

**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. 3. “Wit, an’t be thy will, put me into good fooling! Those wits that think they have thee, do very oft prove fools; and I lack thee, may pass for a wise man: for what ,says Qinnaplus? Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.”

ANS.-

These lines are spoken by Feste, the Clown in Act I Scene V of the play “Twelfth Night” written by Shakespeare.

In these lines the Clown stresses wit as though it were a goddess and prays that she may put him in a good spirit of jesting, so that he is able to laugh away the anger of his mistress. He is aware that those who are considered to be wise and think

that they have wit, often prove to be merely stupid. On the other hand, he, who is sure that he lacks wit may pass off as a wise man. The Clown invents an imaginary name of Quinnaplus, whom he imagines to be a great philosopher. He thinks that the great philosopher would rightly say that it is better to be a wise fool than to be a foolish wise man.

We find Shakespeare making Feste coin such melodious and interesting names of other persons in the play here and there by which Feste thrusts on them his favourite idioms and proverbs.

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