

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

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

TOPIC- EDWARD II

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EXPLANATIONS

Q.6. "Vilde wretch, and why hast thou of all unkind,
Born arms against thy brother and thy king?
Rain showers of vengeance on my curse head,
Thou God, to whom in justice it belongs
To punish this unnatural revolt."

ANS-

These lines have been taken from a soliloquy of Kent appearing in Act IV Scene V of Marlowe's Edward II. After the king is defeated in the battle of Bristol and the queen is victorious, the king wants to rally his forces and to fight one more

battle against the queen. He prefers death on the battle field to the ignominy of being captured by his enemies. But Junior Spencer advises him to go to Ireland rather than to risk his life in another battlefield.

Just at the moment when Edward II has left the battlefield, Kent arrives alone. He is full of remorse for having revolted against his own King and brother. He curses himself for he himself proved to be the most unkind to the king. He raised arms against his King who is also his brother. Kent is so penitent that he prays to God to shower curses and vengeance upon his head to punish him, for it is only God who can punish one for such an unnatural rebellion against the king, the rightful ruler of England.

Here Kent refers to the Divine theory of Kingship which was the prevalent political faith those days. This theory held the king as God's representative on the earth and if anybody revolts against him it becomes God's just duty to punish the traitor.
