

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

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

TOPIC- EDWARD II

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EXPLANATIONS

Q.1. “Unto the forest, gentle Mortimer,
To live in grief and baleful discontent;
For how my lord the king regards me not,
But does upon the love of Gaveston,
He claps his cheeks and hangs about his neck,
Smiles in his face, and whispers in his ears;
And when I come, he frowns, as who should say
‘Go whither thou wilt, seeing I have Gaveston.’”

ANS-

These words constitute the first speech of Queen Isabella in Act I Scene II of Marlowe's Edward II. The king loves and likes Gaveston instead of Queen Isabella. Moreover Gaveston freely does whatever he likes without caring the honour of even Edward or Isabella.

Once when Gaveston assaults the Bishop of Coventry in the presence of the king, Isabella intends to leave the place at once. Mortimer asks the Queen where she is going, she replies dejectedly that she is going to the forest to pass her days in disappointment and grief. She tells the lords and barons that now the king pays no heed to her, for he is extremely fond of Gaveston's company. He claps his cheeks and embraces him in his arms lovingly, as well as, smiles in his face and whispers in his ears. When she goes near him, he angrily says her to go anywhere she likes, he has Gaveston in his company. Thus Isabella informs the lords and barons how Edward neglects and insults her in the company of Gaveston.

These lines show how the king is desperately interested in Gaveston discarding his queen to enjoy homosexuality. These lines are remarkable as the catastrophe of the play is clearly foreshadowed in the lines.
