

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

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

TOPIC- SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

BY DR.PRABHAT RANJAN KARN

ASSOC. PROF., DEPT.OF ENGLISH

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

EXPLANATIONS

Explain with reference to the context the lines given below:

Q. 1. "Never; unless, as among kings and princess, my bride were to be courted by proxy. If needed, like an Eastern bridegroom, one were to be introduced to a wife he never saw before, it might be endured. But to go through all the terrors of a formal courtship, together with the episode with aunts, grandmothers and cousins; and at last to blurt out the broad staring question of "Madam will you marry me?" No, no that's a strain much above me, I assure you."

ANS: These lines are spoken by Marlow in Act II, Scene I of the play, "She Stoops to Conquer" written by

Goldsmith. Marlow is utmost modest and bashful. He feels totally unnerved in the presence of a respectable young lady. At the idea of courting a young lady for purpose of marriage he becomes frightful.

In these lines Marlow tells Hastings that he would like to have his bride courted for him by proxy as is the practice among kings and princes in India. He would be happy if he could be introduced to his wife only after marriage without having seen ever earlier. He would most welcome this situation. But he would never endure the ordeal of the formal courtship, specially against all the hindrances and obstacles generally caused by aunts, grandmothers and cousins. He says that at the end of the tedious course of courtship one formally asks one's beloved, if she would marry one which he cannot endure.

These lines throw ample light over the character of Marlow that he is incurably bashful, modest and even sheepish

in the presence of a respectful lady. This trait of Marlow's character give rise to complications in the play.
