

**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.8. “ Vent my folly! He has heard that word of some great men, and now applies it to a fool. Vent my folly! I am afraid this great lubber, the world, will prove a cockney. I prithee now, ungrid thy strangeness and tell me what I shall vent to my lady. Shall I vent to her that thou art coming?”

Ans:

These lines occur in Act IV Scene I of Shakespeare’s comedy “Twelfth Night” as a speech of Feste, the Clown.

Feste meets Sebastian in a street adjoining Olivia’s house. He mistakes him for Cesario, and in fact addresses him as

Master Cesario. He requests Sebastian to come into the house. When Sebastian tells the Clown that he does not know him, Feste makes fun of him. Sebastian asks him to 'vent' his folly elsewhere. Sebastian uses the word 'vent' to mean give vent to or let out. Feste finds the word to his extreme liking since he has never heard it earlier. He tells Cesario that he must have heard some great man use that word, and has now uttered it to impress him. He suddenly becomes philosopher and thinks that the world has become full of cunning pretensions, since even persons as illiterate as Cesario make a false show of being educated. He requests Sebastian to put off his pretence of not knowing him and tell him what he should tell lady Olivia. Should he let her know without any ambiguity whether he is coming or not or whether he has no intention of obeying her orders?

In this scene the Clown mockingly adopts, what to him is Cesario's affectation of speech and unnecessary pretensions. He plays on his use of the word 'vent' to exquisite effect, without even knowing its real meaning.

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