

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.NO.5. "She never told her love,

But let concealment, like a worm I' the bud,

Feed on her damask cheek: she pin'd in thought,

And with a green and yellow melancholy,

She sat like Patience on a monument,

Smiling at grief. Was not this love indeed?

We men may say more, swear more: but indeed?

Our shows are more than will, for still we prove

Much in our vows, but little in our love.”

ANS:-

The above lines are spoken by Viola disguised as Cesario in Act II Scene IV of Shakespeare’s comedy “Twelfth Night”.

Viola tells the Duke that her sister was passionately in love with a man, but never expressed her love. She permitted the love, hidden inside her, to decay the bloom of her rosy cheeks as the canker eats away the beauty of the rose. Her sister pined away with her thoughts of love. Due to her intense grief she turned pale, despite that she kept on smiling, for she was the epitome of patience. She was like the statue of goddess Patience, which constantly smiled. The goddess was placed on a high monument. She asks Orsino whether her sister’s love was true or not. She says that men may talk and swear more than women, but the determination and constancy in love are far

lesser in them than the intense manner in which it is professed. Men prove that they swear more about love than they can adhere to it.

Some critics believe that the epithets of green and yellow melancholy convey decay, however they are symbolic of jealousy though it is too insufficient a word to convey the delicate sorrow of love which remain unreciprocated.
