

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 Epidamnum. 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 reproof."

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

