

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.6. "No,indeed,sir; the Lady Olivia has no folly: she will keep

no fool, sir, till she be married; and fools are like

husbands as pilchards are to herrings the husband's

the bigger. I am indeed not her fool, but her corrupter

of words."

ANS:-

These lines are spoken by Feste, the Clown, in Act III Scene I of Shakespeare's play, "Twelfth Night". Viola, disguised as Cesario, wants to know from him whether or not he is Olivia's Fool.

At this Feste replies that he is not, for the truth is that she does not keep fools. She does not have any folly around her. She will have no fools till such a time that she is married, since husbands are as similar to fools as the pilchard fish is similar to herring fish. The only difference is that a husband is more stupid than a fool. He says that he is not a fool but merely a person who distorts the meanings of words, and through such a distortion, delights his mistress.

It seems that Shakespeare succeeds in sublimating Viola's existence, hence the audience is not likely to see things so much through the Fools eyes as this. The Fools's words are a generalized opinion about marriage. This is also an

additional evidence that the Fool is not merely a buffoon, but is well educated.
