

SUBJECT : ENGLISH

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

TOPIC- TWELFTH NIGHT

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EXPLANATIONS

Explain with reference to the context the lines given below:

Q. 2. "O ! she that hath a heart of that fine frame

To pay this debt of love but to a brother,

How will she love, when the rich golden shaft

Hath kill'd the flock of all affections else

That live in her; when liver, brain, and heart,

These sovereign thrones, are all supplied, and fill'd

Her sweet perfections with one self king."

ANS.

These lines are spoken by Duke Orsino in the play "Twelfth Night" authored by Shakespeare.

Orsino sends a gentleman Valentine to Olivia with his message of love. On returning he informs the Duke that he was not allowed admission in Olivia's house because the Countess has taken a seven years vow of mourning on the death of her brother. The Duke loves Olivia and so he is full of praise for her. He says that Olivia has a heart which is finely fashioned. Since she has so much love for a dead brother, she is bound to love the person with whom she falls in love and take as her husband, even more. Orsino is positive that Cupid the love god is bound to strike her with his golden arrow soon and thus fill her heart with love. Once this happens all the emotions that are at present occupying her heart, brain, liver and other organs would vanish. The only passion that would be present in her would be that of love.

Orsino strongly believes that the golden arrow of god Cupid pierce Olivia's heart, and after that her love for her husband would swallow up all her affections for other people.
