

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.5. “Misgoverned kings are cause of all this rack

And Edward, thou art one among them all

Whose looseness hath betrayed thy land to spoil;

Of thine own people patron shouldst thou be”.

ANS-

These lines have been taken from the speech of Isabella in Act IV Scene IV of Marlowe’s play “Edward II’. Queen Isabella, Prince Edward, Kent, Mortimer Junior and Sir John of Hainault are assembled at Harwick. Though the queen welcomes her allies to England, it is painful for her to think that the brotherly

forces from the two sides are entangled in a civil war. In such wars kinsmen and relation kill themselves with their weapons.

But inspite of the fact that the kinsmen are wounded with their own weapons there is no remedy to avoid a civil war. Isabella says that misguided and irresponsible kings bring about such disastrous situations. Isabella is grieved to say that Edward is such a king. On account of his misgovernment, the country has been ruined. His base and licentious habits have pushed the country to this disaster and caused rivers of blood flow on the battlefield. What is more shocking, it is the blood of the king's own people. Edward should have been a helper, caretaker and protector of his subjects, but now he has become the cause of their disaster.

Here the queen seems to grow sentimental. Though she has assumed the role of a soldier, but her interests dominate her nature and she is able to think of the misfortune of the country only to a superficial extent.
