

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.7. "O ! what a deal of scorn looks beautiful

In the contempt and anger of his lip.

A murderous guilt shows not itself more soon

Than love that would seem hid; love's night is noon.

Cesario, by the roses of the spring,

By maidhood, honour, truth, and everything,

I love thee so, that, maugre all thy pride,

Nor wit nor reason can my passion hide."

ANS:- These lines are spoken by Olivia, the Countess of Illyria in Act III Scene I of the play "Twelfth Night" written by Shakespeare.

Olivia falls in love with the page-boy of Duke Orsino named Cesario, without realizing that she has fallen in love with a woman, Viola, disguised as woman. Viola obviously rejects her amorous hints which seems scornful to Olivia. She thinks that even scorn on as handsome a man as Cesario looks beautiful, specially when it is projected with the hateful anger of his magnificent lips and that contempt can not hide the passion of love. No matter how much a person tries to hide it, the passion of love is exposed even more quickly than the guilt of a murderer. Love, even when concealed to the utmost, it is as clear as daylight. Swearing by the roses of spring, her virginity, her honour, her truth and everything else that are high in her esteem. Olivia tells Cesario that she loves him entirely despite his

pride. She cannot hide her love though wisdom and reasoning demand of her to do.

It is reasonably certain that Olivia has made her passion known to Cesario. It is easy to visualize the startled horror of the woman behind the disguise when the dilemma that she is in , drives home to her.
