

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**

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

**TOPIC- TWELFTH NIGHT**

**BY DR.PRABHAT RANJAN KARN**

**ASSOC. PROF., DEPT.OF ENGLISH**

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

## **CHARACTER SKETCH OF DUKE ORSINO**

Duke Orsino is the principal male figure of the play and is a perfect gentleman. But despite of the fact that he is handsome, brave, courtly, virtuous, noble, wealthy, gracious, loyal, devoted and every thing, it is difficult to call him the hero of the play as he totally fails to impress us. He gives us the impression of an egoist, a moody person, a novice in love, who is more in love with 'Love' than with a woman. He appears to us to be

preoccupied with himself to feel any deep passion for anyone else.

Orsino has a unique fondness for music. He appears as an authority to appreciate music. According to Gervinus, “To nurture his love with the most delicate and strongest elements, his sole business is to court the solitude of nature and to surround himself with music. He attracts the Clown from the Countess’ house, who with his full sounding voice, sings to his sounds of hopeless, unrequited love.”

Orsino is generous and open –handed and follows pure Catholic spirit in his caste to derive pleasure from the pleasure from the company of the Clown as well as of Viola. When the Clown pleases him by singing a song which the Duke loves to hear, he rewards him, “for his pains”. He remembers the fellow and instantly recognizes him when he goes to pay a personal visit to Olivia. There again he rewards the fool for his humour, though he takes care that his bounty is not unduly exploited by the fool. When Antonio is brought before him

after his arrest, the Duke is generous enough to appreciate the situation of the enemy.

We find Orsino as a typical fanciful lover. His love for Olivia is almost a fiction, Olivia has only fired his imagination though she did not win his heart. His love appears more sound and passionate in Viola's report of it than in his own expression. Viola talks of his love for Olivia in a tone of exaggeration. We also feel doubt whether Orsino would ever be much in love with anyone but himself. An amiable egoist, he would always remain in his own eyes than the person of chief consequence. When he wants to give expression to his true sentiments he comes into contradictions.

Orsino's nature is full of sentimentality which paralyses all his actions and renders him careless of his state duties as well as his personal pleasures. He affects having fine feelings and refined sensibility. He can talk finely of love and even of his own love but he is unable to behave like a true lover. He is extremely sentimental and

moody. He craves for music and in a very shory while he feels satiated with it.

\*\*\*\*