

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

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

TOPIC- EDWARD II

BY DR.PRABHAT RANJAN KARN

ASSOC. PROF., DEPT.OF ENGLISH

DR.L.K.V.D. COLLEGE, TAJPUR

EXPLANATIONS

Q.4. "From my embraces thus he breaks away.

O that mine arms could close this isle about,

That I might pull him to me where I would;

Or that these tears that drizzle from mine eyes

Had power to mollify his stony heart,

That when I had him we might never part."

ANS-

These lines form a part a soliloquy of queen Isabella in Act II Scene IV of Marlowe's play, "Edward II". The rebel lords have taken up arms against the king. He is anxious to know the whereabouts of Gaveston. Spencer thinks that he is slain, but just then Gaveston arrives in the company of queen and the king's niece. All except Gaveston advise the king to leave the town immediately. So he hurriedly bids farewell to all except Isabella who is greatly pained to see the indifference of the king, her husband ,towards her.

When Isabella asks the king if he would bid no farewell to his 'poor' wife, he tauntingly remarks that he would do so for the sake of her lover Mortimer. This disheartens Isabella who says that she loves none except her husband. She is greatly distressed inspite of her love for him, he has gone away without even bidding farewell to her .Wistfully she wishes that she could hold this whole island within her embrace so that she could draw her husband to her bosom from any part of the kingdom. If this is

not possible, her tears that she sheds from her eyes, could soften the king's stony heart so that once she had him within her arms, he could never part from him.

These words reveal that Isabella is a forlorn wife neglected by her husband due Gaveston. Apparently, Isabella is pathetically devoted to the king, though in the later part of the play she undergoes a drastic change from a patiently suffering wife to a revengeful wife.
