of Sir Rowland and he, at once, set out to warn

Orlando of his impending danger. He had a special affection for Orlando as he very much resembled his father. Hence, as soon as he saw Orlando, he broke into passionate exclamations: "O my gentle master, my sweet master, O you memory of old Sir Rowland! Why are you virtuous? Why are you gentle, strong and valiant? And why would you be so fond to overcome the famous wrestler? Your praise is come too swiftly home before you." Orlando could not comprehend what the matter was and the servant explained to him the reason for his concern stating the plan of his brother to burn him in his own chamber. Adam, as the servant was named, advised Orlando to flee the place; and he, knowing very well that Orlando had no money, brought him whatever money he had saved for future use. Saying that, he gave the gold amounting to five hundred crowns to Orlando and requested Orlando to allow him to be his servant and promised that though he looked old he would take good care of Orlando and work for him. Orlando was pleased and grateful at the faithfulness of Adam whom he addressed as 'good old man' and at once they set out with the promise that he would find some work before they had spent the savings that Adam had given him. The two, master and servant, travelled long till they reached the Forest of Arden and they were also as tired and hungry as the two sisters had been. They tried in vain to find a shelter and food and at last, when Adam could go no further Orlando carried him in his arms to the shelter of a tree and cheered him saying, "Good old man, rest your weary limbs here awhile, and do not talk of dying!"

Orlando then searched for food and by chance came upon the company of the duke and his friends. When Orlando reached there, it was dinner time. The duke had sat down for dinner. Orlando, finding food, drew his sword to grab the food from the duke and his men. He charged them not to touch a morsel. The duke was kind and asked him the reason for his rude behaviour. He wanted to know if it was due to hunger or did he despise the courtesy known to civil men. Orlando replied that as he was dying of hunger he had thought that in this wild forest he had to put up such behaviour in order to get food. The duke spoke to him kindly and asked him to sit down for dinner. Orlando then spoke of Adam and declared that though he was hungry he would not touch food unless Adam was fed. The duke told him to bring his friend and said that they would wait for them. Orlando went quickly, brought the old man and then both of them along with the duke had food to their satisfaction. Adam, on having food, regained his lost strength. After the dinner, the duke asked Orlando about him and when he came to know that Orlando was his friend's son, he took Orlando and Adam under his care.

After a few days while roaming in the forest, Ganymede and Aliena were surprised to see Rosalind's name carved on the bark of the trees and love sonnets, all addressed to Rosalind, attached to them. When they were wondering how it was possible in the forest to have Rosalind's name carved, they met Orlando and could easily recognize him as he was wearing the chain, given earlier by Rosalind, around his neck. But, Orlando could not recognize them because of their disguise. He discovered a likeness but there was a

disposition in fair Rosalind which was missing in the youth. Rosalind, on the other hand, teased him saying that she was in search of a certain youth who had spoiled the bark of trees by writing the name of his ladylove and attaching love poems to that effect. And she declared that if she found the lover she would have given him some advice.

Orlando told them that it was he who had done all these things, and requested Rosalind to give him some advice. Rosalind asked him to come to their cottage to play a game in which Rosalind in her male attire would feign to be his ladylove with all sorts of feminine pranks and whims; and Orlando would woo her as a genuine lover. When he would experience the whimsicality of the young lady loves, he would be ashamed of his love for her and thus be cured of love. So, as fixed, everyday Orlando came over to the cottage and wooed Ganymede as Rosalind; but it did not seem that Rosalind made any progress in curing Orlando of his love for Rosalind. Rather, she felt highly satisfied and amused to know how truly Orlando loved her.

The days passed pleasantly in this manner. Aliena, seeing Ganymede happy, did not remind her that the real reason for her coming to the forest was to find her father; though, by that time, from Orlando they had already got the location of the place where her father, the banished duke, was residing. However, one day, Ganymede met her father but did not disclose to him her true identity. When asked about it she said that she came of a good lineage as he did. Never did the duke suspect that she was his own daughter and had a royal lineage.

One morning, when Orlando was going to visit Ganymede, he saw a man lying asleep on the ground and a snake twisted round his neck. As he approached the snake glided away from the man. Then as Orlando went closer, he perceived a lioness in the bush, waiting for its prey to awake because lions don't attack the dead. When Orlando looked at the face of the man, he saw that the man was his own brother, Oliver, who had tried to get rid of him. He was about to go but brotherly affection prevented him to leave his brother in that danger. He fought the lioness and saved the life of his brother. Thus he saved the life of his brother from the venomous snake and the dangerous lioness, but before he could save his brother the lioness had torn one of his arms with her sharp claws.

While Orlando was engaged in the fight, his brother awoke and saw how the brother, he had despised and abused so much, fought with his life to save him from the lioness. He was full of remorse and after Orlando had killed the lioness, Oliver begged his mercy. Orlando seeing his brother repenting his deeds, readily forgave him and took him in his arms. But, as the wound made him weak, Orlando asked Oliver to give the message to Ganymede that he would not be able to visit her that day. Oliver went to their cottage and narrated to them the whole story. Moreover, he confessed his own misdeeds and also spoke of their reconciliation.

The sincere sorrow of Oliver was so overwhelming, that Aliena at once fell in love with him. Oliver, on the other hand, saw how she pitied him for his distress over his misdeeds and he, also, at the same time, fell in love. In the meantime, when Oliver and Aliena were exchanging hearts, Ganymede, on hearing about Orlando's wounds, fainted. When she recovered, she tried to convince Oliver that she had feigned the swoon as Rosalind would have done had she heard about the wounds of Orlando. But Oliver was not convinced as he perceived how pale Ganymede had been and he said, "Well, if you did counterfeit, take a good heart, and counterfeit to be a man." Ganymede replied that it was exactly what she was doing and that she should have been a woman instead of being a man.

Oliver returned after a long time and told his brother of the swooning of Ganymede and also of his love towards the shepherdess, Aliena. He spoke in such a manner as if he had already decided upon his marriage to Aliena. He also said that he would stay there in the forest and be a shepherd. As regards his estate, he would give the same to Orlando as well as his home.

Orlando suggested that Oliver and Aliena should get married the next day and he would invite the duke to their marriage. He also advised his brother to be quick to consult same with Aliena. When Oliver went to Aliena, Ganymede came to Orlando to enquire about his health.

Orlando and Ganymede talked of how Oliver and Aliena loved each other from their first sight and Orlando informed that his brother had gone to her to ask for her hand. They would get married the next day if Aliena was willing. He wished he could be also married on the same day to his fair Rosalind. Ganymede liked the proposal and said that if Orlando really loved Rosalind, he should have his wishes fulfilled. She said that she would try to bring Rosalind the next day by a special magical power which she had learnt from her uncle. When Ganymede said, "...put on your best clothes, and bid the duke and your friends to your wedding; for if you desire to be married tomorrow to Rosalind, she shall be here"; the fond lover could not believe his ears.

The next morning, both Oliver and Orlando came to the duke along with Aliena. The duke, surprised to hear that it was his own daughter to be brought there, asked Orlando if really the miracle could be done. As Orlando strived to answer, Ganymede came to the duke and asked if the duke would give his daughter in the hands of Orlando and he agreed. Then, she asked Orlando whether he would marry Rosalind if she be brought there. He said that he would. The two sisters went inside the cottage and put off their disguises.

When all the persons were eagerly waiting for a miracle to happen, Rosalind and Celia entered in their personas and Rosalind threw herself on her knees to her father for his blessings. Rosalind then related the whole episode of her banishment from the palace and their adventure to the forest in search of her father. The duke wept in joy to get back his

own daughter and gave all of them his heartiest blessings. The two couples got married in the forest. The marriage did not have the splendour of the royals but it was the happiest marriage that could ever be imagined. As they were having their venison, and thought that there was nothing more to be wanted at that time, a messenger arrived to inform the duke that his dukedom has been restored to him.

The Usurper, enraged at the flight of Celia, and hearing that men of great worth were following the banished duke to join him in the forest, resolved to put an end to this misery. Thus, he brought a huge army to execute his design to kill his brother but as providence would have it, he was completely changed by a hermit whom he met as he entered the forest. He, thus changed, decided to spend the rest of his days in a religious house after returning the dukedom to his brother, the real owner of the dukedom. The first act of the penitence was to send the messenger to his brother to restore to him his domain, and the followers as well as the lands and revenues.

This news, as unexpected and as it was welcome, came at a time to enliven the festivity and rejoicings of the two marriages. Celia complemented her cousin on the good fortune, which had happened to the duke and wished her joy, though she was now not the two cousins.

The duke now had the opportunity to reward the true followers who had stayed with him in his adversity, and the worthy followers were pleased to return with him to the palace of their lawful duke.

Word Notes

Usurper : a person who takes another person's title or position forcefully or illegally.

Deposed : removed from one's position Robin Hood of England

Adversities : difficulties

Discord : lack of agreement or harmony

Dissuade : advise not to do something

Ensuing : coming

Entreaties : requests

Valour : courage

Pleaded : requested

Attire : dress

Stout-hearted : strong-minded

Fatigue : tiredness

Vowed : promised

Impending : going to happen very soon

Valiant : courageous

Comprehend : understand

Grab : snatch

Morsel : a small piece of food

Despise : to hate

Teased : disturbed by saying unpleasant words

Feign : pretend

Pranks and whims : mischievous acts

Woo : to offer love

Banished : ordered to leave the place

Lineage : ancestry or pedigree

Perceived : realised

Venomous : poisonous

Repenting : feeling sorry

Reconciliation : compromise

Overwhelming : highly surprising

Swoon : faint

Counterfeit : pretend

Strived : attempted

Personas : appearances

Venison : meat from a deer

Penitence : sorrow, regret

Domain : area

Revenues : income from properties

Enliven : to make lively

Complemented : thanked



TWELFTH NIGHT



Chapter 3

Sebastian and Viola were identical twins. They were born in the same hour. Sebastian was a young man of Elysium and his twin sister was the lady of Messalina. They were on a voyage together when a shipwreck occurred at the coast of Illyria. Their ship was split on a rock in a violent tempest and both were on the verge of death. The Captain of the ship, along with a few sailors, somehow got to the land in a small boat. They rescued Viola and brought her to the shore. The poor lady, instead of being happy for her own safety, mourned for the death of her brother, Sebastian. But the Captain comforted her with the assurance that he had seen him during the tempest. When the ship split, Sebastian had fastened himself to a strong mast and managed to remain above the waves. Viola was much consoled and gathered hope from this account. She now thought how she would settle down in a foreign country, far away from home. So, she asked the Captain if he knew anything of Illyria. “Yes, very well,” said the Captain, “for I was bred and born not three hours travel from this place.” He also told her that Illyria was governed by Duke Orsino who was indeed a noble man. Viola was surprised. She said, “Orsino! I have heard my father name him. He was a bachelor then.” The Captain told her that the Duke remained a bachelor and was seeking the love of the beautiful Olivia, the daughter of a Count who died a year ago. The virtuous lady was left behind to the protection of her brother, who also died shortly after, and for the love of her dear brother she had abjured the sight and company of men. Viola who was herself in such emotional condition, for the probable loss of her brother, desired to live with this lady. She asked the Captain if he could introduce her to Olivia as she would willingly serve this lady. But he confessed that it would be a hard thing to accomplish because Lady Olivia would not allow any person to enter her house since her brother’s death, not even the Duke himself. Then, Viola thought of another plan which was in a man’s camouflage and that was to serve the Duke as a page. It was indeed a strange fancy in a young lady to dress herself as a young man and serve the duke, since Viola was young and of uncommon beauty, alone in a foreign land. Viola observed a fair behaviour from the Captain who showed friendly concern for her welfare and readily engaged to assist her. She gave him money and instructed him to provide her suitable dress of the same colour and of the same fashion her brother Sebastian

used to wear. When she dressed herself in the new clothes, she looked so exactly like her brother that some strange errors happened by means of their mistaken for each other, for Sebastian was also saved.

Viola's good friend had some interest in court and presented Viola in the disguise of a boy in the name of Cesario. The duke was pleased with the graceful appearance of this handsome youth and made Cesario one of his pages, the profession that Viola desired to be employed. She showed such ready observance and faithful attachment to her lord that she soon became his most favoured attendant. The duke even confided to Cesario the story of his love for Olivia, his long and unsuccessful attempts of courtship and that she even refused to allow the lord to her presence. The noble lady treated him with such unkindness that he passed his days in ignoble sloth, listening to the effeminate sounds of soft music, gentle airs and passionate love songs, and neglected the company of the wise and learned lords which he used to associate. All day long the duke talked with Cesario and his grave courtiers thought her to be the unmet companion of their noble master.

It was quite dangerous for young maidens to be confidant of a handsome duke which Viola very soon discovered to her sorrow. All that Orsino told her about his sufferance for love for Olivia, Viola soon realized that she suffered the same for her love of him. She wondered how Olivia could be so regardless of this for her peerless lord Orsino whom, she thought, no one could behold him without the deepest admiration. She even remarked that it was a pity the duke was in love of a lady who was blind to his worthy qualities. She told him, "If a lady were to love you, my lord, as you love Olivia, if you could not love her in return, would you not tell her that you could not love, and must she not be content with this answer?" But Orsino could not accept this reasoning. He said that no woman's heart was big enough to hold so much love, and therefore it was unfair to compare the love of any lady for him to his love for Olivia. Viola did not agree with this. She felt that her heart had as much love in it for Orsino as the duke had for Olivia. She knew very well how much women love men. "They are as true of heart as we are," said Viola. My father had a daughter, loved a man, as I perhaps, were I a woman, should love your lordship." When the duke was curious to know whether the lady died of love, Viola gave an evasive answer.

While they were talking, a gentleman entered. The duke had sent him to Olivia. He told the duke that he was not allowed to meet the gracious lady. But by her maid she sent the message for the duke that seven years from hence, even the element of Love would not be

allowed to see her face, while she would walk around the mansion with her face veiled like a cloister living nun and water the rooms of her house with her tears in remembrance of her dead brother. At this the duke told Viola, “You know Cesario, I have told you all the secrets of my heart; therefore good youth, go to Olivia’s house. Be not denied access; stand at her doors and tell her.” Olivia replied, “And if do speak to her, my lord, what then?” “Oh, then”, Orsino said, “Unfold to her the passion of my love.”

So Viola went away. However, she did not undertake courtship willingly, for she was to woo a lady to become a wife of the person whom she herself loved and desired to marry. But having undertaken the affair, she performed with fidelity. Olivia heard that a youth was at her door who insisted upon being admitted to her presence. The servant told Cesario that the lady was sick, but the latter persisted on meeting her. Curious to see who this peremptory messenger might be, Olivia wished that he might be admitted. Throwing the veil over her face, she declared she would once more listen to the duke’s message, as she had no doubt that he came from Orsino. Viola put on the manliest air that she could assume and courteously addressed the virtuous lady. Olivia asked her, “Are you a comedian?” “No”, replied Viola, “and I am not that which I play”. She meant to say that she as a woman but she feigned herself to be man. Viola again asked her, “Are you the lady of the house?” As Olivia confirmed it, Viola having utmost curiosity to see her rival’s beauty told her, “Good madam, let me see your face.” This bold request surprised Olivia but she complied with it and unveiled her face by saying: “Look you, sir, such a one I was, this present. Is it not well done?” Viola replied, “Excellently done, if God did all.”

She also told Olivia that her lord, the duke, loved the virtuous lady and such a love could scarcely be recompensed. Orsino used to love her with adoration and with tears and sighs of fire. Olivia replied, “Your lord knows well my mind. I cannot love him; yet I doubt not, he is virtuous; I know him to be noble and of high estate, of fresh and spotless youth. All voices proclaim him learned, courteous and valiant, yet I cannot love him; he might have taken his answer long ago.” Viola courteously said, “If I did love you as my master does, I would make a willow cabin at your gates, and call upon your name. I would write complaining sonnets on Olivia and sing them in the dead of night. Your name should sound among the hills, and I would make echo and cry out Olivia. You should not rest between the elements of earth and air, but you might pity me.” Then Olivia said, “You might do as much. What is your parentage?” At this Viola remarked, “Above my fortunes, yet my state is well, I am a gentleman.” Now Olivia reluctantly dismissed appeal of Viola and said, “Go

to your master, and tell him, I cannot love him. Let him send no more, unless by chance you come again to tell me how he takes it.”

So Viola departed from Olivia’s house but the virtuous lady recalled the parting words of the page. She wished Cesario to be the duke. Gradually she began to forget the inequality between her fortunes and that of the page and also of the maidenly reserve which is the chief ornament of a lady’s character. She thus resolved to court the love of young Cesario and sent a servant after him with a diamond ring under the pretence that Cesario had left it behind with her as a present from Orsino. She hoped by giving a present to Cesario artfully, she would give him some intimation of her intention. And truly, it made Viola suspect. She knew Orsino had not sent any ring through her to Olivia. So, she began to recollect her experience and found that Olivia’s looks and manner were expressive of admiration. She presently guessed that Olivia had fallen in love with her. “Alas,” she said, “the poor lady might as well love a dream. Disguise I see is wicked, for it has caused Olivia to breathe as fruitless sighs for me as I do for Orsino.”

Viola returned to Orsino’s palace and narrated about her unsuccessful venture repeating the command of Olivia that the duke should not trouble her any more. However, the duke hoped that the gentle Cesario would in time be able to persuade her and therefore he bade him to go to her again on the next day. In the meantime to pass away the tedious interval, Orsino desired for a song to be sung.

Viola did not fail to mark the words of the old song which described the pains of unrequited love. Her love looks were observed by Orsino who said to her, “My life upon it, Cesario, though you are so young, your eyes have look upon some face that it loves. Has it not boy?” Viola confessed, “A little, with your leave.” “And what kind of woman, and of what age is she?” asked the duke. “Of your age and of your complexion,” said Viola, which made the duke smile to hear this young boy loved a woman so much older, and of a man’s dark complexion.

When Viola revisited the house of Olivia, she found no difficulty in having access to her. The servants discovered that the moment Cesario arrived, the gates were thrown wide open and the duke’s page was shown into Olivia’s apartment with great respect. When Cesario told Olivia that he had come once more to plead for Orsino, Olivia said, “I desire you should never of him again; but if would undertake another suit, I would rather hear you solicit than music from the airs.” This was plain speaking but Olivia soon

expressed herself more plainly and openly and confessed her love. But the lady wooed in vain. Viola left the place with haste and told her that would never again come to plead for Orsino's love.

No sooner had Viola left the lady than a claim was made upon her valour. A gentleman, whose suit was rejected by Olivia, challenged Viola to fight a duel. Poor Viola, though dressed like a man, had a true woman's heart and so she feared to look at her own sword. When she saw the formidable opponent advancing towards her with open sword, she began to think of confessing to him that she was, actually, a woman, in the guise of a young boy. But she was relieved at once from terror and shame of discovery by a stranger who was passing by. He challenged her rival and said, "If this young gentleman has done any offence, I will take the fault on me, and if you offend him, I will accept for his sake and defy you." Before Viola had time to thank him for her protection or to inquire the reason for interference, the officers of justice came up in that instance and demanded an answer for an offence he had committed some years ago. The gentleman then turned towards Viola and said, "Now my necessity makes me ask for my purse and it grieves me much more for what I cannot do for you, than for what befalls myself. You stand amazed but of comfort." His words did surprise Viola and she protested that she did not know him, nor had she ever received any money from him. However, she offered him a small sum of money for the benevolence he just showed to her. The stranger became angry and charged her of ingratitude and unkindness. But the officers cared little for the complaints of their prisoner and hurried him off. As he was carried away, he called by the name of Sebastian reproaching him for disowning his friend. When Viola heard herself to be called Sebastian, she conjectured that she had been mistakenly identified with her brother. Besides, she began to cherish hope that it was her brother whose life this man had saved. The stranger, Antonio, was the captain of a ship. He rescued Sebastian and gradually became a friend of him. When the youth expressed curiosity to visit Orsino's court, Antonio came with him to Illyria though he knew that his life would be in danger as he had once dangerously wounded the duke's nephew. This was the offence for which he was now made a prisoner.

Antonio and Sebastian had landed together. He had given his purse to Sebastian desiring him to use it freely as the latter went to see the town. Since Sebastian did not return at the scheduled hour, Antonio had ventured to look out for him and found Viola, her identical twin sister in the guise of a young man, whom he mistakenly identified to be Sebastian. He

drew out his sword to save the youth. When Viola refused to recognize him and did not hand over the purse to him, she was accused of ingratitude.

When Antonio left, Viola returned home as fast as she could for she feared a second invitation to fight. No sooner had she left the place, her twin brother Sebastian reached there. Viola's adversary thought he saw her return and attacked him; but Sebastian was not a coward and he drew his sword to face the duel. Meanwhile, Olivia came out of her house. She also mistook Sebastian to be Cesario and invited him to come into the house. She expressed much sorrow for the rude attack he had to combat. Sebastian was as much surprised at the courtesy of the lady as at the rudeness of his unknown foe. However, he accepted the invitation and went into the house willingly. Olivia was delighted to find Cesario become more sensible of her attentions, for though his features were exactly the same like his sister, there was none of the contempt and anger to be seen in his face.

Sebastian did not oppose to the fondness that the beautiful lady lavished on him. He wondered if the lady was in her right senses, but perceiving that she was the mistress of the house and she ordered her affairs and seemed to govern her family discreetly, he well approved the courtship. Finding Cesario in such good humour, and fearing he might change his mind, Olivia proposed that they should get married immediately. Sebastian agreed to this proposal and their marriage was instantly solemnized. Soon after the marriage, Sebastian desired to go and tell his dear friend Antonio of the good fortune that he had met with. In the mean time Orsino came to visit Olivia. The moment he arrived before Olivia's house, the officers of justice, brought their prisoner, Antonio, before the duke. Viola accompanied her master. When Antonio saw Viola, whom he thought to be Sebastian, he told the duke in what manner he rescued the youth from the perils of the sea. He ended his complaint by saying that for three months this ungrateful youth had been with him.

Suddenly Olivia was seen coming out of the house. The duke could no longer hear the story of Antonio. He refused to believe in the story for the last months Cesario had been serving the duke. He ordered Antonio to be taken aside. Soon the duke heard words of kindness from Olivia for his page boy Cesario which gave the duke cause to accuse him with ingratitude alike Antonio and threatened him with instant death. It seemed that the duke out of jealousy and anger would doom Viola, yet her love made her no longer a coward. She told him that she would most joyfully suffer death to give her master ease. But Olivia would not lose her husband. She cried out: "Where goes my Cesario?" Viola

replied, "After him; I love more than my life." But Olivia stopped them by proclaiming that Cesario was her husband. She sent for the priest who declared that he solemnized marriage of the lady with this youth about two hours ago. Viola protested in vain that she was not married to Olivia. Just then a miracle occurred. Another Cesario appeared and he declared Olivia as his wife. The new Cesario was Sebastian, the real husband of Olivia and the brother of Viola. Everybody looked at the two identical twins, Sebastian and Viola, having the same face, the same voice and the same habit. Viola now acknowledged that she was a lady in disguise of a man.

When all the errors were cleared up they laughed at Olivia for the pleasant mistake she had made in falling in love with a woman, and Olivia also accepted heartily that she had wedded the instead of the sister. The hopes of Orsino were forever at an end with the marriage of Olivia. He now observed Viola with great attention and remembered that he had always thought how very handsome Cesario was. He also remembered how often she had said that she loved him. He concluded she would look very beautiful in a woman's dress. Hence, he resolved to make Viola his wife. He said to Viola: "Boy, you have said to me a thousand times that you should never love a woman like to me, and for the faithful service you have done for me so much beneath your soft and tender breeding, and since you have called me master so long, you shall now be your master's mistress, and Orsino's true duchess."

Olivia invited them to enter her house and offered the assistance of the good priest to solemnize the marriage of Orsino and Viola. Thus the twin bother and sister were both wedded on the same day. Viola became the wife of Orsino, the duke of Illyria, and Sebastian became the husband of the rich noble countess, Olivia.

Word Notes

Verge : very close

Abjured : renounce

Camouflage : disguise

Effeminate : unmanly

Peremptory : insisting on immediate obedience

Feigned : pretended

Unrequited : not returned

Page : young attendant

Conjectured : formed an opinion not based on firm evidence

Lavished : in large quantities

Solemnized : mark with a ceremony



OTHELLO



Chapter 4

Long time ago in Venice there was a rich Senator who was known as Brabantio. He had a beautiful daughter, the gentle Desdemona. She was sought by various suitors, both of her clime and complexion, but she found none of her choice. The noble lady, who regarded the heart more than the appearance and complexion of man, had chosen the person of her affections—a Moor, a dark complexioned nobleman, whom her father loved deeply and often invited him to their mansion. The noble Moor, Othello, was a valiant soldier and by his heroics in bloody wars against the Turks, he had been raised to the rank of the General and was highly esteemed and revered throughout the state.

Othello had been a great traveller and Desdemona was all the more keen to listen to the stories of adventure that Othello recollected from his experiences in the battles, sieges and encounters, the perils he had been exposed to, his hair-breadth escapes when he entered a breach, or marched up to the mouth of a cannon and how he had been captivated by the insolent enemy and sold as a slave, how he demeaned himself in that state, and escaped. Desdemona listened with rapt attention of all these accounts, added to the narration of the strange things Othello had seen in foreign countries: the vast wilderness and romantic caverns, the quarries, the rocks and lofty mountains that touched the clouds, the savage nations, the cannibals who are man-eaters, and of the Anthropophagi in Africa whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders. These stories enticed Desdemona so much that even if she was called for any household affairs, she would finish off the work with all haste and return to Othello with greedy ear to devour his discourse. At the end of his stories Desdemona would always sigh and then thank him and wished that if he had a friend who loved her, he had only to teach him, how to tell his story, and that would woo her. Upon this hint, delivered not with more frankness than modesty, and blushes, which Othello could not but understand and he spoke more openly of his love and thus gained the consent of the generous and gorgeous lady Desdemona to marry him.

Their marriage, which though was privately solemnized, could not be kept a secret for long. When the news reached Brabantio, he appealed to the Duke of Venice and prayed for justice against Othello accusing him of casting spell and witchcraft to seduce the gentle Desdemona, winning her heart and marrying her without taking the consent of her father.

Meanwhile, the state of Venice was in urgent need of Othello. The Senate received a news that the Turks had set sail a fleet with mighty preparation for hostility and they were moving

towards the island of Cyprus with the intent to regain it from the Venetians. In this state of emergency, Othello was deemed as the most competent General to defend Cyprus against the invasion of the Turks. Hence, Othello was summoned before the Senate. He was therefore called to the Senate both as a candidate for a noble employment and esteem as well as a culprit, charged with offences by Senator Brabantio.

The old Senator was heard with utmost patience in the assembly of the Senators and the infuriated father accused Othello in outrageous manner. Hence, when Othello was called upon for his defence, he had only to narrate a simple story of his love, which he did so in such artless eloquence that even the Duke had to confess that a tale so told would have won his daughter too. And the spells and conjurations which Othello had used in his courtship plainly appeared to have been no more than the honest arts of wooing and the only witchcraft which he had used is the skill of telling a soft tale to win a lady's heart.

The statement of Othello was confirmed by Desdemona who appeared in court and acknowledged that she was bound by duty to Brabantio for her life and education. But now she has a higher duty to perform for her lover and husband Othello, quite like her mother had done years ago in preferring Brabantio above her father. Unable to maintain his plea, Brabantio accepted the Moor as his son-in-law and told him that with all his heart he would keep her away from him. He was also glad that he had no other children, for this behaviour of Desdemona would have made him a tyrant and hang clogs on them for desertion. He even warned Othello about Desdemona who had deceived her father and might also deceive him.

After the trial, Othello readily went to the war in Cyprus along with Desdemona as she refused to stay with her father any more. She boldly declared, "I loved the Moor to live with him". So the newly married couple set sail for Cyprus. But, as soon they landed in Cyprus, the news arrived that a violent tempest had dispersed the Turkish fleet and the island was, thus, secure. But the war, which Othello was to suffer, was now beginning and the enemies which malice stirred up against Desdemona proved in their nature more deadly than strangers or infidels.

Among the friends of Othello, no one possessed his confidence more than Cassio. He was a young Florentine soldier, amorous, and of pleasing nature which attracted the women. He was handsome and eloquent. Any married man of advanced years having a young, beautiful wife would be much alarmed of such a person except Othello who was free from jealousy, as he was noble and incapable of suspecting him to be infidel. He had used

Cassio in his love affair with Desdemona for Othello feared that he lacked the amorous qualities of Cassio that would please ladies, and so would often depute Cassio to court for him; such innocent simplicity being rather an honour than a blemish to the character of the valiant Moor. It was therefore no wonder if, next to Othello, the gentle Desdemona loved and trusted Cassio. Hence, the marriage of this couple made little difference to their relationship with Cassio. He frequented their house, and his free and rattling talk was endearing to Othello for he himself was of a serious temper.

Othello had of late promoted Cassio to the rank of Lieutenant, a place of trust and nearest to the General. The promotion gave great offence to Iago, an elder nobleman, who thought he had a better claim than Cassio and would often scorn at Cassio to be a person befitting for the company of ladies, and knew little of the art of warfare. Iago hated Cassio. He also hated Othello for favouring Cassio and also for an unjust suspicion that the Moor was too fond of Emilia, Iago's wife. From these imaginary provocations, Iago conceived a scheme of revenge that would involve Cassio, Othello and Desdemona in one common ruin.

Iago was crafty. He studied human mind deeply. He knew that of all the kinds of afflictions that torment man, the pains of jealousy were the most unbearable and had the sorest sting. He thought if he could succeed in making Othello envious of Cassio, then it would be an excellent plot of revenge which might culminate in the death of Cassio or Othello or both, he cared little.

The arrival of the General and his lady in Cyprus, and receiving the news of the dispersion of enemy's fleet, created a sort of holiday mood in the island. Everybody was involved in feasting and merry making. Cassio had the direction of the guard that night with a charge from Othello to restrain the soldiers from drinking excessively. On that night Iago began his deep laid plans of mischief. Under the guise of loyalty and love to the General, he lured Cassio to have a drink, which was a great fault for an officer on guard. Although Cassio resisted initially, yet he soon fell into the guile of Iago. He swallowed wine glass after glass and became drunk. Provoked by Iago, he praised the gentle lady Desdemona. He even told Iago, "She is a most exquisite lady." At the end he got involved in a scuffle. Montano, a worthy officer, who interfered to pacify the dispute, was wounded in the scuffle. Taking advantage of the situation Iago spread the alarm causing the castle bell to be rung as if a dangerous mutiny had set in. The bell awakened Othello who dressed in haste came down to the scene of action and asked Cassio of the cause. By now, Cassio had regained some rationality, but was too ashamed to reply. Iago pretended to be reluctant to tell the truth, and, as if compelled by Othello, gave an account of the whole matter in such a manner that

it seemed to make Cassio's offence less, but actually made it appear greater than it was. Consequently, Othello who was a strict observer of discipline was forced to take away the rank of lieutenant from Cassio. Thus, Iago's first artifice succeeded. He had now undermined his hated adversary Cassio and was successful to thrust him out of his place.

Cassio, whom this misfortune had entirely sobered, now lamented to his seeming friend Iago :

“Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I have lost my reputation! I have lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial. My reputation, Iago, my reputation!” He despised himself. He thought how he could ask the General for his place again. Iago advised him to apply to the lady to mediate for him with her lord.

Cassio did as Iago advised him. Desdemona promised him that she would be his solicitor with her lord. She immediately set about for this cause in so earnest and pretty manner that Othello, who was mortally offended with Cassio, could not put her off. When he pleaded delay because it was too soon to pardon such an offender, she insisted that it should be the next night, or the next morning to that at farthest. Then she showed how penitent and humbled poor Cassio was and that his offence did not deserve punishment of such magnitude. But Othello still hung back. So she said, “What my lord, that I should have so much to do to plead for Cassio, Michael Cassio, that came a-courting for you, and often times when I have spoken in dispraise of you, has taken your part. I count this but a little thing to ask of you. When I mean to try your love indeed, I shall ask a weighty matter.” Othello could deny nothing to such a pleader. He promised to receive Michael Cassio again in his favour, but only requested Desdemona to leave the time to him.

It happened that Othello and Iago had entered into the room where Desdemona was already present with Cassio who had been imploring her intercession. He departed through the opposite door as Othello entered and Iago who was full of art said in a low voice, as if to himself, “I like not that.” Othello took no notice of what he said. The interaction which immediately took place with Desdemona put it out of his head. But he recalled it later. When Desdemona departed from the scene Iago asked Othello, as if mere satisfaction of his thought, whether Cassio knew of the General's courtship with Desdemona. The General replied in affirmative and added that he had gone between them very often during the courtship. Iago raised his brow, as if he had got a fresh light on some terrible matter and remarked, “Indeed!”. This brought into Othello's mind the words of Iago which he said while entering the room. Thus he began to think there was some meaning in that private meeting of Desdemona with Cassio. Othello deemed Iago to be a just man, full of love and

honesty. So he urged Iago to speak out of what he knew. “And what,” said Iago, “if some thoughts very vile should have intruded into my breast?” he went on to say that it would be a pity if any trouble would arise to Othello out of his imperfect observation. So it would not be wise for Othello’s peace to know his thoughts. By then Othello’s curiosity was raised almost to distraction and Iago, as if in earnest care of Othello’s mind, sought him to be cautious of envy. By the very caution he pretended to give him against suspicion. “I know,” said Othello, “that my wife is fair, loves company and feasting, is free of speech, sings, plays, and dances well: but where virtue is, these qualities are virtuous. I must have proof before I think her dishonest.” Then Iago, as if glad that Othello slow to believe ill of his lady, frankly declared that he had no proof. He begged Othello to observe her behaviour well particularly when Cassio was near by. He should not be jealous or too secure. Iago knew the disposition of the Italian ladies better than Othello. He knew that in Venice the wives would let the world see their pranks but they dared not show their husbands. Iago craftily insinuated that Desdemona deceived her father in marrying with Othello and carried it so closely that old Brabantio thought that witchcraft had been used. Othello was much moved by this argument. He wondered if she could deceive her father, she might deceive her husband as well.

Iago begged apology for having moved him. But Othello urged him to go on. Iago pretended that he was reluctant to produce anything against Cassio. However, he reminded Othello how Desdemona had rejected many suitable matches of her own clime and complexion and married him, which showed unnatural in her and proved to have a strong will. So when better judgment returned, how probable it was that she would fall upon comparing Othello with the white complexioned young Italians of her nation. He therefore advised Othello to put off his reconciliation with Cassio a little longer. Meanwhile Othello should note with what earnestness Desdemona would solicit for Cassio. So mischievously the treacherous villain laid his plots to turn the gentle qualities of the innocent lady into her destruction, and make a net of her own goodness to entrap her: first by setting on Cassio to entreat her for mediation, and then out of the mediation contriving stratagems for her ruin.

Othello’s long conversation with Iago led him to restlessness. Neither poppy, nor the juice of mandragora nor all the sleeping potions of the world could once again restore to him that sweet rest which he had enjoyed only yesterday. His occupation sickened him. He could not fight delight in arms. His heart that used to be roused at the sight of troops would no longer stir at the sound of drums or the neighing of war horses. He seemed to have lost

all that pride and ambition which are the virtues of a soldier. Sometimes he thought his wife to be honest. Again he wondered that she was not. At times he thought Iago to be just, but at times he thought the contrary. Thus, he was pieces with these distracting thoughts. Once he laid hold on Iago's throat and demanded proof Desdemona's guilt or threatened instant death for his having belied her. Iago feigned indignation that his honesty was misinterpreted to be a vice. He pointed out if Othello had seen a handkerchief in the hand of Desdemona that was strawberry spotted and Othello acknowledged that it was his first gift to Desdemona. "That same handkerchief," said Iago, "did I see Michael Cassio this day wipe his face with." Othello replied, "If it be as you say, I will not rest till wide revenge swallow them up: first, for a token of your fidelity, I expect that Cassio shall be put to death within three days; and for that fair devil, I will withdraw and devise some swift means of death for her."

Othello did not care to enquire how Cassio came by with the handkerchief of Desdemona. He passed death sentence upon both of them. Desdemona had never given such a present to Cassio; nor would this constant lady have ever wronged her husband with doing so naughty a thing as to give her lord's presents to another man. The shrewd Iago used his wife, Emilia, to steal the handkerchief from Desdemona and drop it in Cassio's way where it might and thereby provide evidence to Iago's suggestion that it was Desdemona's present.

Soon after the meeting with Iago, Othello pretended that he had headache and longed her to lend him her handkerchief to hold on to his temples. Desdemona did so but Othello wanted the handkerchief which gave her. Desdemona could not find it. "That's a fault," said Othello. "That handkerchief was given to my mother by an Egyptian woman. She was a charmer and could almost read the thoughts of people; she told her while she kept it, it would make her amiable, and subdue my father entirely to her love; but if she lost it, or made a gift of it, my father's eye should hold her loathsomely." The lady said, "Is it possible?" Othello replied, "It is true. It is a magical handkerchief." Desdemona was ready to die with fear for she plainly perceived that she had lost it and with it, she feared, the love of her husband. She tried to divert him from too serious thoughts. She cheerfully told him that all his talk about the handkerchief was only to put her off from Cassio's suit and went on to praise him until Othello in perfect distraction burst out of the room. Then Desdemona began to suspect that her lord was jealous of Cassio.

When Othello and Desdemona met again he accused her more plainly of being unfaithful and of loving another man. Othello wept and told her that he could have borne all sorts of evils-poverty, disease and disgrace- with fortitude but her infidelity had broken his

heart. He called her a weed that looked so fair and smelled so sweet that the sense ached at it. He wished she had never been born. When Othello left her, Desdemona was so stupefied at her husband's untrue suspicion of her that a weight like sleep came over her. She only desired that her attendant to make her bed and to lay her bed sheets upon it. She said that when people teach their babies, they do it by gentle means and easy tasks and Othello might have chided her so; for in good faith she was but a child.

Desdemona soon fell asleep. Othello entered the room full of dark purpose which he had meditated of putting her lady to death. When he saw her asleep he thought he would not shed her blood, but he was resolved that should die else she would live to betray more as she had done him. Then he kissed her for the last time and he wept but he said they were cruel tears.

Desdemona was awakened by his kisses. She looked upon Othello and she saw him gnaw his lips and roll his eyes. She knew he was always fatal when he looked so. He told her to prepare for death and to say her prayers for he would not kill her soul. Desdemona begged for mercy and to know her fault. Then she named Cassio and the handkerchief which he said she had given him, and the guiltless lady was proceeding to clear herself but suddenly he would hear no more and covering her up in the bed clothes, stifled her till death.

At the same time Cassio came in, wounded and bleeding. Iago had set one of his men to assassinate him but the fellow was unable to kill Cassio. He was killed by Iago to prevent discovery. In his pockets were found certain letters which exposed the guilt of Iago and confirmed the innocence of Cassio who now came to Othello to beg apology and also to ask him the reason why Iago had been employed to murder him.

The discovery was like a thunder stroke to Othello who now felt he was no better than a murder and that his lady was innocent and faithful. Extreme anguish made life intolerable and killed himself and fell upon the lifeless body of his dear wife.

These rash acts raised much horror and passion among the bystanders. Othello had borne a fair reputation and until he was wrought upon by the art of a villain, he was indeed a loving and doting husband. He had loved Desdemona not wisely, but too well. When he was dead all his former merits and valiant acts were remembered. Iago was executed with strict tortures and the state of Venice lamented for the demise of their renowned General Othello.

Word Notes

Siege : a military operation to capture a town

Insolent : rude and disrespectful

Anthropophagi : a mythical race of cannibals

Devour : read or listen to some story eagerly

Seduce : persuade someone to do something unwise

Conjuration : make some thing appear in the mind

Blemish : a small flaw

Dispersion : go in different direction

Intercession : the action of intervening on behalf of someone

Disposition : the natural qualities of a person's character

Mandragora : a type of a plant whose root when eaten causes hallucination

Loathsomely : hatefully

Suit : the process of trying to win a woman's affection with a view to marriage

Infidelity : disloyalty

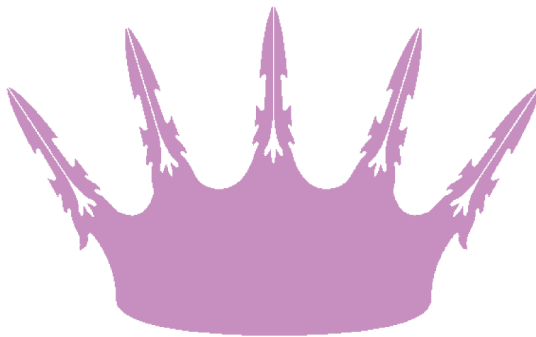
Chided : scolded

Gnaw : cause pain

Wrought : made



MACBETH



Chapter 5

When Duncan was the king of Scotland, there lived a brave General who was looked up to with high esteem throughout. Scotland for his great valour and skill in wars. He was also a close relative of the old king. He was Macbeth, the thane of Glamis. Of late, he defeated a rebel army assisted by the troops of Norway, in great numbers.

The two Scottish Generals, Macbeth and Banquo, were returning from the great battle. There was thunder and lightening. On the way they were stopped by the strange appearance of three figures that looked like women, except that they had beards, and their withered skin and wild dresses made them look like unearthly creatures. They were dancing, they were singing :

“Fair is foul, and foul is fair
Hover through the fog and filthy air.”

As they saw the two Generals, the first witch saluted Macbeth with the title of ‘thane of Glamis’. The general was scarcely startled to find himself known by such creatures. The second witch addressed him as the ‘thane of Cawdor’ to which he had no pretensions; and the third told him, “You will be the king of Scotland hereafter.” Such a prophetic greeting might well amaze him for he knew that as long as the king’s sons survived, he could scarcely hope to succeed the throne. By this time, Banquo was curious to know the reason why the witches had little to say about him whereas they kindled hope in the heart of his dearest friend. So the witches turned towards Banquo and told him in somewhat riddling terms: to be lesser than Macbeth and greater, not so happy but much happier. They also prophesied that although Banquo would never reign as the king of Scotland, yet his successors would be the kings. And then they turned into thin air and vanished, by which the Generals realized the weird sisters to be witches.

While they stood there pondering on the strangeness of this adventure, there arrived certain envoys, from the king, who were empowered to confer upon Macbeth the title of the thane of Cawdor. It was an event so miraculously corresponding with the predictions of the witches that Macbeth stood there wrapped in amazement, unable to respond to the greetings of the envoys. Hopes began to swell in his heart as he was now thinking of the

prediction of the third witch. Turning to Banquo, he said, “Do you not hope that your children will be the kings of the future, since, what the witches promised to me has so wonderfully come to pass?” “That hope,” replied Banquo, “might enkindle you to aim at the throne, but often times these ministers of darkness tell us truths in little things to betray us into deeds of greatest consequence.”

However, the prophesies of the witches had sunk too deep into the mind of Macbeth. He told his wife about the predictions of the three witches and also its partial accomplishment. Lady Macbeth was an extremely ambitious woman. She spurred on the reluctant purpose of Macbeth who felt compunction at the thought of blood. She did not cease to represent the murder of the king as a step absolutely necessary to the fulfillment of the flattering prophesies. It happened that at this time King Duncan came to visit Macbeth’s castle along with his two sons, Malcolm and Donalbain and numerous thanes and attendants to honour Macbeth for his triumph against the rebels.

Inverness, the castle of Macbeth was pleasantly situated on a hill and the air about it was sweet and wholesome. The nests that the swallows or the marlets had built under all the jutting friezes and buttresses of the building. The king was extremely pleased as he entered the palace not only for its wonderful ambience but also due to the attention and respect of his hostess, Lady Macbeth, who had developed the art of camouflaging her treacherous purposes with smiles and charming etiquette.

Tired of his long journey the king went early to bed. It was the middle of the night. Now over half the world’s nature seemed dead and wicked dreams abuse sleeping men’s minds, and none but the wolf or the murderer is out for hunt. This was the time when Lady Macbeth woke up to plot the murder of the king. She would not have undertaken a deed so abhorrent to her sex and she was well aware of her husband’s nature that was too full of the milk of human kindness to execute a contrived murder. She knew that her husband was ambitious but he was not prepared for the height of crime which commonly accompanies inordinate ambition. She had won his consent about the murder but she doubted his resolution and she feared the natural tenderness of his disposition could defeat the purpose. So armed with a dagger she approached the king’s chamber. There she found Duncan in sound sleep and as she viewed him earnestly, there was something in his face which resembled her own father. Thus she had not the resolution to proceed further.

She returned to confer with her husband. He thought there were strong reasons against the

murder. Macbeth was not only a subject but also a close relative to Duncan. Besides, he had been a host to the king; so his duty would be to protect the king from the threat of the murderers, not to bear the dagger himself. He also thought how just and benevolent a king was Duncan, how clear of offence to his subjects, how loving to his nobility that their subjects were doubly bound to avenge his death. Moreover, by the favours of the king, Macbeth stood high in the opinion of all sorts of men and how could those honours be stained by the reputation of so foul a murder!

In these conflicts of the mind Lady Macbeth found that her husband had resolved to proceed no further. But she was a woman not easily shaken from her evil purpose. She began to pour in at his ears words which infused a portion of her own spirit into his mind, assigning reason upon reason why he should not shrink from the resolution he had earlier undertaken and how the action of one night would give their all the coming days and nights to come sovereign power and royalty. She even accused him of cowardice and fickleness for reverting to his decision. She also told him how practicable it would be to lay the guilt of the deed on the drunken grooms who were sleeping in the king's chamber.

So Macbeth took the dagger in his hand and softly stole in the dark to the room where Duncan slept. As he advanced towards the bed-chamber he visualized another dagger hanging in the air with the handle pointed towards him and there were drops of blood on the tip and the blade of the dagger. Macbeth tried to grasp the dagger but it faded in to the air. It was only a phantasm created from his hot and oppressed brain for the business he had in hand.

Overcoming this fear, Macbeth entered Duncan's room and slew the hapless king with one stroke of the dagger. Just as he was about to leave the room, one of the grooms who were sleeping in the chamber, laughed and the cried out, "murder" for which both of them woke up; but then, one of them said, "God bless us" and the other responded, "Amen" and went off to sleep. Macbeth also tried to say "Amen" but the word seemed to be struck in his throat and he could not utter. He felt that he heard a voice which said, "Sleep no more; Macbeth murders sleep, the innocent sleep that nourishes life. Glamis has murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor shall therefore sleep no more. Macbeth shall sleep no more."

Macbeth thus returned to his wife who by now had started to think that he had failed in his objective. He came in such distracted state that she reproached for his want of resoluteness and sent him to wash his hands of the blood that stained them. Meanwhile

she took the dagger to stain the cheeks of the grooms with blood in order to make it seem their guilt.

Day broke and with it was the discovery of the murder and though Macbeth and his wife showed their outmost grief and the evidence of murder were sufficiently strong against the grooms, yet the entire suspicion fell upon Macbeth. Duncan's two sons fled immediately. Malcolm, the elder, sought for refuge in the English court while Donalbain, the younger son fled to Ireland. With the death of the king the throne being vacated and the sons being unavailable, Macbeth who was the next heir was crowned the king of Scotland. Thus the prediction of the weird sisters was literally accomplished.

Macbeth and his queen could not forget prophesy of the weird sisters that though Macbeth would be the king but the children of Banquo and not of Macbeth would be the kings after him. The thought, that they had defiled their hands with blood by committing regicide, only to place the posterity of Banquo upon the throne had rankled within them. So they decide to kill Banquo and his son Fleance to nullify the prediction of the weird sisters. For this purpose they arranged a banquet to which they invited all the chief thanes along with Banquo and Fleance. Macbeth appointed some hired assassins and beset them on the way Banquo and his son were supposed to pass. The assassins pounced upon them and killed Banquo, but Fleance managed to escape.

Meanwhile, Macbeth and his wife played the role of perfect host with affable and graceful manners that conciliated everyone present in the banquet. Macbeth discoursed freely with the thanes and noblemen and regretted the absence of his dearest friend Banquo. No sooner did he lament for his friend whom he was missing in the banquet, Macbeth saw the ghost of Banquo occupying the seat reserved for him. At this horrible sight, his cheeks became white with fear and he stood quite unmannered with his eyes fixed upon the ghost. His queen and all other nobles saw nothing, but perceived him gazing upon an empty chair. They took it to be a fit of distraction and Lady Macbeth even reproached him and told him it was the same fancy which made him see the dagger in the air when he about to murder Duncan. But Macbeth continued to visualize the ghost of Banquo and gave no heed to all the noblemen could say and addressed the ghost with distracted words. Lady Macbeth fearing the dreadful secret would be disclosed, in great haste dismissed the guests excusing the infirmity of Macbeth.

Macbeth and his wife had their sleeps affected with terrible dreams and the blood of

Banquo troubled them not more than the escape of Fleance whom they now looked upon as father to a line of kings who would keep their posterity out of the throne. With these thoughts they found no peace and Macbeth decided to visit the heath once more in search of the three weird sisters to know his final outcome.

He found them in a cave near the heath where they were engaged in preparing their charms in which they conjured up infernal spirits to reveal them futurity. Their horrid ingredients were toads, bats and serpents, the eye of a newt, the tongue of a dog, the leg of lizard, the wing of a night-owl, the scale of a dragon, the tooth of a wolf, the mummy of a witch, the root of hemlock, the gall of a goat, the liver of a Jew and the finger of a dead child. All these were set on to boil in huge cauldron which was cooled with baboon's blood; to these they poured in the blood of a sow that had eaten her young, and they threw into the flame the grease that had sweeten from a murderer's goblet. By these charms they bound the informal spirits to answer their questions.

Macbeth demanded to know from them whether he would he would have his doubts resolved by them or by their masters, the spirits. He was not daunted by the ceremonies that he saw and boldly said, "Where are they? Let me see them." So they called the spirits. There were three of them. The first one looked like an armed head, called Macbeth by name and told him, "Beware of the thane of Fife." Macbeth thanked him for the caution. He was envious of Macduff, the thane of Fife.

The second spirit arose in the likeness of a bloody child. He called Macbeth by name and told him to have no fear of death but to laugh and scorn at the power of man born naturally born of a woman's womb. He advised him to be bold, bloody and resolute. "Then live Macduff," remarked the king, "what need do I fear of you, Macduff? But I will make assurance doubly sure. You will not live so that I can tell the pale-hearted Fear that it lies, and sleep in spite of thunder."

A spirit arose in the form of a crowned child with a tree in his hand. He also called Macbeth by name, comforted him against conspiracies and told him that he could never be vanquished until the woods of Birnam to Dunsinane Hill would come against him.

"Who can unfix the forest and move it from its earth bound roots?" said the king. "I see I shall live the usual period of man's life and not to be cut off by a violent death. But my heart throbs to know one thing: tell me, if you can tell me so much, if Banquo's issue shall ever reign in this kingdom."

Here the cauldron sank into the ground and a noise of music was heard, and eight shadows like kings passed by Macbeth, and Banquo was the last figure, all smeared with blood, and smiled at Macbeth. Banquo bore a glass which showed the figured of many more and pointed to the images. Macbeth realized that these were the posterity of Banquo who should reign after him in Scotland. The three witches danced with a sound of soft music, and making a show of duty and welcome to Macbeth, vanished in the air.

The first news that Macbeth got soon after coming out of the witches cave was that Macduff, the thane of Fife, had fled to England to join the army which was formed against him under the leadership of Malcolm to displace Macbeth and set Malcolm, the right heir, upon the throne of Scotland. Stung with rage, Macbeth set upon the castle of Macduff. Macduff's wife and children, whom the thane had left behind in Scotland, were brutally slaughtered. These merciless activities had gradually alienated the nobility from Macbeth. Many fled to join Malcolm and Macduff who were now approaching with a powerful army which had been raised in England, and the rest secretly wished success to their arms though for fear of Macbeth they could not take active part. Everybody hated Macbeth, the tyrant. Nobody honoured him but all suspected him and he began to envy the condition of Duncan who now slept soundly in his grave and against whom treason had done its worst. Neither steel nor poison, domestic malice or foreign levies, could hurt him any longer.

Meanwhile the queen who had been the sole partner in his wickedness, on whose bosom he could sometimes seek a momentary repose from those terrible dreams which affected them both, passed away. Unable to bear the remorse of guilt and as she suffered from somnambulism she ultimately committed suicide. Macbeth was left alone; he grew careless of life and longed for death. The new approach of Malcolm's army roused in him what remained of his ancient courage, and he was determined to die with armour. The hollow promises of the three witches had also filled in him a kind false confidence and remembered the prophesies of the spirits that no one born of a woman's womb could kill him. He also believed in the soothsaying that he could never be vanquished until Birnam woods would come to Dunsinane which he thought was impossible. So he shut himself up in his own castle which was thought to be absolutely impregnable and waited for Malcolm to invade it.

Finally, a day came, when a messenger approached him, pale and trembling with fear,

almost unable to report to Macbeth of what had seen and yet averred that, as he stood on the hill for his watch, he chanced to see the Birnam and perceived the woods to be moving. “Liar”, roared Macbeth, “if you speak false, you will be hanged alive upon the next tree till famine ends your life.”

By now Macbeth had begun to doubt the equivocal sayings of the three spirits. He never feared of being vanquished till Birnam woods would advance towards Dunsinane, and now the woods did move. “However,” said Macbeth, “if this which he vouches be true, let us take us arms and move out. There is no fleeing from hence, nor staying in here. I begin to weary of the sun and wish my life is at an end.” Saying these he sallied forth upon the besiegers who had now reached the castle.

The strange sight of the moving woods was easily solved. When the besieging army advanced towards the castle through the woods of Birnam, Malcolm like an astute general instructed all his soldiers to hew down a bough and bear it before him so that he could conceal the actual number of invaders to Macbeth. This marching of soldiers with boughs in their hands had appeared, from a distance, like moving woods and the messenger was evidently frightened. Thus the words of the spirits bought to pass, in a sense different from that in which Macbeth understood and so he lost his confidence.

A fierce skirmish took place in which Macbeth slaughtered all those who challenged him until he faced Macduff and remembering the caution of the spirit who had counseled him to stay away from the thane of Fife, he would have turned back but Macduff who had been seeking him through the whole fight, opposed his turning, and a fierce contest ensued. Macduff reproached him and called him a tyrant, murderer, hell- hound and a villain for brutally slaughtering his wife and his innocent children. Then Macbeth remembered the words of the spirit and boldly proclaimed, “I bear a charmed life which must not yield to a man born naturally of a woman.” At this Macduff snubbed him and declared that never born of a woman, never as the ordinary man is naturally born, but was untimely taken out from his mother’s womb.

Macbeth lost his strength and resoluteness. He lamented,” in future a man should never believe the lying equivocations of witches and juggling spirits who deceive us in words that have double meanings; and while they keep their promises literally, they disappoint us by providing different meanings.” He then refused to fight against Macduff. Macduff who abhorred him, scornfully told him that they would imprison him and demonstrate him to the

laity as a tyrant, quite like the way monsters are displayed. “Never.” said Macbeth, “I will not live to kiss the ground before young Malcolm’s feet.” His valiance returned with despair and he threw upon Macduff who after a vicious struggle overpowered him and severed his head and presented it to the young and lawful new king. Malcolm, then, ascended the throne amid acclamations of the noblemen and the people of Scotland.

Word Notes

Esteem : respect and admiration

Thane : the title given to a royal official in medieval Scotland

Prophesied : predicted

Envoy : messenger

Spurred : encouraged

Compunction : a feeling of guilt that prevents wrong-doing

Freize : wooden fabric

Abhorrent : detestable

Inordinate : excessive

Phantasm : what exists in the imagination.

Somnambulism : sleep-walking

Impregnable : unable to be captured

Skirmish : a brief fight

Vouches : confirms that something is true or accurate

Reproached : scolded

Equivocations : use of language with double meanings



ENGLISH
FOR
SPECIFIC PURPOSE

Chapter 6

English for Specific Purpose

English is accepted as a familiar medium of communication in the international arena. In this age of globalization, market expansion and consumerism, the importance of English as a communication tool is rapidly increasing. English is now in demand as a specific skill for a specific purpose, such as English for the entrepreneurs, English for the sales personnel, English for the medical professionals, English for the corporate sectors, English for the engineers and the technocrats—and so on for each specific professional field. That is why, English for Specific Purpose is an important module to be taught in our classes.

With this intention, the Board of Studies in English of West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education and the State Government Expert Committee on School Education have decided to include ESP as an integral part of the new syllabus. There are some specific terms, some syntactical patterns, some techniques which are typical to the specific field where the language is being used. The language used in a classified advertisement in a newspaper can never be the same as that of a commercial leaflet; the tone and pitch of a business letter is widely different from that of an official circular. It is desired that the students should know these nuances of the language to meet the linguistic demands of their specific fields.

REPORT WRITING

Report is a statement of facts based on observation and investigation. It is prepared to communicate specific information. There are three main types of report :

- a) Eye-witness reports : These give an account of what was actually seen or experienced.
- b) Work-reports : These are of three kinds-(i) Progress report on work (ii) Completion report on final progress, and (iii) Single report on work of limited scope or duration.
- c) Investigation reports : These are of two kinds-(i) Information reports, detailing and analysing findings and showing their significance, (ii) Recommendation reports advising an action to be taken as well as giving information.

We are mostly familiar with Newspaper reports; and the essential features of these reports are:

- i) They must have a short and catchy heading
- ii) There must be reference to the place and date
- iii) The reporter should merely give facts and not personal opinion.

A Business Report conventionally contains the following parts :

- a) Suitable title
- b) Terms of reference
- c) Proceedings
- d) Findings
- e) Conclusions
- f) Recommendations

Some reports may have other parts :

- Table of contents
- Summary (the key points and main aim of the report)
- List of symbols, abbreviations and definitions.
- Acknowledgements (people who helped)
- References (documents and published materials consulted)
- Appendices (for table, figures, graphs, questionnaires).

In the following pages you have some examples of Newspaper Reports, followed by some Business Reports.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS

Observe how the given points are developed into newspaper reports :

Points :

Nobel prize awarded to Dr. Amartya Sen, an Indian expert on poverty – prize awarded to welfare economics – Dr. Amartya Sen’s reaction to the prize – Dr. Sen’s prize as an honour to India – places where Dr. Sen taught and his work on poverty and famine

India’s Pride

Stockholm, Oct. 14 : Dr. Amartya Sen, an Indian expert on poverty and hunger and the Master of Britain’s Trinity College, Combridge, on Wednesday won the Noble Prize for Economics.

He was awarded the prestigious prize “for his contributions to welfare economics,” which have helped in the understanding of the economic mechanism underlying famines and poverty, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in its citation.

“Sen, who has taught both economics and philosophy, has restored an ethical dimension to the discussion to the discussion of vital economic problems.” the academy said.

“I was surprised and quite pleased when I got call,” Dr. Sen said in New York. “But I was even more pleased when they told me the subject matter was welfare economics, a field I have long been very involved in. I am pleased that they gave recognition to that subject.”

Dr. Sen downplayed his Nobel achievement, saying there were many others who deserved the prize and he wished he could share it with them. Dr. Sen was in New York to deliver a lecture on Thursday on Pakistani economist Mahbub-ul Haq. With characteristic humility. Dr. Sen said there were many economists who had worked on this subject and “it is a tragedy we can’t all share the award.”

Asked if he thought this was an honour for India, he said, “I don’t know that. There are many Indians who have received the Nobel Prize. There are many honours and this is one. What pleases me most is that the subject has received recognition.”

Dr. Sen heard about the prestigious award when he received a call at 4 a.m. in his hotel room. “I thought there was some emergency when the phone rang,” he laughed.

Dr. Sen was born in Bengal in 1933 and is still an Indian Citizen. He left his professorships in economics and philosophy at Harvard University this year to become Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The prize, officially known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, is worth 7.6 million crowns (\$ 960,000) this year.

Dr. Sen, 64, has done work including studying the Bangladesh famine of 1974 and other catastrophes in India, Bangladesh and countries of the Sahara.

His work deals with development economics, the study of the welfare of the world’s poorest people. His best-known work, Detailed in his 1981 book, *An Entitlement Deprivation*, challenges the common view that the shortage of food is the most important explanation of famine.

Exercise

1. Write a newspaper report on the arrest of rival gangs by the police.
2. Write a newspaper report on the seizing of large quantities of crackers by the police.
3. Write a newspaper report on the arrest of Puja Committee members on extortion charges by the police.
4. Write a newspaper report on the death of three people by lightning in Medinipur

BUSINESS REPORTS

1. Report indicating the causes of fall in sales of fruit products in Kamrup districts:

From

A. Sengupta

District Sales Officer

Nadia

West Bengal

April 20 2015

The Regional Sales Manager

Rich Fruit Products Limited

A. N. Banerjee Road

Kolkata

West Bengal

Dear Sir,

Sub: Report on the fall of sales in Nadia District

Vide your Memo no. 43 /Dst-Sl 199

With reference to aforesaid Memo of April 3, 2015 a report on the above subject has been prepared on the basis of market survey. The report is attached for your attention.

Should you require any further clarification/ information, please write. The undersigned would furnish them at the earliest.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

(R. Mishra)

District Sales officer

Enc : Report

REPORT ON SALES DECLINE

On the basis of market survey and information collected by the sales representatives, the following facts may be underlined for the sudden fall of sales of our company's fruit product.

1. Massive Drought : The entire Nadia district experienced severe drought last year. 90% Population of this district being agriculturists, their purchasing power has been crippled. Another effect of drought is the excessive high price of essential commodities. Evidently, people have to sacrifice the consumption of fruit products to cope with this problem.

2. Unwilling Retailers : The drought situation affected the retail sales of the all commodities, including essential goods. Judging the market condition, retailers were unwilling to block their capital in fruit products. Of course, a few of them wanted to stock but demanded 10% more commission. This demand also stood in our way to sell more.

3. New Competitors : It is further brought to your attention that a new company under the name "Joy and Enjoy" entered in this market last year. That company has adopted massive advertisement and publicity. The new company has arranged door-to door sales and offering 30% discount. The company is manufacturing and selling all of our items. Moreover, the company is offering utensil as gift on each purchase. This offer has also dampened the sale of our product.

4. Customer Complaint : Lastly, some retailers have complained against lasting effect of our Juice and Squash item. These retailers have expressed their unwillingness to stock, particularly those two products, in bulk.

It is felt that these factors are the causes behind the fall in sales of our fruit products in Kamrup District, Assam. Necessary information may be referred to from Annexure.

(R. Mishra)

District Sales Officer

Enc : 2 (two)

- i) Annexure -I
- ii) Annexure -II

Report suggesting means to boost up the sales of tinned coffee in Kolkata :

From
S. Mahapatra
District Sales Officer
Kolkata District

January 15 2016

The Regional Sales Manager
Reliable Company Limited
Bodh Gaya Marg
Patna
Bihar

Dear Sir,

Sub: Report to boost up the sales of tinned coffee

Please refer to your Memo No. SI/R-49/99 dated December 10,2010 on the above subject. The Report with necessary facts is attached for your attention.

Should you require any further clarification/information, please write. The undersigned would furnish them at the earliest.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

(S. Mahapatra)

District Sales officer

Enc : Report as stated above

REPORT TO ENHANCE SALES

On the basis of market survey and the information gathered from the sales representatives of our company, the undersigned presents below a few suggestions to consider for implementation.

1. Intensive Advertisement and Publicity : Ours is a new product. Already two established companies are selling tinned coffee in Kolkata market. Particularly, X Co's product is well-known to the Kolkatans. It is submitted, therefore, wide publicity and massive advertisement have to be resorted to enter into the market. Hoardings at north and south Kolkata have to be utilised catchy slogan. Cinema slide has to be used, particularly

to draw attention of all income groups. Advertisement has to be given in the largest circulated daily also.

2. Attractive Package : It has been observed the people in general are not happy with the pack. Kolkatans give weightage to attractive look of the pocket. Hence, instead of tinned pack, the company has to think over some other type of attractive container.

3. Buyers' Discounts : With a view to popularising the product, some household utensils may be given to each buyer as a gift. This scheme should continue for a month and massive publicity has to be given so as to inform people of this gift sheme. Subsequently, 10% discount on retail price of coffee may be introduced. It may be allowed to continue for a few months. This may enable the company to establish itself in the market.

4. Retailers' Commission : Container coffee of two companies has already occupied the Kolkata market. It is felt, therefore, a high rate of discount may be offered to the retailers to encourage them stock our goods. Besides, offer of 90 days' credit would encourage the retailer for bulk purchase.

5. Incentives to the sales representatives : In order to encourage our sales representatives to push the product, a scheme of bonus may also be introduced for them. Cash bonus may be paid quarterly on sales above a minimum garget.

It is hoped that above suggestions would receive your attention.

(S. Mahapatra)
District Sales officer
Kolkata District

REPORT FROM POINTS GIVEN

◆ Some examples :

1. Write a report based on the following points :

Your visit to Ladakh with your classmates and teachers—you stayed in a camp near Buddhist monastery—your discussion on Buddhist religion, architecture, geographical situation—scenes of wild animals and birds—other activities the local people—coming back.

Ans. Sujoy Mukherjee of Ranigunj reports on his visit to Ladakh:

Ladakh is a beautiful place. It attracts thousands of tourists. It's lovely green valleys, gardens, lakes, fountains, celebrating climate—all create an indelible impression on the minds of the visitors and tourists. This summer, we too decided to visit the place with all its grace and grandeur. Ladakh which is famous for its Buddhist monasteries. Our class teacher and class-mates chalked out a plan to visit all these spots.

To reach Laddakh, the tourists have to undertake a long journey. The roads are full of sharp curves. One the way, the sights of flowering plants with sword-shaped leaves are worth-enjoying. The Nomads along with their flocks of sheep and heard of yaks are seen here and there. People in Ladakh worship Buddha.

Ladakh is free corner of the central land area of Tibet. The people of Ladakh Are very cheerful. They have their own dialect. They have faith in Lamaism. Men and women put on jewellery made of gold, silver and greenish blue precious stone. They wear long coat-like garments tied at the waist. They also put on tall silk-hats. They have one strange custom that a women may get herself married to more than one husband at the same time. The husbands are generally brothers or cousins.

We pitched our tent near a Buddhist monastery and stayed in it.

At night we had music, songs, dance and cultural activities. During our stay we also saw wild animals prowling. Strange birds were also chirping on the branches of the trees.

On the 16th of June we set out on our journey back to our home.

2. You have been asked to attend a school fair organised with a view to raise funds for the school. Write an account of the fair based on the following points :

Date and venue of the fair—games—stalls—sale of tickets and coupons—the colourful atmosphere—noise.

Ans. Rudra Banerjee reports on a fair organised by St. David's School, Durgapur.

A friend of mine, who is the secretary of St. David's School, asked me to attend the fair organized by the school authorities in the school campus. It was the 25th of February. The fair looked like a colourful festivity. Games like football, badminton, and cricket were held. Several stalls containing a variety of articles were the Music conference, the disco-dance and the mini zoo. A drama was also staged. The students of the school presented most of the activities. Tickets were sold to raise funds for the school.

I was surprised to see that the number of the spectators was very large. One inquiring, I was told that most of the visitors were the parents of the students. They had come to encourage their sons or daughter to take active part in the school activities. Most of the food stalls, painting and embroidery centres and cosmetics stalls were organized and run by the students. The margin of profit they earned was donated to the school.

Those players who fared well were awarded prizes. The school authorities bore the expenses of the prizes. In return every team desirous of taking part in the tournament was required to deposit Rs. 25/- each as an entry fee.

It was treated as an important guest. One of the members of the school committee escorted me to the fair ground. I walked through the whole place and was happy. My friends offered me coffee with heavy breakfast. I was informed that a fund of Rs. 2 lacs was expected to be raised. Really, there was life and bustle in the school campus.

3. Write an eye witness report on a train accident on the basis of the following points.

Date and time of the accident—the train—the site of the accident—immediate reaction—rescue works—steps taken.

Ans. Mr. Kumar of Sahaganj writes the report.

It was around 3.15 a.m. on 26th November 2015 when the Jammu-Sealdah expressed slammed into the Amritsar bound Frontier mail that had vaulted off its tracks minutes earlier. The accident occurred between Kaudi and Daudpur village outside with outer reaches of Khanna railway station about 228 km south-east of Amritsar. I was sleeping in the train when I first heard a thunderous noise. I fell from the bunk. The lights went out the same moment. It was totally dark and I could hear only shrill voices, crying in pain, pleading for help. I tried to look for my co-passengers, a young lady and her six year old son. I could not find them. I got out of the compartment. Local villagers had already rushed in and started the rescue work. I heard one woman trapped beneath the wreckage shrieking, "Cut off my legs, cut off my arms, just save me". I was another woman trapped inside. Her legs were dangling from the compartment. Along with other people I tried to make her

free. But she could not be freed because the compartment was at the bottom of the pile. Helplessly I saw her dying. Later I saw the smashed bodies of my co-passengers lying in a pool of blood.

Medical relief trains from Ambala arrived at the spot. The injured were taken to hospitals in Khanna and Ludhiana. The villagers were joined by several army and police personnel to stop up the rescue work. While some of them were busy in recovering the dead bodies and clearing the debris, of the trains. We would have died if the villagers had not saved us. I hope no one ever passes through this experience.

PRÉCIS WRITING

Précis writing means bringing out the gist of the given passage in as few words as possible, discarding all redundant matter in the process, and retaining only that which is essential to the central theme.

Thus, while writing a précis of a given passage the following points are to be followed:

- To begin with, the passage must be read well to get the general meaning
- The passage must be re-read carefully to identify the important information
- The important points should then be organized to form a concise version of the given passage
- As far as possible one's own language has to be used
- Colloquial expressions, figures of speech, examples, spurious information should be avoided
- A rough draft of the précis must precede the final draft
- The precis should be one-third the length of the given passage
- The précis must carry a suitable title

MODELS OF PRÉCIS WORKED OUT

1. The world is like a looking glass, if you smile it smiles, if you frown it frowns back. If you look at it through a red glass all seems red and rosy; if through a blue all blue, if through a smoked one, all dull and dingy. Always try then to look at the bright side of

things. There are some persons whose smile, whose very presence seem like a ray of sunshine and brighten the whole room. Greet everybody with a bright smile, kind words and a pleasant welcome. It is not enough to love those who are near and dear to us. We must show that we do that. While enjoying the blessings of life, we cannot expect to have no sorrows or anxieties. Life is indeed a tragedy at times and comedy very often, but as a rule it is what we chose to make it. [151 words]

Guidelines : 1. Like a looking glass the world reflects all our attitudes. 2. What we find the world to be is what we do with it. 3. A cheerful and graceful behaviour of us will make the world sweet. 4. The world is made of good and evil. 5. We should give up the evil and look always to the bright side of things. 6. We must behave with others pleasantly and show our love towards all. 7. Life has its good and bad days and we should be ready to face life as it is.

Précis :

We make our own world

Like mirrors we receive from the world that we give to it. If we behave gracefully, the world will appear happy. The very presence of some people makes this world happy. So we should use sweet and kind words to all. We must be prepared to accept tragedies ungrudgingly. [49 words]

2. Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly on fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing—fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty and therefore, it is no wonder if cruelty and religion go hand in hand. It is because fear is at the basis of those two things. In this world we can now understand things by the help of science, which has forced its ways step by step against Christian religion; against the Churches, and against the opposition of all the old precepts. Science can help us to get over this grave fear in which mankind has lived for so many generations. Science can teach us no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make this world a fit place to live in. [180 words]

Guidelines : 1. Fear is the basis of both religion and cruelty. 2. Science has helped to dispel this fear. 3. Science has made man dependent on his own ability and not on any mysterious power. 4. Science is thus undermining the power of Christianity. .

Précis :

Science versus Religion

Fear of the unknown, and the wish to get help from other sources in his distress led men to put faith in religion. Science had made men dependent on his own ability. With the help of science man has got over the fears of unseen powers. As a result science is thus undermining the awe and fear of Christianity and the power of the Churches. [63 words]

3. The student should learn to think and act for himself. No man has ever been great by imitation. One great reason is that it is much easier to copy the defects of a great man's character than to imitate his excellencies. Alexander the Great had a foolish tutor who used to call him Achillies. He was taught to admire that character. But when he came to imitate Achillies, he imitated one of the most cruel and hateful actions of that hero's life. He dragged the governor of a town through the streets after his chariot. This was because his foolish tutor had taught him to imitate as well as to admire. Indeed it is easy to imitate and borrow. But set it down, no imitator ever reached anything like eminence. We can not copy goodness or greatness by an effort. We must acquire it by our own patience and diligence. [151 words]

Guidelines : 1. Students should not imitate others. 2. He should learn to think and act for himself. 3. It is easier to imitate the defects of one's character than his excellencies. 4. Though it is easier to borrow no one can achieve greatness by borrowing.

Précis :

Imitation can achieve no greatness

Instead of imitating others the student should learn to think and act for himself, for it is easier to borrow than acquire something by one's self. An imitation is sure to borrow the defects than the good points. No one has ever become great by copying.

4. The family, like the house in which they live, in the walls should appear and let in the wind and rain. The happiness of a family depends very much on attention to little things. Order, comfort, regularity, cheerfulness, good taste, pleasant conversation—these are the ornaments of daily life, deprived of which it degenerates into a wearisome routine. There must be light in the dwelling and brightness and pure spirits and cheerful smiles. Home is not usually the place of toil, but the place to which we return and rest from our labours, in which parents and children together pass a careless and joyful hour. To have nothing to say to others at such times, in any rank of life, is a very unfortunate temper of mind and may perhaps be regarded as a serious fault; at any rate it makes the house vacant and joyless. [158 words]

Guidelines : 1. Attention to little things ensures the happiness of a family—things like order, good taste and cheerfulness. 2. Without these the home becomes dull. 3. A home is a place for rest. 4. A happy home makes a happy family.

Précis :

The Happiness of a Family

The happiness of a family depends upon attention to little things like orderliness, good taste and cheerfulness. Without them the home would become dull. Men return home for rest after day's toil, where parents and children may spend happy hours. A happy temper of mind alone can make a happy family. [52 words]

5. Teaching is the noblest of professions. A teacher has sacred duty to perform. It is he on whom rests the responsibility of moulding the character of young children. Apart from developing their intellect, he can inculcate in them qualities of good citizenship, remaining neat and clean, talking decently and sitting properly. These virtues are not easy to be imbibed. Only he who himself leads a life of simplicity, purity and rigid discipline can successfully cultivate these habits in his pupils. Besides a teacher always remain young. He may grow old in age, but not in spirit. Perpetual contact with budding youths keeps him happy and cheerful. There are moments when domestic worries weigh heavily on his mind, but the delightful company of innocent children makes. [132 words]

Précis : Nobilities of teaching

Teaching is the noblest profession. A teacher leading a simple, pure and disciplined life can mould the young children making them neat and good mannered citizens. Besides, he remains ever young forgetting his own domestic worries in the constant company of the young. [43 words]

6. The trees give shade for the benefit of others, and while they themselves stand in the sun and endure the scorching heat, they produce the fruit of which others profit. The character of good men is like that of trees. What is the use of this perishable body if no use is made of it for the benefit of mankind? Sandalwood, the more it is rubbed, the more scent does it yield. Sugarcane, the more it is peeled and cut into pieces, the more juice does it produce. The men who are noble at heart do not lose their qualities even in losing their lives. What matters whether men praise them or not? What difference does it make whether they die at this moment or whether their lives are prolonged? Happen what may; those who tread in the right path will not set foot in any other. Life itself is unprofitable to man who does not live for others. To live for the

mere sake of living one's life is to live the life of dogs and crows. Those who lay down their lives for the sake of others will assuredly dwell for ever in a world of bliss.

[199 words]

Précis : Good men live for others

The character of good men is like that of trees. They live for others and do not lose their qualities even in losing their lives. They always follow the right path. Praise is immaterial to them. To live for one's own sake is to lead the life of beasts. Only those who lay down their lives for others will live forever in a world of bliss.

[66 words]

MORE ABOUT PRÉCIS

So far you have been given models of usual passages for precis-writing. But in your working life you may need to write precis regarding other subject-matters, viz. a series of Business Correspondences or Business Reports etc. To familiarize you with the style of precis-writing in those special areas, some examples are given.

While you write the precis of business correspondence you should keep in mind the following points:

- In writing the precis of a series of letters, the facts or events covered by all the letters should be summarized as a whole—in the form of a continuous narrative.
- The relevant facts and events contained in the series of letters should be narrated in the precis in the chronological order of their occurrence and arranged in their logical sequence.
- If the letters in the series are written within a few days, only the date of the first letter in the series should be mentioned in the precis. But if there is a long gap between one letter and another, the date of the next letter should also be included.
- Names of persons appearing in the letters should be excluded, unless these are essentials.
- Usually the subject-matter of the business correspondence forms the title of the precis.

Writing the Precis of Business Reports like Annual Report of Directors, Monthly Progress Reports of Departmental Managers etc. is a difficult task as all these contain facts and figures of a technical nature. So there is not much scope of compression. Special reports, prepared by individuals or committees after conducting a special enquiry on a particular matter, contain all important facts as well as conclusions or findings and recommendations. So special care should be taken to see that no essential point or fact is left out while drafting the precis.

The precis of report or memorandum (the grievances or demands sought to be redressed with arguments and submitted to higher authority) should be prepared as a continuous narrative, but it may be divided into paragraphs each dealing with a particular aspect of the report or memorandum.

Now, go through the examples.

1. From the following series of letters write a precis with a suitable title

(a) Messrs. International Traders, Kolkata

Pioneer Pen Co.,
Madras, the 16 January, 2010

Dear Sirs,

We should like to draw your attention to our Bill for Rs. 1026.00 against your order for 15 dozens Fountain pens which still remains unpaid. Settlement was due on 31st December and perhaps this has escaped your notice. A copy of the statement of accounts is enclosed and we shall be glad to receive your remittance per return.

Yours faithfully,
Pioneer Pen Co.

(b) Messrs. International Traders, Kolkata.

Madras,
the 31 January, 2010

Dear Sirs,

This is to draw your attention to our outstanding Bill for Rs. 1026.00 a copy of which was sent to you with our letter dated 16th January. As we have received no reply to our letter, it is presumed that the letter has not reached you.

We now enclose a duplicate Bill and hope that you will remit the amount positively by the end of this week.

Yours faithfully,
Powerglide Pen Co.

(c) Messrs. Powerglide Pen Co., Madras.

Kolkata,
the 5 February, 2010

Dear Sirs,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 31st January enclosing a duplicate Bill for Rs. 1026.00. Your earlier letter dated 16th January has not reached us so far. We regret the fact that you had to remind us about the overdue Bill which we could not settle in time as business has been very dull during the past two months. Our sales have dropped considerably and most of our debtors have been tardy in settling their accounts.

We expect the market to revive within the next month when it will be easier for us to settle your Bill. In the circumstances, we hope you would grant us an extension of one month and we assure you that the amount due on your Bill will be remitted by that time.

Yours faithfully,
International Traders.

(d) Messrs. International Traders, Kolkata.

Madras, the 10 February, 2010

Dear Sirs,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 5th February, and note the difficulties in which you are unfortunately placed.

In view of the circumstances stated by you, and considering our long business connection with your firm, we agree to allow you a month's time to settle your accounts. It must be understood, however, that this is being done without prejudice to our usual terms of payment and we shall expect payment positively by the first week of March.

We hope this will enable you to tide over the temporary difficulty and you will be able to place further orders with us after the market recovers.

Yours faithfully,
Powerglide Pen Co.

Précis ; Précis of correspondence between Powerglide Pen Co. and International Traders on the subject of an outstanding Bill due from the latter.

On 16 January 2010 Messrs. Powerglide Pen Co. wrote to Messrs. International Traders asking the latter to settle an overdue Bill, and receiving no reply to the same the former sent a reminder with a duplicate Bill. Messrs. International Traders regretted the delay, which was due to bad market conditions, and asked for a month's extension which was granted by Messrs. Powerglide Pen Co. without prejudice to their usual terms.

Look at the second example :

2. From the following series of letters write a précis with a suitable title :

(a) Messrs. Sundry Chemical Co., Patna.

Kolkata, the 5 July, 2010

Dear Sirs,

We regret to point out that order dated 25th June for immediate supply of 5 tons of Soda Ash still remains unexecuted. The material is required by us to meet an urgent order from a valued customer in Rangoon and was due for shipment from the Kolkata Port on 3rd July.

We regret to inform you that the delay in delivery of this material has placed us in a very difficult position and unless delivery is effected within this week, we shall be compelled to cancel the order and sue for damages.

We earnestly hope that it will be possible for you to effect delivery as desired and thus make it unnecessary for us to take any unpleasant action.

Yours faithfully,
Seminal Traders.

(b) Messrs. Seminal Traders, Kolkata.

Patna, the 7 July, 2011

Dear Sirs,

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of complaint dated 5th July. We very much regret our inability to effect delivery as promised due to circumstances beyond our control. Due to sudden strike by contractors labourers and a section of our supervisory staff, production in our factory stopped completely for nearly a week from 28th June. As the materials in stock were earmarked for supply against some earlier orders, it became impossible for us to effect supply within the scheduled time.

The strike has since been settled and production has been resumed with effect from 3rd July. We are making every efforts to effect delivery against your order by 12th July and hope that with this you will be able to meet your commitments. Please confirm per return whether this arrangement is acceptable to you.

We hope you will appreciate our difficulties and take a reasonable view failure to supply in time.

Yours faithfully,
Sundry Chemical.

(c) **Messrs. Sundry Chemical Co., Patna.**

Kolkata, the 19 July, 2011

Dear Sirs,

We are in receipt of your letter dated 7th July and realize the difficulties in which you were unfortunately placed. In the meantime, we have been assured by our customer in Rangoon that they are ready to extend the date of supply by a fortnight and shipment of the materials by the next ship leaving Kolkata Port on 14th July will be quite in order.

In the circumstances, we are ready to accept delivery of the materials from you provided the consignment reaches us positively by 12th July. Should the supply be further delayed we shall have no other alternative than to cancel the order and procure the supply from some other sources.

Yours faithfully,
Seminal Traders

Précis : Précis of correspondence on a complaint regarding delay in supply and its adjustment.

On 5 July 2011 Messrs. Seminal Traders complained to Messrs Sundry Chemical Co. regarding delay in delivery against their order for immediate supply of 5 tons of Soda Ash; and threatened to cancel the order and sue for damages unless delivery was made within the week. Messrs. Sundry Chemical Co. regretted the delay due to sudden strike in their factory and asked the former to confirm their acceptance if delivery was made by 12 July 2011, Messrs. Seminal Traders agreed to accept delivery provided it was made positively by the date and warned the latter that the order would be cancelled if delivery was further delayed.

BUSINESS LETTER

◆ **INTRODUCTION :** Business implies communication : oral and written ; and letters are an important media of written communication. A business is known by the letters it writes. Even when a deal is struck over the telephone or e-mail, still the transaction is confirmed by a letter. In this sense, letter has an important evidentiary and authentic value.

LAY-OUT of a Business Letter : A Business Letter must be written on a Company Letterhead, i.e. printed writing pad with the Company's name, and address. It must have a Reference No. and Date.

ARUNDHUTI ENTERPRISE

10 N. S. C. Bose Road
Kolkata-700001

Ref No.....

Date.....

To

.....
.....
.....

Sub.....

Sir/Sirs,

.....Body of the Letter,.....

Signature

(NAME)

DESIGNATION

Enclose :

Some important points to note :

- write the address without any punctuation mark in between the number of the house/building and the name of the road/ street/lane : Only leave a gap :

23 N.S.C. Bose Road,
Kolkata-700001

- Write the date either as 10 May 2000 or May 10, 2000. Only these two methods are acceptable in the international business world.
- Do not put any punctuation mark after 'To' in the salutation part of the letter.
- While addressing a particular man in the concern address him as 'Sir' ; but when you address the Company, address as 'Sirs'.
- Towards the end of the letter do not write 'Thanking you'; better write, 'Thank you'.

- While addressing a man by his name, you should write 'Yours sincerely'; and if you address him by his designation, you should write 'Yours faithfully' or 'Faithfully Yours'.
- The language and over-all approach should be very formal but polite.

The area of business letter is a vast area. In the following pages some examples of business letter on various items are given. While you go through them, you should particularly note the language of the letter which varies according to the subject-matter and the tone of the letter.

A. LETTER OF QUOTATION AND ORDER

1. A business organisation decided to buy yearly requirement of stationery goods. Hence, a letter drafted asking a reputed concern to furnish the prices of different articles (Inviting Quotation) :

J. K. Enterprise
15 B. B. Ganguli Street
Kolkata-700 001

Our Ref : Pur-Enq/15/5/12

15 May 2012

Messers Variant Trading Mart
29 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Kolkata-700 009

Sirs,

Sub : Inviting Quotation of Stationery Goods

We have decided to buy the following types of stationery goods for yearly consumption of our office.

1. White paper 40 rims
2. Envelopes 60 dozens
3. Clips 100 dozen
4. Pins 50 packets
5. Pencil (Red & Blue) 10 dozen
6. Ink Refill (Red & Black, 8 dozen each)
7. Carbon Paper (Black) 12 packs

We shall be glad to receive from you the lowest quotation for all these goods on or before June 15 1999. If your quotation suits us, the order will be placed within a fortnight of the receipt of quotation. Our terms are cash.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sankar Banerjee)
Proprietor

2. Reply to the letter :

VARIANT TRADING MART
29 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Kolkata-700 009

Our Ref : Sal-Qt/290/6/12

1 June 2012

Mr. Sankar Banerjee
J. K. Enterprise
15 B. B. Ganguli Street
Kolkata-700 001.

Sir,

Sub : Quotation of Stationery Goods

Thanks for the letter (Pur-Enq/15/5/12) of 15 May 2012

In reply to your enquiry, we take pleasure in submitting the quotation for the articles specified in your letter.

1.	White paper	Rs.	40/-	Per	rim
2.	Envelopes	„	7/-	„	hundred
3.	Clips	”	5/-	„	dozen
4.	Pins	„	8/-	„	dozen
5.	Ink Refill	”	35/-	„	box of hundred
6.	Carbon Paper	„	130/-	„	pack of hundred

Please further note, our business terms include 5% discount on bulk purchase at cash and delivery within a month at our cost. In case any product fails to satisfy the specification we would take the material and replace the same at the earliest. For further information, a Catalogue indicating the details of different variety of materials is enclosed.

Hope you would find our quotation and terms most favourable.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(B. Debnath)

Manager

Enclo : Catalogue

3. In appreciation of a quotation, letter drafted to place an order :

J. K. ENTERPRISE

15 B. B. Ganguli Street
Kolkata-700 001

Our Ref : Pur-Ord/119/7/12

5 July 2012

The Manager,

Variant Trading Mart

29 Mahatma Gandhi Road

Kolkata-700 009.

Sir,

Sub : Order for Stationery Goods

Thanks for the Quotation of stationery goods vide your letter Sal-Qt/290/6/12 of 1 June 2012. Since your quotation is favourable we place an order of the following items :

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---|-----|--------|
| 1. White paper (A1) | — | 200 | rims |
| 2. Envelopes (white) | — | 500 | pieces |
| 3. Clips | — | 50 | dozens |
| 4. Pins | — | 50 | dozens |
| 5. Ink Refill (Blue) | — | 50 | boxes |
| 6. Carbon paper (blue) | — | 25 | packs |

Please note that all these items should conform to our specification, and no compromise will be made so far the quality of things is concerned. Please also note that all these items must reach us positively by 10 August 2012. Full payment in A/C Payee Cheque will be made on receipt of the goods.

Please confirm this order and oblige.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(S. Banerjee)

Proprietor

4. Reply to the letter :

VARIANT TRADING MART

29 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Kolkata-700 009

Our Ref : Sal-Ord/3130/7/12

July 28 2012

Mr. Sankar Banerjee

J. K. Enterprise

15 B. B. Ganguli Street

Kolkata-700 001

Sir,

Sub : Acceptance of Order

Thank you very much for your Order vide your letter No. Pur-Ord/119/7/12 of 5 July 2012.

With reference to your above-mentioned letter I would like to state that the items as per your specification will definitely reach you by 10 August 1999. The A/C Payee Cheque should be in the name of Variant Trading Mart.

Once again I thank you for giving us an opportunity to serve you.

With regards.

Yours faithfully,

(B. Debnath)

Manager

B. COMPLAINT LETTER AGAINST WRONG DELIVERY OR DEFECTIVE DELIVERY

5. Letter to Paint & Varnish Co. (Pvt.) Ltd., complaining against wrong delivery of goods and advising to replace them:

SUNSHINE PAINTS

23 Bagha Jatin
Kolkata-700 084

Our Ref : Ord-10/3/11

28 March 2011

The Manager,
Paint & Varnish Co. Pvt. Ltd.
44 S. M. Avenue,
Kolkata-700 014
Sir,

Sub : Wrong delivery of paints

Thank you for the prompt execution of Order. But we regret to inform you that the paints supplied do not conform to our specification vide Order No. 10 of March 2 2011.

Please note, the supply is wrong with regard to the following items :

1. Instead of 1 Litre Tin of Black Enamel paints, Red paints supplied.
2. Instead of 500 grams Tin of Navy Blue Synthetic paints, Blue Black supplied.
3. Instead of 500 grams 1 Litre Tin of Green Plastic paints, light Red Plastic paints supplied with lesser thickness.
4. 2 Litre tins of ordinary Pink paint has been supplied.

Since we do not require the aforesaid items, we request you to replace the same as per our order. Your prompt action would be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sumon Mukherjee)

Proprietor

Enclo : Copy of the Order.

Points to Note :

While drafting a complaint letter against defective or damaged goods

- (a) The language and proforma of the letter will be the same.
- (b) Only the type of defect or damage has to be mentioned; e.g.: rusty screws, broken handle, torn bags, dirty and blackish, shortage of weight etc.

In reply to the above

- (a) beg apology at the beginning of the letter.
- (b) assure replacement so that the customer does not incur any loss.
- (c) causes of defect or damage may be explained.
- (d) offer for some discount facility against those goods may be made.
- (e) the approach should be polite and courteous.

6. A letter expressing an apology :

PAINTS & VARNISH (PVT.) LTD.

44 S. M. Avenue
Kolkata-700 014

Our Ref : Sal-Ord/12/4/11

6 April 2012

Mr. M. K. Mukherjee
Messers Ashok Paints
23 Ganguli Bagan
Kolkata-700 084.

Sub : Wrong delivery of paints against Your Order No. of 2 March 2011

We have noted the contents of your letter of 28 March 2011, and are sorry for the mistake occurred in supplying the goods.

We are however, arranging to take back the material in a week's time and to replace the same according to your specification. Hope, our long standing business connection would, in no way, be affected due to this inadvertent mistake.

Sorry for the inconveniences you have been put to.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(M. L. Verma)

Sales Manager

C. LETTER SEEKING TIME EXTENSION FOR DELIVERY AND PAYMENT

7. Due to shortage of raw material Messrs Allied Enterprise writes to OM Traders seeking time extension for delivery :

UNITED ENTERPRISE

Salt Lake
Kolkata-700 091

Our Ref : Ord/225/6/10

14 June 2010

The Manager,
OM Traders
102 Nirmal Chander Street,
Kolkata-700 012

Sir,

Sub : Delay in delivery against your Order No. 225 of 2 March 2010

We are in receipt of your letter of 7 June 2010, reminding us of our failure to execute the order of screws, nuts and bolts within the schedule time.

We are sorry for this delay over which we have been produced due to acute shortage of steel and brass wire in the local market. In spite of our best effort we could not procure this material till April and hence brought the same from Madras.

In this circumstances, may we request you to extend the time of delivery for a fortnight. We have started full-fledged production in the meantime, and hope to deliver the goods before June 30 2010 positively.

Hope you would allow this extension by a letter in return.

We are sorry for the inconvenience caused to you. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(N. Bose)

Partner

for **United Enterprise**

8. Letter cancelling an order for undue delay :

SHANTI TRADERS

I7B R. B. Avenue
Kolkata-700 019

Our Ref : Pur-Ord/10/9/10

9 September 2010

The Manager,
Singhal Steel Wires Agency,
Ludhiana
Punjab.

Sir,

Sub : Cancelling of our Order of Steel Nuts & Pipes

We believe, you are in receipt of our letter along with the Order of above goods (Order No. 10 dated 16 August 2010). But till this date your confirmation has not reached us.

Since we require those goods for completion of a contract job, we cannot wait further for your confirmation. Any delay on your part would cause serious injury to our business and market reputation. In this circumstance, we would request you to treat the aforesaid order as cancelled.

Sorry for the inconveniences caused to you.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(A. K. Ghosh)

Manager

Enclo : Order Copy

Points to Note :

- **In a letter seeking extension of time for delivery any reasonable cause must be given. Such as :**
 - (a) non-availability of raw materials
 - (b) sudden strike of the workers
 - (c) sudden break-down of a machine
 - (d) unprecedented power shortage etc.

- **In a letter cancelling the order for any reasonable cause should be given. Such as :**

- (a) non-receipt of the confirmation against placing on order,
- (b) extraordinary delay in delivery,
- (c) goods supplied not according to specification, and no chance of any replacement,
- (d) due to better terms and conditions offered by some other manufacturer or supplier etc.

9. Letter asking a trader to settle the outstanding bills :

MUKTI TRADERS

AC Market
Kolkata-700 034

Our Ref: Sal-Ord/122/9/11

25 September 2011

Mr. S. K. Sen
M/S Bose Bros
22A Rashbehari Avenue
Kolkata-700 029

Sir,

Sub : Request to settle the Accounts

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Bill No. 1023 dt. 10.1.99 (Noga Pine Apple Jelly) | Rs. 1,800/- |
| 2. Bill No. 1050 dt. 25.1.99 (Orange Squash) | Rs. 1,400/- |
| 3. Bill No. 1220 dt. 20.2.99 (Lime Juice) | Rs. 1,000/- |
| 4. Bill No. 2000 dt. 30.3.99 (Mango pickles) | Rs. 500/- |

Probably you would appreciate that delay in clearing such a big amount beyond the credit period causes much inconvenience. This turns the small margin of profit into loss. This apart, we face difficulties in meeting the claims of our creditors also. As a result, our reputation in the market deteriorates.

Hope, you would appreciate our position and arrange to clear the bills within a fortnight.

Please drop a few words by the return of post.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(R. K. Jain)

Proprietor

10. Letter of request seeing extension of time for settlement of Bills :

Bose Bros

22A R. B. Avenue
Kolkata-700 029

Our Ref : Bills/323/12/11

15 December 2011

Mr. R. K. Jain
MUKTI TRADERS
AC Market
Kolkata 700 034

Sirs,

Sub : Seeking time for the settlement of bills

We are in receipt of your letter of September 25 2011. We are extremely sorry for the inordinate delay on our part in settling 4 (four) Bills, the total amount due being Rs. 3,500/-

Kindly note that delay in clearing the bills is due to slackness of the market during rainy season. Moreover, a well-known producer of the same product has sold its goods at a heavy discount during April to September this year. As a result, we have not been able to sell even half of the goods we brought from you.

In this circumstance, we shall deem it a great favour if you kindly allow us an extension of time for two months. Trust, we shall be able to clear all your dues by the middle of February 2012.

Hope, you would certainly accommodate our request and oblige.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(S.K. BOSE)

Proprietor
Bose Bros.

Points to Note :

In a letter seeking extension of time for settlement bills or dues, reasons like

- (a) slack season
- (b) poor sales
- (c) repayment of loans taken from the bank
- (d) damage caused due to heavy rain or fire etc. should be given.

B. LETTER FOR LOAN AND ADVANCE

11. Letter from Bhagabati Udyog to the Manager, Allahabad Bank for loan of Rs. 10,000/- :

MAHAMAYA PVT. LTD

20-B Southern Avenue
Kolkata-700 029

The Manager,
UCO Bank,
Southern Avenue Branch,
Kolkata-700 029.

16 June 2008

Sir,

Sub : Loan of Rs. 50,000 for the replenishment of stock

During the autumn the market of cloth and garment, saree and dhotis is very encouraging. We carry sizeable business in a few months of this season. Probably you would appreciate, brisk business requires qualitative goods and a variety of items. But small traders like us cannot afford such investment at a time.

In this circumstance, would you please favour as with an advance of Rs. 50,000 for 6 months in order to help bring new stocks. I would mortgage my Life Insurance Policy against and repay the same in 3 equal instalments from September with usual rate of interest. From my past record you would be sure of my credibility in repaying loans.

Hope you would consider this application sympathetically and sanction the said loan at the earliest.

Hope to hear from you shortly.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(S. DAS)
Proprietor

Points to Note :

In such a letter reasonable grounds like

- (a) renovation of the shop/showroom
- (b) procuring fresh stock for the festive season
- (c) goods damaged due to flood or fire
- (d) to supply against an order for which huge investment is required, etc. must be indicated.

12. Reply from the Bank stating inability to Life Insurance Policy :

UCO BANK

19 Southern Avenue

Kolkata-700 029

Our Ref : L & Ad/Eng/223/08

14 July 2008

Your Ref : Letter

Mr. S. Das

MAHAMAYA PVT. LTD.

20-B Southern Avenue

Kolkata-700 029.

Sir,

Sub : Your application for loan

This has reference to your letter of 16 June 2008, asking for a loan of Rs. 50,000/- against the mortgage of LIC policy.

Indeed, we fully appreciate your urgency of such a loan. But we regret to inform you that under the regulations of bank, loans and advances are not available against Life Insurance Policy. However, if you can furnish two sureties or can mortgage any property of equal value, a loan may be sanctioned subject to your fulfilling other terms and conditions of the Bank.

Hope you appreciate the limitation.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(R. S. Pandey)

Manager

13. Seeking loan of Rs. 25,000 as a part of initial capital to start a small factory :

A. K. Kahar
Deshbandhu Nagar
P.O. Salkia, Dt. Howrah
West Bengal

2 April 2015

The Branch Manager,
Canara Bank,
Howrah Branch.

Sir,

Sub : Seeking loan of Rs. 1,25,000 under 'Self-employment Scheme'

I have successfully completed two-year practical training in the manufacture of leather foot-wear conducted by the Government and obtained the certificate. As I am familiar with the production process and the machine-tools of production, I intend to start a small factory at the aforesaid premises.

Initially, my production target is 9,000 pes. of shoes per month. This production demands investment around Rs. 50,000 in machine-tools. Please note, I would be able to arrange Rs. 1,25,000 of the initial capital. I would get raw materials on 90 days' credit. In this situation, may I request you to sanction a loan of Rs. 1,25,000 against which I would hypothecate my machine.

A copy of the 'Project Report' and tentative 'Profit and Loss A/c' of three years are enclosed for your perusal. Hope, you would sanction the loan under 'Self-employment Scheme'.

Thank you.

Faithfully yours,
(A. K. Kahar)

Enclo : (i) Project Report

(ii) Tentative P & L A/c.

14. Letter requesting a bank to extend overdraft :

RAINBOW CHEMICAL

Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi-110 055

1 June 2010

The Branch Manager,
Punjab and Sind Bank Ltd.
Rani Jhansi Marg Branch
Rani Jhansi Road
New Delhi-110 055

Dear Sir,

Sub : Request to extend overdraft facility beyond Rs. 50,000/-Current A/c No. 42393

We are a client of your Bank since 1980 and it is long 19 years that you are patronising our business granting loans and advances. Besides that, our concern is getting overdraft facility to the extent of Rs. 50,000 a year which is helping a lot to run the business smoothly.

Probably you would be happy to learn that our business has grown a lot. Our Current A/c will testify the correctness of our observation. Our turnover is around Rs. 10,00,000 for the last 3 years. So, you can imagine the necessity of huge amount of working capital. And hence, we would request you to extend the overdraft facility from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000. This would be of immense help to our concern, particularly at a time when our business is flourishing.

We shall abide by the terms and conditions of the Bank in this matter. Hope you would consider the matter and respond sympathetically.

Thank you.

Faithfully yours,

(V. K. Chadda)

Partner

for **Rainbow Chemicals**

15. Letter to a Bank asking the reasons of dishonouring a Cheque :

From
S. Dey,
90 Lake Avenue
Kolkata-700 026

16 April 2015

The Manager,
Canara Bank
Shyama Prosad Mookerjee Road Branch,
Kolkata-700 026.

Sir,

Sub : Dishonour of Cheque (No. S/SB/02350) of 12 April 2005 S. B. A/c No. : 4330

I would like to draw your attention that a cheque bearing the aforesaid number worth Rs. 2,000/- drawn on your bank has been dishonoured with the remark 'Balance inadequate'.

On an examination of the Pass Book I find that my balance with your bank on 4.4.99 stood Rs. 1,230/-. On the next day i.e. 5.4.99, I deposited a cheque of Rs. 1,200/ drawn on Syndicate Bank of the local branch. In fact you had sufficient time to collect the sum so as to raise my balance to Rs. 2,430/- on 12.4.99 leaving a balance of Rs. 400/- to my credit even after honouring the said cheque. But this dishonour of cheque has hurt my status to a great extent.

In this circumstance, may I expect your explanation as to the reason of dishonouring the cheque ?

Hope to hear from you at the earliest.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,
(Suman Dey)

E. LETTERS INTIMATING WRITTEN TESTS/INTERVIEWS APPOINTMENTS AND ACCEPTANCE/REGRET

16. Letter calling a candidate for Written Test :

ANANDAM CHEMICALS LTD.

Regd. Office : 12 Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001

Our Ref : SUND/CALL/23

Date : 24 March 2012

Mr. Anil Singh

23 B. V. Nagar,

New Delhi-110 089

Sir,

Sub : Written test for the post of Management Trainee-Law

With reference to your application of 10 February 2012 for the post of Management Trainee-Law you are requested to appear for a written test on 12 April 2012 at Indian Social Institute, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 at 10 a.m.

The test will be of 2 hours duration, followed by a group question-answer session. No books will be allowed for consultation.

No travelling allowance is payable for attending the test.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(R. Francis)

Personnel Manager

17. Letter intimating date of interview :

The Heading, Inside Address and Salutations in this case, will remain the same. The Body of the letter will be as follows :

“With reference to your written test held on 12 January 2015, we are pleased to call you for a personal interview on 5 May 2015 at the Registered Office of our Company, at the aforementioned address, at 10 a.m. sharp.”

18. Letter intimating the appointment :

In this case the Body of the letter will be as follows :

“With reference to the interview you had with us on 5 May 2015, we are pleased to offer you appointment as Management Trainee-Law in our company.

You will be on an intensive training for two years in our Law Department. During the period of training you will be paid a consolidated salary of Rs. 5000/- per month in the first year and Rs. 7000/- per month in the second year. On satisfactory completion of the two years' training you would be called upon to take up independent responsibilities in the Law Department. If, at any time during the probationary period, your conduct is found unsatisfactory, your services are liable to be terminated forthwith.

During the training period if you desire to leave the company you shall be liable to indemnify the company a lump sum compensation of Rs. 5000.00 only.

After the probation period you will be placed in the cadre of Dy. Manager in the scale of Rs. 5000-80-5700-100-7000. You will be entitled to House Rent Allowance, Medical Claim subsidy, Leave Travel Concession, and other benefits as per Service Rules.

You are requested to confirm your acceptance on or before 1 July 2015 failing which this offer will stand cancelled.”

19. Letter informing non-selection :

In this case the Body of the letter will be as follows :

“With reference to your application for the post of Management Trainee-Law and the test and interview you had with us, we regret our inability to offer you an appointment at present. Should, however, any need arise in future, we shall get in touch with you.”

20. Letter of Acceptance from the Candidate :

From :

Mr. Anil Singh

23 B. V. Nagar

New Delhi-110089

Date : 22 June 2015

To :

Anandam Chemicals Ltd.

12 Sansag Marg New Delhi-110 001

Sir,

Sub : My appointment as Management Trainee-Law in your Company.

Thank you for your offer of appointment.

I hereby agree to abide by the terms of appointment as stated in your letter No. Ref. SA/ 34/78 of 20th May 2015.

I will be reporting for duty on 1 July 2015 forenoon.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(Anil Singh)

21. Letter declining the offer of appointment :

All the other features remaining the same, the Body will be as follows :

“With reference to your letter No. Ref. SA/34/78 of 20 May 2015. I regret my inability to join your organisation as I have been selected for appointment in a foreign-based company.

However, I thank you for evincing interest in my candidature”.

F. LETTERS TO TELEPHONE DEPARTMENTS

22. Letter requesting a New Telephone Connection :

MONEYCARE INTERNATIONAL

12 HINDUSTHAN PARK
Kolkata - 700 029

Our Ref : PK/Tel/123/15

Date : 15 July 2015

To :

The Public Relation Officer

KolkataTelephones

3A Gariahat Road

Kolkata-700 019

Sir,

Sub : New Telephone Connection

Ours is a company having over 200 branches all over India and 3 Overseas Branches at Malaysia, Singapore and Japan. Presently we have telephone connections with 3 extensions for each. With the scale of operations increasing and the consequent expansion of staff-members we feel that the existing telephone connections are proving inadequate. We, therefore, request, you to install two more new connections with internal extension lines for each, at the earliest and oblige.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

(M. R. KAZI)

DIRECTOR

23. Letter complaining excessive Telephone Bills :

Other features remaining the same, the Body of the letter will be as follows:

“We are shocked to learn from the latest telephone bill that we have been overcharged, particularly in respect of the trunk-calls. We are at pains to know that the billing has been done in excess by at least ten times than the charges that our calls would have attracted. We have remitted the amount as per the Bill, but would request you to please check up your records/readings once again and make necessary adjustments in the Telephone Bill (s) to be issued in future.”

G. CIRCULAR LETTER/CIRCULAR

25. Circular letter to shareholders inviting them to participate in the new issue of 10,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 50/- each.

JAYANTI LIMITED

Round Building,
Kalabadevi Road,
Mumbai-400 022

12 March 2015

Circular No. 18/2015

New Issue of 10,00,000 equity shares

Dear member,

In view of the growing demand of our product in both domestic and foreign market, it has been decided that a new plant shall be set up at Ennore, Madras (Resolution 13/15). This expansion will enable the company to cope with the increased demand at a reduced cost and earn costly foreign exchange for the national exchequer. In order to give effect to this expansion programme an additional capital of Rs. 1 crore will be required.

Eventually, the Directors have decided to raise this amount by issuing 10,00,000 equity of Rs.50/- each. It has further been decided that these shares, at the first opportunity, shall be offered to the present members of the company pro rata to their holdings.

If you are interested to participate in the new issue, please forward the enclosed Application Form duly completed so as to reach at this office on or before April 30 2015.

(Binay Sen)

Secretary

Encl : (1) Application Form

(2) Copy of the Resolution 13/15

Points to Note :

Such letters are written to convey a message to a large number of people at a time. The subject matter of the circular letter is common to all. This type of letter is not addressed to any individual particularly, but addressed to a group, or groups. Circular letters are meant for those whose interest are directly involved with a particular decision of the addressor.

34. Circular to intimate the change of weekly holiday :**AMIT STEEL CO.**

27 M. G. Road
Bhubaneswar
Odisha

May 2, 2015

Circular No. 128/15

Change of Weekly Holiday

This is to inform all employees that our organisation has decided to change the weekly holiday w.e.f. June 2, 2015, due to severe power crisis.

In needs no mention that we have been experiencing heavy loadshedding since 1996. As a result, production has significantly come down. It has become difficult to execute the orders on time. This situation has severely hit our goodwill. But in the interest of the company and our employees, we cannot surrender to this problem. So, it has been decided that Sundays will be treated as working days while the Thursdays as weekly holiday w.e.f. 2.6.15. For, Sundays being the weekly holiday at most of the factories in this locality, we may get more power and will be able to cover production loss.

We are sure, you would extend your sincere enort and co-operation in maintaining production schedule.

(Jayant Mahapatra)

Personnel Manager

Copy to :

1. Departmental heads
2. Union Office
3. Notice Board
4. Security
5. Canteen Manager

Points to Note :

Circulars are issued to circulate some general information within the organisation and outside. Copies of such circulars should be sent to different departments of the organisation and also to be displayed on Notice-Board.

COMMERCIAL LEAFLETS

A commercial leaflet or flyer is a single sheet of paper, usually of the size of 8.5 x 11 or even less and is used to provide information or promote a commodity to a large number of people inexpensively. Flyers are popular for small scale advertisement. These commercial leaflets are often, quite literally, thrown away because they are handed out to the people at random or posted in public places with the hope that they will be read. If they are intended to be posted, such as on a bulletin-board or put up in a window, they are printed on one side only. If they are going to be hand held or mailed, they can be printed on both sides. The purpose of a flyer is to provide a limited amount of information for a limited time at relatively low production costs. Some common uses are:

- announcements of social or commercial events
- product information such as opening of a showroom
- promote sales
- persuade consumers for investment such as launching a tour programme

Drafting a commercial leaflet/flyer :

A flyer or commercial leaflet is also a kind of an advertisement and is intended to entice the readers by the use of attractive image and versatile language. The limited budget for the production of the flyer ensures that the words used in the leaflet are carefully chosen to attract the attention of the readers/customers. Often these leaflets are supplied within the folds of the daily newspaper but the specially designed lay out and the syntax lure the readers to go through the matter.

The objectives of drafting a commercial leaflet are as follows:

- Opening of a showroom
- Launching a tour programme by a travel agency
- Discount sale on goods of a particular store
- Promoting for a diagnostic center or a polyclinic or investment consultancy
- Advertising for training centres or educational institutions

Process of drafting a commercial leaflet/flyer :

A flyer is to be drafted in the following way :

- The headlines of the commercial leaflet are extremely important because they are the initial attention grabbers. Besides, the headlines help us to pinpoint the readers or customers; e.g. 'ATTENTION NEW INVESTORS'.
- The focus should be on customer on customer benefits. The flyer copy should use the reader's or customer's interest to promote the product or service. If possible, the benefits of the service should be shown visually. As for example, a picture showing a modern gadget used in a diagnostic centre has good communication benefit. Similarly, the before and after pictures of hair treatment in a hospital conveys necessary information to the customers.

- Brevity is the key for writing a commercial leaflet. Let us take an example. A noted store of Kolkata has advertised discount sale through commercial leaflet:

<p>SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!</p> <p>GRAND PUJA DISCOUNT ON ALL GARMENTS OF LADIES GENTS KIDS UPTO 50% DISCOUNT HURRY STOCKS LIMITED</p> <p>AT</p> <p>JANATA STORES, 96 KOLUTALA STREET KOLKATA 700 016</p> <p>PHONE 90517 77677</p>
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- A good commercial leaflet should include lists of other benefits, uses or services so that it triggers for a call from the interested clients or readers. Besides, potential customers should be given an incentive to act quickly. That incentive could be a limited time offer special discount offer or a lucky draw coupon or a special package offer for those who apply early. Let us take an example. A computer training institute has issued a commercial leaflet to attract the out-going students of class X and XII to learn the basics skills of computer applications:

<p>WHY WASTE TIME AFTER BOARD EXAMS?</p> <p>LEARN COMPUTER APPLICATIONS</p> <p>AT</p> <p>UNITECH COMPUTER CENTRE</p> <p>GOVT. REGD.</p> <p>NO APPLICATION FEE</p> <p>NO HIDDEN COSTS</p> <p>NO DOCUMENTS REQUIRED</p> <p>LEARN BASICS, INTERNET, C++, PHOTOSHOP, ORACLE</p> <p>*SPECIAL CONCESSION FOR EARLY BIRDS*</p> <p>GOVT. CERTIFICATE AFTER COMPLETION</p> <p>CONTACT: UNITECH COMPUTER CENTRE, 22 R.B. AVENUE KOLKATA 700 029; PHONE # 68312 20205</p>
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisement is the modern means of communication to entice, promote or persuade readers or customers to utilize certain services. There are mainly two kinds advertisements: classified advertisement and display advertisement. Classified advertisement is a form of advertisement which is particularly common in newspapers, online and other periodicals or magazines which may be sold or distributed free of charge. Advertisements in a newspaper are brief and to the point.

In the newspapers or periodicals the advertisements are grouped into categories or classes such as “For Sale—kitchen appliances”, “Wanted— teachers”, and “Services—plumbing”, “Situations Vacant” etc. Hence the term “classified” is used.

Classified advertisements are much cheaper than larger display advertisements used by business houses, Classified advertisements are mostly placed by individuals privately with the single objective to buy or sell something, looking for jobs, academic matters etc.

AIMS OF ADVERTISEMENT

In a modern world, time and space are extremely precious. One needs to advertise for various purposes in the leading newspapers and periodicals within a limited space provided by the print media using limited vocabulary to reach countless readers. The choice of vocabulary therefore requires utmost care so that the advertiser has to pay the minimum amount for the classified advertisement yet accomplishing maximum purpose. In fine, the main objectives of writing a classified are as follows:

First of all, it must appeal to the reader, and as such, it must say exactly what you want it to say; that is, the language of the advertisement ought to be absolutely unambiguous so that the target readers should not be confused about the content or message of the advertisement.

Secondly, it has to say what it says in the least possible number of words in order to keep the operating costs within the budget of the advertiser. And thirdly, the lay out of the advertisement ought to be such that it catches the attention of the readers easily in order to produce the desired results. There are several types of classified advertisements, which are as follows:

1. Situation vacant or wanted
2. To let/rent a house/flat
3. Sale and Purchase of property, vehicles or goods
4. Promotion of educational institutions in regards to academic courses
5. Missing persons
6. Tour and Travels

Now let us highlight what are to be included in each type of classified advertisement.

1. Situation Vacant types

- It is better to begin with 'WANTED' or 'REQUIRED'
- Name of the organization must always be present
- Number of vacancies and the post for which advertised should be clearly stated.
- The age and gender of the candidate required.
- Qualification and requisite experience needed for the post.
- Pay scale, perks and also the mode of applying (e-mail, postal address etc)
- Contact address and telephone/mobile number for correspondence

Example :

SITUATION VACANT : WANTED a confident stenographer for a leading export house. Qualification - graduate, age - 21-25 years. Typing speed 45 wpm, short hand speed 100 wpm. Preference to those who can operate computer. Salary negotiable. Apply with complete bio-data by 20th June to Secretary, Ilaco House, 25, Strand Road, Kolkata-700 001. Ph: 033-2211 1111

2. 'To let' advertisements

- Begin with **WANTED** or **AVAILABLE**
- Type of accommodation should be mentioned.
- Rent expected
- Proximity to markets and bus stops
- Contact address and phone number

Example:

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Wanted suitable accommodation on rent for U.B.I. @ Rs.50,000 to be used as a guest-house. It should be located in a posh area with excellent amenities. Required uninterrupted water, electricity and car parking facilities along with nearby market and bus-stop. Owners please contact R. Barik, Manager, Ph: 033-2415 4335.

3. Sale or purchase of property or assets

- Begin with **FOR SALE/ PURCHASE/ WANTED**
- Brief description of the land, house or flat
- **Property** – Number of floors, size, and number of rooms, location and surroundings.
- **Vehicles** – Colour, model, accessories, year, modifications (if any), price, mileage and condition.
- **Household goods** – Condition, price offered or expected.

Example :

FOR SALE : Sale 3-BHK flats with balcony 2nd floor, 1200 sq.ft. at Lenin Sarani near Wellington Square.

Interested buyers call D.Palit, 68302 24253

4. Educational institutions :

- Name of the institution
- Courses offered and their durations
- Eligibility criteria and details of admission test (if any)
- Facilities and fee structure
- Scholarship/certificate information
- Last date for registration, etc.
- Contact address and phone number.

Example :

EDUCATION

IIIFL announces the commencement of its communicative courses in English, French and Chinese. Duration-3 months. Eligibility— Higher Secondary. Excellent faculty. Computerized training. Language laboratory. Incentives for early birds. Send in your applications by 1st June, 2015 to Secreary, IIIFL, 29 Elgin Road, Kolkata 700029 or contact Secretary, phone no. 9933055655

5. Missing person :

- Brief physical description of the missing person like height, complexion and physical structure
- Name, age and any health related issues about the missing person
- Clothes, accessories or any other identifying features
- Tell about the place last seen
- Details of reward if any
- Contact address and phone number

Example :

MISSING

GIRL MISSING, Priya Sharma, 12 years, 4'3~ tall, dark, slim, short hair, wearing blue T-shirt and black jeans since 2.6.2015. Last seen at Ripon Street, Kolkata. Mole mark on the cheek. Speaks Hindi and English. Informers will be suitably rewarded. Inform Lalbazar Police station # 2212 4834.

6. Tours and travels :

- Begin with **PACKAGE AVAILABLE**
- Name of the travel agency
- Destination and duration
- Price and special discounts, if any
- Contact address and phone number

Example:**TOUR AND TRAVEL**

Package available for exotic tour to Darjeeling-Lava-Lolegaon-Kalimpong-Kurseong for 7 days programme @ Rs. 6000 per head/ Gangtok-Peling for 3 days @ Rs. 6000 per head/Shimla-Kulu-Manali-Rohtang pass for 10 days @ Rs 9000 per head. Bookings going on. Contact Easy Tours and Travels, 2 S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata-700 001, phone # 033-4006930.

PROJECT:
METHODOLOGY & APPLICATION

Chapter 7

Project: Methodology & Application

Indianization of writings of some English writers

In India, English is not only one of the official languages as mentioned in the VIII schedule of the constitution, but it is also the major link language in a country which is such diverse in language and culture. Besides it has become the language of intellectual, emotional and imaginative articulation even after the British had left our nation for over 60 years. With the passage of time English is getting absorbed into Indian languages and also enriching itself by assimilating them in turn. It has acquired a specific cultural identity in India and also entered India's linguistic and literary creativity. Several English words have merged into Indian languages and seldom do we use the substitute Indian words for them. Many Indian literateurs have been influenced by the English writers. The episodic style of Charles Dickens impressed the Bengali writer Bimal Mitra and Jane Austen had an influence on Vikram Sett. Many Indian writers began to write stories, novels, poems and plays in English. As Thomas Hardy created a fictitious place called Wessex and wrote several novels based on it, R. K. Narayan created Malgudi, a similar fictitious place in India and wrote his immemorial stories of Swaminathan and his friends. Indianization of writings of Dickens and Hardy had also taken place in the film scripts.

Methodology of Indianization of English writings

The stories of Dickens, Hardy, Austen or Oscar Wilde appeal to the Indian readers more often than others because of their plot. Hence, Indianization of their stories is possible. Let us take an example. In order to Indianize Oscar Wilde's short story *The Selfish Giant* we have to follow the guidelines given below :

- **Read the story *The Happy Prince* thoroughly.**

THE HAPPY PRINCE

Oscar Wilde

High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt. He was very much admired indeed.

“He is as beautiful as a weathercock,” remarked one of the Town Councillors who wished to gain a reputation for having artistic tastes; “only not quite so useful,” he added, fearing lest people should think him impractical, which he really was not. “Why can’t you be like the Happy Prince?” asked a sensible mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. “The Happy Prince never dreams of crying for anything.” “I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy,” muttered a disappointed man as he gazed at the wonderful statue. “He looks just like an angel,” said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores. “How do you know?” said the Mathematical Master, “you have never seen one.” “Ah! but we have, in our dreams,” answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming.

One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was in love with the most beautiful Reed. He had met her early in the spring as he was flying down the river after a big yellow moth, and had been so attracted by her slender waist that he had stopped to talk to her. “Shall I love you?” said the Swallow, who liked to come to the point at once, and the Reed made him a low bow. So he flew round and round her, touching the water with his wings, and making silver ripples. This was his courtship, and it lasted all through the summer. “It is a ridiculous attachment,” twittered the other Swallows; “she has no money, and far too many relations”; and indeed the river was quite full of Reeds. Then, when the autumn came they all flew away. After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his ladylove. “She has no conversation,” he said, “and I am afraid that she is a coquette, for she is always flirting with the wind.” And certainly, whenever the wind blew, the Reed made the most graceful curtseys. “I admit that she is domestic,” he continued, “but I love travelling, and my wife, consequently, should love travelling also.” “Will you come away with me?” he said finally to her; but the Reed shook her head, she was so attached to her home. “You have been trifling with me,” he cried. “I am off to the Pyramids. Good-bye!” and he flew away.

All day long he flew, and at night-time he arrived at the city. “Where shall I put up?” he said; “I hope the town has made preparations.” Then he saw the statue on the tall column. “I will put up there,” he cried; “it is a fine position, with plenty of fresh air.” So he alighted just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

“I have a golden bedroom,” he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell

on him. “What a curious thing!” he cried; “there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining. The climate in the north of Europe is really dreadful. The Reed used to like the rain, but that was merely her selfishness.” Then another drop fell.

“What is the use of a statue if it cannot keep the rain off?” he said; “I must look for a good chimney-pot,” and he determined to fly away.

But before he had opened his wings, a third drop fell, and he looked up, and saw—Ah! what did he see? The eyes of the Happy Prince were filled with tears, and tears were running down his golden cheeks. His face was so beautiful in the moonlight that the little Swallow was filled with pity.

“Who are you?” he said.

“I am the Happy Prince.”

“Why are you weeping then?” asked the Swallow; “you have quite drenched me.” “When I was alive and had a human heart,” answered the statue, “I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace of Sans-Souci, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. In the daytime I played with my companions in the garden, and in the evening I led the dance in the Great Hall. Round the garden ran a very lofty wall, but I never cared to ask what lay beyond it, everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was, if pleasure be happiness. So I lived, and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot choose but weep.”

“What! is he not solid gold?” said the Swallow to himself. He was too polite to make any personal remarks out loud.

“Far away,” continued the statue in a low musical voice, “far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is embroidering passionflowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen’s maids-of honour to wear at the next Court-ball. In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”

“I am waited for in Egypt,” said the Swallow.

“My friends are flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the large lotusflowers. Soon they will go to sleep in the tomb of the great King. The King is there himself in his painted coffin. He is wrapped in yellow linen, and embalmed with spices. Round his neck is a chain of pale green jade, and his hands are like withered leaves.”

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince,

“Will you not stay with me for one night, and be my messenger? The boy is so thirsty, and the mother so sad.”

“I don’t think I like boys,” answered the Swallow. “Last summer, when I was staying on the river, there were two rude boys, the miller’s sons, who were always throwing stones at me. They never hit me, of course; we swallows fly far too well for that, and

besides, I come of a family famous for its agility; but still, it was a mark of disrespect.”

But the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was sorry. “It is very cold here,” he said; “but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger.”

“Thank you, little Swallow,” said the Prince.

So the Swallow picked out the great ruby from the Prince’s sword, and flew away with it in his beak over the roofs of the town. He passed by the cathedral tower, where the white marble angels were sculptured. He passed by the palace and heard the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover.

“How wonderful the stars are,” he said to her, “and how wonderful is the power of love!”

“I hope my dress will be ready in time for the State-ball,” she answered; “I have ordered passion-flowers to be embroidered on it; but the seamstresses are so lazy.”

He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging to the masts of the ships. He passed over the Ghetto, and saw the old Jews bargaining with each other, and weighing out money in copper scales. At last he came to the poor house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep, she was so tired. In he hopped, and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman’s thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy’s forehead with his wings. “How cool I feel,” said the boy, “I must be getting better”; and he sank into a delicious slumber. Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince, and told him what he had done. “It is curious,” he remarked, “but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold.”

“That is because you have done a good action,” said the Prince. And the little Swallow began to think, and then he fell asleep. Thinking always made him sleepy. When day broke he flew down to the river and had a bath.

“What a remarkable phenomenon,” said the Professor of Ornithology as he was passing over the bridge. “A swallow in winter!” And he wrote a long letter about it to the local newspaper. Every one quoted it, it was full of so many words that they could not understand.

“To-night I go to Egypt,” said the Swallow, and he was in high spirits at the prospect. He visited all the public monuments, and sat a long time on top of the church steeple. Wherever he went the Sparrows chirruped, and said to each other, “What a distinguished stranger!” so he enjoyed himself very much.

When the moon rose he flew back to the Happy Prince. “Have you any commissions for Egypt?” he cried; “I am just starting.”

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “will you not stay with me one night longer?”

“I am waited for in Egypt,” answered the Swallow. “To-morrow my friends will fly up to the Second Cataract. The river-horse couches there among the bulrushes, and on a great granite throne sits the God Memnon. All night long he watches the stars, and when the morning star shines he utters one cry of joy, and then he is silent. At noon the yellow lions come down to the water’s edge to drink. They have eyes like green beryls, and their roar is louder than the roar of the cataract.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “far away across the city I see a young man in a garret. He is leaning over a desk covered with papers, and in a tumbler by his side there is a bunch of withered violets. His hair is brown and crisp, and his lips are red as a pomegranate, and he has large and dreamy eyes. He is trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre, but he is too cold to write any more. There is no fire in the grate, and hunger has made him faint.”

“I will wait with you one night longer,” said the Swallow, who really had a good heart. “Shall I take him another ruby?”

“Alas! I have no ruby now,” said the Prince; “my eyes are all that I have left. They are made of rare sapphires, which were brought out of India a thousand years ago. Pluck out one of them and take it to him. He will sell it to the jeweller, and buy food and firewood, and finish his play.”

“Dear Prince,” said the Swallow, “I cannot do that”; and he began to weep.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “do as I command you.”

So the Swallow plucked out the Prince’s eye, and flew away to the student’s garret. It was easy enough to get in, as there was a hole in the roof. Through this he darted, and came into the room. The young man had his head buried in his hands, so he did not hear the flutter of the bird’s wings, and when he looked up he found the beautiful sapphire lying on the withered violets.

“I am beginning to be appreciated,” he cried; “this is from some great admirer. Now I can finish my play,” and he looked quite happy.

The next day the Swallow flew down to the harbour. He sat on the mast of a large vessel and watched the sailors hauling big chests out of the hold with ropes. “Heave a-hoy!” they shouted as each chest came up. “I am going to Egypt”! cried the Swallow, but nobody minded, and when the moon rose he flew back to the Happy Prince.

“I am come to bid you good-bye,” he cried.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “will you not stay with me one night longer?”

“It is winter,” answered the Swallow, “and the chill snow will soon be here. In Egypt the sun is warm on the green palm-trees, and the crocodiles lie in the mud and look lazily about them. My companions are building a nest in the Temple of Baalbec, and the pink and white doves are watching them, and cooing to each other. Dear Prince, I must leave you, but I will never forget you, and next spring I will bring you back two beautiful jewels in place of those you have given away. The ruby shall be redder than a red rose, and the sapphire shall be as blue as the great sea.”

“In the square below,” said the Happy Prince, “there stands a little match-girl. She has let her matches fall in the gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her, and her father will not beat her.”

“I will stay with you one night longer,” said the Swallow, “but I cannot pluck out your eye. You would be quite blind then.”

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,” said the Prince, “do as I command you.”

So he plucked out the Prince's other eye, and darted down with it. He swooped past the match-girl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. "What a lovely bit of glass," cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing.

Then the Swallow came back to the Prince. "You are blind now," he said, "so I will stay with you always."

"No, little Swallow," said the poor Prince, "you must go away to Egypt."

"I will stay with you always," said the Swallow, and he slept at the Prince's feet. All the next day he sat on the Prince's shoulder, and told him stories of what he had seen in strange lands. He told him of the red ibises, who stand in long rows on the banks of the Nile, and catch gold-fish in their beaks; of the Sphinx, who is as old as the world itself, and lives in the desert, and knows everything; of the merchants, who walk slowly by the side of their camels, and carry amber beads in their hands; of the King of the Mountains of the Moon, who is as black as ebony, and worships a large crystal; of the great green snake that sleeps in a palm-tree, and has twenty priests to feed it with honey-cakes; and of the pygmies who sail over a big lake on large flat leaves, and are always at war with the butterflies.

"Dear little Swallow," said the Prince, "you tell me of marvellous things, but more marvellous than anything is the suffering of men and of women. There is no Mystery so great as Misery. Fly over my city, little Swallow, and tell me what you see there."

So the Swallow flew over the great city, and saw the rich making merry in their beautiful houses, while the beggars were sitting at the gates. He flew into dark lanes, and saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets.

Under the archway of a bridge two little boys were lying in one another's arms to try and keep themselves warm. "How hungry we are!" they said. "You must not lie here," shouted the Watchman, and they wandered out into the rain. Then he flew back and told the Prince what he had seen.

"I am covered with fine gold," said the Prince, "you must take it off, leaf by leaf, and give it to my poor; the living always think that gold can make them happy."

Leaf after leaf of the fine gold the Swallow picked off, till the Happy Prince looked quite dull and grey. Leaf after leaf of the fine gold he brought to the poor, and the children's faces grew rosier, and they laughed and played games in the street. "We have bread now!" they cried.

Then the snow came, and after the snow came the frost. The streets looked as if they were made of silver, they were so bright and glistening; long icicles like crystal daggers hung down from the eaves of the houses, everybody went about in furs, and the little boys wore scarlet caps and skated on the ice. The poor little Swallow grew colder and colder, but he would not leave the Prince, he loved him too well. He picked up crumbs outside the baker's door when the baker was not looking and tried to keep himself warm by flapping his wings. But at last he knew that he was going to die. He had just strength to fly up to the Prince's shoulder once more.

"Good-bye, dear Prince!" he murmured, "will you let me kiss your hand?"

"I am glad that you are going to Egypt at last, little Swallow," said the Prince, "you have stayed too long here; but you must kiss me on the lips, for I love you."

"It is not to Egypt that I am going," said the Swallow. "I am going to the House of Death. Death is the brother of Sleep, is he not?"

And he kissed the Happy Prince on the lips, and fell down dead at his feet. At that moment a curious crack sounded inside the statue, as if something had broken. The fact is that the leaden heart had snapped right in two. It certainly was a dreadfully hard frost. Early the next morning the Mayor was walking in the square below in company with the Town Councillors. As they passed the column he looked up at the statue: "Dear me! how shabby the Happy Prince looks!" he said.

"How shabby indeed!" cried the Town Councillors, who always agreed with the Mayor; and they went up to look at it.

"The ruby has fallen out of his sword, his eyes are gone, and he is golden no longer," said the Mayor in fact, "he is little better than a beggar!"

"Little better than a beggar," said the Town Councillors.

"And here is actually a dead bird at his feet!" continued the Mayor. "We must really issue a proclamation that birds are not to be allowed to die here." And the Town Clerk made a note of the suggestion.

So they pulled down the statue of the Happy Prince. "As he is no longer beautiful he is no longer useful," said the Art Professor at the University.

Then they melted the statue in a furnace, and the Mayor held a meeting of the Corporation to decide what was to be done with the metal. "We must have another statue, of course," he said, "and it shall be a statue of myself."

“Of myself,” said each of the Town Councillors, and they quarrelled. When I last heard of them they were quarrelling still.

“What a strange thing!” said the overseer of the workmen at the foundry. “This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it away.” So they threw it on a dust-heap where the dead Swallow was also lying.

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for evermore, and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

- Imagine the Happy Prince to be an Indian character with an Indian name.
- Give Indianness to the setting of the plot. Describe the place where the giant lived. Imagine it to be an Indian village.
- Give a description of his house that resembles an Indian dwelling.
- Describe the emotions of the children who were attracted to the fruits and they climbed the trees while returning from school. Such a situation is very common in India.
- Show how the element of love and affection change a person.

Dramatization of a story

Drama is one of the most ancient means of intellectual entertainment. Looking back into history we find that drama was the most popular medium in ancient Greece, over 2400 years ago, during the time of Aristotle. The essential elements of drama are as follows:

- **Dramatis Personae** or the ‘people of a drama’, that is, a list of the characters in a play, usually found on the first page of the script; often includes important information about the character.
- **Character** as in a story, people or creatures that appear in a script by speaking or doing something (the “something” may be as simple as walking on stage, then walking off again) or someone in a script who is involved with a plot.
- **Prop** are objects used on stage or on screen by actors during a performance. In practical terms, a prop is considered to be anything movable or portable on a stage or a set, distinct from the actors, scenery, costumes and electrical equipment.
- **Stage directions** show only what is taking place on stage; that is, what the audience can hear or see. These directions do not tell the previous life of the character.

Stage directions are always enclosed in parenthesis. Besides, stage directions may also indicate where the scene is taking place, what a character is supposed to do, or how a character should deliver certain lines.

- **Enter** is a stage direction which tells the character(s) to come onto the stage. Often it includes a direction (left or right) or additional information about how characters are to enter the scene.

- **Exit** is a stage direction which tells the character(s) to leave the stage and the scene. Often includes a direction (left or right) or additional information about how characters are to leave the scene.

- **Dialogues** are the lines spoken by the actors. In a novel or a story we also come across with dialogues but in the script of a drama, dialogues are preceded by the name of the character that is to speak the words. Besides, in the drama more emphasis is given on interaction of characters, and not on the complete sentences of a dialogue.

A play should have a beginning, middle and end. In the beginning part the characters are introduced, in the middle events occur to problematise the plot and throw characters into conflict. The conflict reaches a resolution in the end, when the problems are solved.

Methodology of dramatizing a story

To turn a story into a drama, you have to adapt it. This means you have to work on the plot, structure and dialogues of the story, keeping in mind the dramatic need. You may not need the entire story to convert into a drama. As for example, H.W. Longfellow's story *Tales of a Wayside Inn* may be dramatized.

So, before dramatizing a story, at first, select a story that you want to dramatize. Then, read the whole story thoroughly and make notes as you go along. Select the parts for dramatic adaptation. If the story is too long you will need to shorten it in size, but try not to lose the main pivot of the plot. Prepare a note on all characters, scenes, props, objects, sounds and ideas for costumes. Divide your dramatic plot into scenes. The progress of the plot should be simple but engaging, following the structure of the beginning, middle and end.