

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

B.A.(HONS.) PART-II, PAPER-III

TOPIC- TWELFTH NIGHT

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EXPLANATIONS

Explain with reference to the context the lines given below:

Q.-1. "O ! when mine eyes did see Olivia first,

Methought she purged the air of pestilence

That instant was I turn'd into a hart,

And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds,

E'er since pursue me."

ANS.- These lines have been taken from the opening scene of Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night".

In these lines Orsino speaks of his fantastical love for Olivia .

Orsino says that when he got first look of the incomparable beauty of Olivia, he felt stunned. She seemed to be a pure heavenly creature. She appeared so pure and noble that everything about her seemed to breathe in her purity and innocence. She seemed to have purified the air of the atmosphere. Her beauty generated an overpowering feeling of love in his heart that he became a prey to his own desires. He feels that in a moment he was changed into a hart which is pursued by cruel and terrible hounds. He contends that due to his strong passion for Olivia his 'heart' has been transformed into a 'hart' by the magic of her beauty.

These lines show that Orsino's mind went completely fantastic on getting the first look of Olivia.
