

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

B. A. , PART- I, PAPER- M.B.(MARKS-50)

TOPIC – **THE NEW GOLDEN TREASURY**

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VIRTUE

Q.- Show your acquaintance with the poem, “Virtue”.

ANS.

The poem , “Virtue” has been composed by an eminent metaphysical poet, George Herbert, a younger contemporary of Donne. He was a priest at a church and had great devotional inclination. “Virtue” is a fine lyric displaying logical consistency of ideas. It centres round the idea that the

beauty of every thing in the world is perishable while that of the virtuous soul is eternal.

The poet begins to observe the difference between the earthly beauties and the beauty of the soul. In favour of his idea Herbert takes three examples from the lap of Nature. First of all he tells about the enchanting beauty of the day which is bright and pleasant devoid of cloud or fog. It seems that the earth and the sky are going to be marry .But the day is destined to give way to night. The dew drops are the drops of tears shed on the death of such a fine day. Similar is the condition with rose. Its beauty and majesty is also unable to dodge decay. The season of spring which is a gift-pack of various beauties and enjoyments has also to fall prey to time .

Finally, the poet comes to 'virtue' . In his opinion only virtue survives permanently in the world like a seasoned timber which defies time- stamps .The entire world is subject to decay except the seasoned timber. The poet compares a virtuous soul to the seasoned timber and says that a virtuous soul, like the seasoned timber escapes all process of decay.

The use of homely imageries is highly effective.
The artistic beauty and decorated texture makes this poem a
gem of English literature.
