

"ENGLISH"

Complete Set

For

Class XII

MUHAMMAD HASSAM

"POEM SECTION"

ULYSSES

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

Lord Alfred Tennyson occupies a very important and prominent position in the domain of English Literature. He is the representative poet of Victorian era. He is a prolific poet and has composed a number of poems. Tennyson's poetry is rich in imagery as that of Keats but it lacks the romantic fine of Wordsworth and Coleridge.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

Ulysses is a long, magnificent, symbolical and moral boosting poem. The poem is written in the dramatic monologues of the powerful blank verse and tells the story of the most prudent and bravest of the Greek heroes, Ulysses of Homer's Odyssey. He is the symbol of adventurous spirit, indomitable courage, inexhaustible zeal; unflinching faith, unshakeable determination and believes that it is not too late to find a New World.

SUMMARY:

Ulysses was a Greek hero and the King of Ithaca. He had spent most of his life in voyages and was always filled with the spirit of ventures and courage. His life was based on the principle of struggle and courage.

In this speech, Ulysses pays high tribute to his mariners who laboured and worked with him. He reminded them of the past endeavours and motivated them to get prepared for another voyage. Ulysses believed that struggle should continue as long as they lived. They had to prove their eagerness, enthusiasm of the dangers and hazards involved in such exploitation but he was prepared to meet all the challenges.

Ulysses admitted that with the passage of time, the major part of their lives and much of their energies have been used up and they had grown weaker. But their determination was as strong as ever and they do not find themselves lacking in strength and vitality. They find themselves still a force to reckon with. They are always bent upon making ceaseless efforts to discover new lands, and under no circumstances, giving up their struggle until ultimate success is achieved.

MORAL:

“Struggle is the father of all things... It is not by the principles of humanity that man lives or is able to preserve himself above the animal world, but solely by means of the most brutal struggle.” _____ Adolf Hitler

LINES FROM ULYSSES

REFERENCE:

The lines given for explanation have been extracted from the poem entitled Ulysses, composed by Lord Alfred Tennyson.

ABOUT THE POET:

Lord Alfred Tennyson occupies a very important and prominent in the domain of English Literature. He is the representative poet of Victorian era. He is a prolific poet and has composed a number of poems. Tennyson's poetry is rich in imagery as that of Keats but it lacks the romantic fine of Wordsworth and Coleridge.

ABOUT THE POEM:

Ulysses is a long, magnificent, symbolical and moral boosting poem. The poem is written in the dramatic monologues of the powerful blank verse and tells the story of the most prudent and bravest of the Greek heroes, Ulysses of Homer's Odyssey. He is the symbol of adventurous spirit, indomitable courage, inexhaustible zeal; unflinching faith, unshakeable determination and believes that it is not too late to find a New World.

LINES (1 TO 4)

Sould that have toil'd and wrought,.....free hearts, free foreheads-you I are old;

EXPLANATION:

Ulysses is addressing his fellow sailors; those brave ones who worked hard and have accomplished great deeds in the past happily and even beard the hardships of rough season and sunshine. He further pays tribute on them that, they are free even with noble souls. Our old ages have stud to keep us away from any long journey to explore this world or to keep glory up. He is addressing those mariners who had all those qualities and he is converging them to join him in his last journey as they did in the past by giving them the few best example and glories of their pride.

LINES (5 TO 8)

Old age hath yet his honour and his toil;.....not unbecoming men that strove with gods.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines we are told how Ulysses inspired his men. He told them that no doubt old age brings its labours and honours with it. But we should do something remarkable before our death, benefiting great heroes who have often faced gods. Here Ulysses refers to old battles between men and gods, as told in the Greek mythology. According to Greek legend, Ulysses and his comrades strove with gods during the war between Greece and Troy. The poet says that, death is power, the spirit of working and efforts come to an end when a man faces death, but a man should always do virtues and avoid troubling others. His actions will remain after his death. We should not do anything against Gods, but achieve some unusual. This is the honour of old age to face troubles and to yield something great to be remembered after the death.

LINES (9 TO 11)

The light begins to twinkle from the rocks;.....Moans round with many voices Come, my friends;

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet tells us that although Ulysses and his friends are nearing the end of their lives, still for them there is a time to go and to find a New World. Ulysses tells his friends that the sun of their lives is going to set while the long day is going to an end. The moon is also rising this shows that night i.e death is fast approaching. Still there is some time to go out and seek a New World. He means to say that they should not worry if they have become old.

The poet describes the sight of an evening. The days are losing its light. The moon is sailing in the sky. We can hear the sounds of the wave that are striking against the seashore. Come on my friends. It is never late to discover a New World. This is the evening of our lives yet we are in a position to explore a New World to be immortal after

our death. The poet creates in sense of self-confidence in his men and encouraged them not to be disappointed to their old evening of life, but to yield a New World.

LINES (12 TO 16)

'Tis not too late to seek a newer world.....of all the western stars, until I die.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines, Ulysses urges his companions to come along with him, sit in order in the boat and start the voyage of discovery. He wants to set out on a journey of discovery with great confidence because it is his firm believe that it is not too late to find a New World. Therefore he ask his comrades to drive the oars with power and might because the sea looks dangerous as the noisy waves are rising God, Poseidon whom they had angered in the Trojan Wars. He tries to reassure them that they will overcome all the obstacles since he is determined to sail beyond the Western bank and touch the happy Isle before he dies. This thing shows that Ulysses is an adventurous person who has unquenchable thirst for knowledge and has a passion for discovery.

Through the symbolic character of Ulysses, Tennyson wants to evoke the spirit of adventure and unsuitable thirst for knowledge. He wants to convince us that each and every minute of life is very vital and one must struggle ceaselessly against heavy olds following the motto:

“To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.”

LINES (17 TO 19)

'It may be the that gulfs.....whom we knew.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines Ulysses asks his sailors to make their struggle for a new journey with hope and courage. He tells them is just possible that they may be drowned in the great depth of the sea, and it is also possible that they may reach the Isles of the Blest (where according to ancient Greek mythology and religion, the soul of good men used to go and after death to live in bless) and meet the great Greek warrior, Achilles, who they know very well.

LINES (20 TO 25)

'Tho muck is taken.....and not to yield.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines Ulysses says to his comrades that although time has taken away many things from them but many things remain with them. They will possess courage and hope. They are still very brave.

He says that no doubt, they have lost a great deal of strength and energy but still they have much strength and powers to accomplish heroic deed. Of course they do not possess that strength and energy which they possessed in the past and used to perform deeds of bravery and accomplish great tasks.

Ulysses wants to say that in spite of being old, exhausted and physically feeble; they still possess some very remarkable qualities. In old age, a man has experience, knowledge and treasure of wisdom. He says that his mariners can perform memorable deed only if they take courage and struggle jointly.

“Lighter is the task when many share the toil.”

He says that they have strong hearts and high aims. There is unity of thought and action among them. Temperamentally they are one. So, they must struggle relentlessly and ceaselessly to discover a New World, to gain fresh knowledge and experience and not to acknowledge defeat. Some one has slightly said:

“Defeat should never be a source of discouragement, but rather a fresh stimulus.”

Through the symbolic character of Ulysses Tennyson wants to inspire the old, weak and exhausted people who can accomplish some task even in old age. Action is life and inaction is the last breath of life.

THE MAN OF LIFE UPRIGHT

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

Thomas Campion was a poet who led English poetry and music to supreme heights. He used the normal forms of simultaneous verses with spectacular skill and modesty. The most admirable pieces of his poetry are these sonnets which he set to his own music.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

'The Man of Life Upright' is a sermonize piece of writing that sheds lights on the prominent visages of the character of a person who leads a life of honor, nobility and righteousness.

SUMMARY:

In this poem the poet describes the quantities of an honest and honourable man. He is very simple, honest, God-fearing and brave. He is also straight-forward. He has no enemies. So he does not need strong forts or armour for his protection. He also does not want secret cellers to hide form natural troubles. He lives a very simple and peaceful life.

“An honest man is the noblest work of God”

An honest and honourable man is not afraid of anything except God. HE can face the dangers of the sea and the troubles of the sky with fearless eyes.

“Faith is the force of life”

He is not a coward. He has full faith in God. He hates all the cares and worries which fortune brings to him. He always looks up to heaven for guidance and gets intelligence from heavenly things.

“Nature is a great teacher”

Good thoughts are the only friends of an honest and honourable man. The time, spent in doing honest and noble deeds, is his wealth. He knows that his stay in this world is quite temporary, so he thinks this world as a pious rest house. He feels that he has come in this world on a holy visit.

THE SOLITARY REAPER

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

Williams Words Worth is a poet who has developed his own immensely valuable theories concerning poetry. This is the reason why he possesses a unique and artificial style. His work shows his life long love for natural beauty, which gives him the title Poet of Nature.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POEM:

This poem relates to an incident, which deeply inspired the poet when he was walking alone through the barren hills of Scotland. He was fascinated by the sweet voice of a girl, who was singing.

SUMMARY:

The poet was on one of his long walks along the barren hills of Scotland when he saw a young girl. She was all alone in the field, harvesting the crops and singing a song in a pensive tone. The poet was profoundly fascinated by the bewitching melody and her voice left an everlasting and indelible impression on the mind of the poet. This impression motivated the poet to write a poem in appreciation of the melodious voice of the girl.

The poet says that the voice of the girl Scattered all over the deep valley. He says that the musical notes of the young singer are symmetrical to the thrilling songs of the Nightingale and the Cuckoo. They were far sweeter than the humming of birds and impression the heart deeply. The sweet melody appeals to the tired travelers of the Arabian Desert, who need relaxation after a long and monotonous journey. The voice leaves a deeper impact than the song sung by the Cuckoo birds. It gives more than just breaking the serenity and tranquility of the lonely seas.

The poet says that although he failed to understand the exact wordings of the songs, as the girl was singing in her native language, he could feel the sorrow and grief in her voice. It was a song of lamentation describing some suffering of every day life.

In the end, the poet realizes that although he would never again get the opportunity to listen to that melodious voice, it would remain fresh in his mind forever. The beautiful gift of nature the girl had, become a source of ceaseless joy for the poet.

“Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory.” _____ Sir Thomas Beecham

THE SOLITARY REAPER

REFERENCE:

The lines given for explanation have been extracted from the poem entitled The Solitary Reaper, composed by William Words Worth.

ABOUT THE POET:

William Words Worth is a poet who has developed his own immensely valuable theories concerning poetry. This is the reason why he possesses a unique and artificial style. His work shows his life long love for natural beauty, which gives him the title poet of Nature.

ABOUT THE POEM:

This poem relates to an incident, which deeply inspired the poet when he was walking alone through the barren hills of Scotland. He was fascinated by the sweet voice of a girl, who was singing a song in her native language.

LINES (1 TO 8)

Behold her, single in the field,.....Is overflowing with the sound

EXPLANATION:

In the above lines, which are the opening lines of the poem, the poet discloses one event of his personal experience. He tells us how enchanted he felt to see a mountain girl reaping and singing all alone in the field. He asks his companion to stop and see the young girl working alone in the field. The poet asks his companion either to stop or to pass silently, without disturbing the lovely reaper.

The poet was profoundly fascinated by the bewitching melody and her voice left an everlasting and indelible impression on the mind of the poet. He invites his readers to listen to that melodious voice. The poet found the voice of the girl scattered all over the deep valley. The deep valley is filled to overflowing with the rich straw of the music.

LINES (9 TO 16)

No nightingale did ever chaunt.....Among the farthest Hebrides.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines, poet says that the musical notes of the young singer are symmetrical to the thrilling songs of the Nightingale and the Cuckoo. They were far sweeter than the humming of birds and impressed the heart deeply. The sweet melody appeals to the tired travelers of the Arabian Desert, who need relaxation after a long and monotonous journey. The voice leaves a deeper impact than the song sung by the Cuckoo birds. It gives more than just breaking the serenity and tranquility of the lonely seas.

In these lines the poet makes the competition of Solitary Reaper to the sweetest songs of Nightingale and Cuckoo birds simply to express his liking for her lovely song. The song echoes in the whole valley. She impressed the poet deeply. He therefore, compares her voice with that of sweet birds. It has magnificent on the poet. It is flight of his imagination.

LINES (17 TO 24)

Will no one tell me what she sings?.....That has been, and may be again!

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet tells us what song the lonely girl is singing. First of all, he thinks that perhaps it is some sad song, concerning some unhappy events as wars etc, which happened long ago. Or, the poet thinks, that highland girl is singing a song about some ordinary matter of daily life. It may be some natural sorrow, loss or pain, which has happened in the past, or is likely to be happening in the future.

In this stanza the poet puts a question whether any body could tell him as to what this girl was singing.

LINES (25 TO 32)

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang.....I listen'd, motionless and still;

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet seems not to understand the actual theme of the Highland girl's song. He says that whatever the subject of her song might have been, it seemed to have no ending.

The poet saw her singing at her work and bending over her sickle.

He further says that he listened to her song motionless and still till he had his fill.

As he went on climbing up the hill, he bore away in his heart the music long after it was heard no more.

MUSIC WHEN SOFT VOICES DIE

REFERENCE:

This stanza has been extracted from the poem entitled Music When Soft Voices Die, written by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

ABOUT THE POET:

P.B Shelley is one of the most famous poets of English Literature. He is an idealist and a dreamer. He exists in the world of ideas and visions, which seem to him more practicable and real than the so called realities of this world.

ABOUT THE POEM:

In this short lyric, Shelly expresses his views about beauty, love and separation. He says that beauty is immortal and love is unchangeable. It does not change with the passage of time and with the change of circumstances. It does not die. Separation does not kill true love.

LINES (1 TO 4)

Music, when soft voices die,..... Live within he sense they quicken,

EXPLANATION:

The poet says that when sweet voices fade away, they echo in our memory. Beautiful and mellifluous songs are unforgettable and immortal. Similarly when the sweet-smelling lovely flowers of violets wither away, their pleasant smell can still be enjoyed in the memory. Our minds are refreshed when we remember the sweet fragrance of violets.

In other words, the poet wants to say that if a thing loses its physical beauty, it can be revived in the imagination. Thus this short lyric reflects the fundamental importance of imagination in human life.

“A thing of beauty is joy for ever.”

Shelley emphasizes the same idea in these lines containing the depth of meaning of philosophical approach to love, beauty, separation and imagination. The poet by giving the example of enchanting music fragrant violets expresses this idea that a beautiful thing never dies. It has everlasting effect on the mind of a man.

LINES (5 TO 8)

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,..... Love itself shall slumber on.

EXPLANATION:

Shelley believes in the Platonic love, which shuns fulfillment. It is a desire that always remains unsatisfied. In love Shelley must find something ideal, something ever to aspire after, something ever to look forward to. It is in the expectation of fulfillment that his happiness lie. He has expressed the Platonic conception of love in this beautiful stanza.

The poet says that when rose petals wither away, they do not become useless. They retain their sweet smell even after withering away. That is why they are used for decorating the beloved's bed. The poet's beloved has been separated from him. She is not with him, but her thoughts are with him and his love will sleep on her thoughts.

In other words the poet wants to say that it does not matte if the sweet heart is physically away from him because spiritually she is with him. He is not alone as in his imagination he finds his beloved very close to him. Separation has sharpened love but he is free from mental agony as her sweet thoughts always comfort and soothes him. His love is passionate and profound and it will not change with the passage of time. He cannot forget his beloved and will continue to love her in his imagination as true love does not die and transcends all barriers and surmount all obstacles. Absence sharpens love, distances intensifies love but imagination brings the beloved so close to the love that distances come to end and the two separated should are united.

THE SEVEN AGES OF MAN

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

The poem "The Seven Ages Of Man" has been written by "William Shakespeare". William Shakespeare was an English dramatist and poet, considered to be the greatest of all writers. Shakespeare was not only a writer and poet, but also an actor who devoted his life to the theatre.

SUMMARY:

According to William Shakespeare this world is like a drama stage and all men and women are merely actors. Just as the actors come on the stage and go away after playing their roles, in the same way all men and women come in this world. They play seven roles during their life time, and then go away from this world by death. IT means that death is the exit and birth is the entrance of all human beings.

At first he performs the role of an infant. In this part he weeps and vomits in the arms of his nurse. The second role is a school boy. He is not willing to go to his school. He is very neat and clean. Then he performs the role of a lover. He sighs like a furnace and sings songs praising the beauty of his beloved. In the fourth stage he is a soldier. He wants to get honour and glory in a very short time, even at the risk of his own life. In the fifth stage, he is a judge. He has a big belly, severe eyes and a fashionable beard. He knows many saying and modern examples. In the sixth stage, he is an old man. HE is very weak and looks like a clown.

"And old man is twice a child."

In the seventh stage he is again like a child. That is the end of his active life. He loses his memory. HE is without teeth. His eyesight weakens. He cannot enjoy anything. In short he is a worthless man.

SAY NOT THE STRUGGLE NAUGHT AVAILETH'

REFERENCE:

The lines given for explanation have been extracted from the poem entitled Say Not the Struggle Not Avaieth, composed by Arthur Hugh Clough.

ABOUT THE POET:

He is a great but known and admired more for his friendship with a greater poet and educationalist Mathew Arnold and for his support to Florence Nightingale.

ABOUT THE POEM:

This poem teaches the moral lesson of inflicting courage, ceaseless struggle and sunny optimism of hope and aspiration. The poet through various images conveys a great message that without struggle man can not accomplish anything really great in this world. Struggle is the key to success in human life.

LINES (1 TO 4)

Say not the struggle not avaieth And as things have been they remain.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet says that we should never think that our struggle is useless and the labour put in by men to achieve an objective goes without reward and the wounds that we suffer are fruitless.

The poet further says that we should not think that our enemy never feels weakened or is never defeated by our constant efforts and that the things have been in the past as they will remain unchanged in the future.

They poet strongly believe that all our efforts always bear fruit.

LINES (5 TO 8)

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;..... and, possess the field.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet says that if our hopes deceive us and are not fulfilled, there is no need to be frustrated, the fears may be liars and baseless like our hope. Here the poet gives a beautiful example and says that sometimes it so happens in the battle-field that a section of the army without you take advantage of the smoke from the guns and wins the battle-field by chasing the fliers of the enemy. In the same way we may not understand the situation of life and we often succeed in our mission by our constant efforts.

The poet advises us that we should struggle and wait for the result of our efforts patiently.

LINES (9 TO 12)

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,.....comes silent, flooding in, the main.

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet says that our struggle always bears fruit. He gives a beautiful example of the waves of the sea. He says that we often see that the weary waves of the sea strike against the shore uselessly, yet they seem to gain not an inch of the land in spite of their painful struggle. But after some time we find

that these very waves have created creeks and inlets in the land through which the water of the sea comes flooding in quite silently. This shows that our every effort bears fruit.

LINES (13 TO 16)

And not by eastern windows only.....But westward, look, the land is bright!

EXPLANATION:

In these lines the poet gives a very beautiful example which portrays a persistent struggle. He says that when the day dawns, the light comes not only from the eastern windows but comes from all the directions. The sun takes so much time to climb up the horizon, but if one looks towards the west, the land is bright. The poet means to say that success does not come only from the expected direction; it may also come from the unexpected directions. Therefore, we should always continue our struggle so that we may get fresh strength and help from different directions as the brightness of the sun.

MUHAMMAD HASSAM

"LESSON SECTION"

THE WORLD AS I SEE AT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Albert Einstein is one of the most famous scientists and the great mathematical physicist of the current century. His theory of relativity has transformed scientist's notion of time and space. He was awarded the noble prize for physics in 1921. He is a bold the freely and unhasitatesly. His worth rests very little on laboratory work but more on theories and philosophies. His writings for the lay man are few but they include an introduction to the journal theory of relativity. His writings demonstrate his admirable capability.

ABOUT THE ESSAY:

The world As I see It is an interesting essay in which Albert Einstein have expressed his personal views about the purpose and ideals of life; democracy and dictatorship, was and peace, mystery and religion.

SUMMARY:

Albert Einstein says that our stay in this world is very short. It is rightly said that
"This life, which seems so fair, As like a bubble blown up in the air."

Life is not purposeless as far as the practicals life is concerned we exist for our fellowmen. He thinks that his fellowmen word very hard in order to make his life comfortable, so, he must repay them in the same manner. He is against class differences which, he thinks are contrary to justice and are based on force and compulsion. He believes in simple living. He says that man is not completely free in this world. He acts under external compulsions and the pressure of inner urges. He believes in the philosopher who says that
"Man is not the master of his own will"

According to Einstein comfort and ease are not good ideals. He has always been inspired by the ideals of thruth, goodness and beauty. He thinks that property, outward success and luxury are the ordinary objects of life. He loves solitude because he think that a man can form his opinions, habits and judgments without being influenced by any person if he leads a life of solitude.

"I never found a companion so companionable as solitude"

Einstein is a firm believer of democracy. He considers it to be the best firm of government. He is against hero worship. He attributes the causes of the failures of democracy in Europe to the week and in capable rulers. He pays great tribute to the President form of government prevalent in America where a President is elected for a sufficiently long period and enjoys sufficient powers, therefore, he acts in a responsible manner.

Einstein hates war. He would rather die than take part in such an abominable commercial interest have corrupted the sound sense of the nations.

"War seems to me a mean and contemptible thing."

According to Einstein mystery is the basic of religion. Man always tried to know the unknown and the passion to know the unknown mysterious things results in a religious attitude. In this sense alone Einstein is a deeply religious person because he has tried to know the unknown.

CONCLUSION:

After the study of this thought provoking essay we come to the conclusion that Albert Einstein is really a great man. He is humanist and pacifist and a genius. He has a philosophical band of mind. Inshort, he is a man of great wisdom, teen observation, deep insight and profound knowledge.

THE DAY THE DAM BROKE

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTHOR:

The day the dam broke is a fascinating, captivating, remarkable, honourous story written by the great American humourist JAMES GROVES THURBER. He has written a number of witty and humorous articles. Among his most entertaining books are THE SEAL IN THE BEDROOM, MAN, WOMEN & DOGS, FIBLES FOR OUR TIMES & LET YOUR MIND ALONE.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LESSON:

In this story, the writer has depicted the mob mentality with great dexterity. He has narrated the experiences of his aunt Edith Tailor and his own experiences about "THE GREAT RUN" of the afternoon in Columbus city. This short is a good example of Thurber's sardonic but affectionate view of human behaviour.

SUMMARY:

James Thurber recalls an interesting incident of his early childhood when he lived in Columbus city, situated near the Ohio River in the U.S.A. All of a sudden, on March 12, 1913 a rumor spread that the river Ohio was in flood and water would rush towards the city as the dam had broken. The people became panic after hearing the run our and came out on the high street. They started running towards the East for safety without confirming the news about the flood. In calamity ever rumour is believed men, women and children were running halter-scatter towards the East formal business was going on in the market but when the rumour spread about the flood the people who were busy in sailing and buying, started to run in utter confusion for saving their lives two thousand people were abruptly in full right Go East! Go East! Go East! The dam has broke was the clarion cry being heard every where.

The writer's aunt Edith Tailor was in a movie theatre, she wrote

"When I reached grant avenue, I was so spent that Dr. H.P Melory passed me. There was a boy behind him on roller skates and Dr. Melory mistook the swishing of the skates for the sound of rushing water. He eventually reached the Columbus school for girl where he collapsed."

The panic stricken people ran out for safety leaving fires burning and food cooking and doors wide open. Some of the people covered the distance 12 miles in order to save their lives. Atlast the military men riding through the city in motor lorries announced that the news about the flood was false and that the dam had not broken. Atfirst the announcement edit to the confusion and increased the panic for many stampedes the military men were announcing, The Dam Has Now Broken! Thus setting an official seal of authentication on the calamity But after repeated announcements the his understanding was removed and order was restored. The people heaved a sigh of relief when they heard that the dam had not broken. The people returned to their homes and started their normal business the next day. But they didn't joke about the happenings of the previous day. It is rightly said:

"How much have cost us the evils that never happened."

CONCLUSION:

This story is a good study of human behaviour. It shows that men were all their wit aid wisdom in a panic. Infact, this humorous story is also a satire of human fillies.

"The mob has many heads but no brains."

Through all the funny references Thurber has tried to point out that all of us no matter how serious and sober, behave in one and the same idiotic manner when we are thrown in a trying situation. Thurber has presented view of life. It's a commendable effort to tell something serious has tried to study human characters thrown in difficult and trine circumstances.

REFLECTION OF THE RE-AWAKENING EAST

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Bertrand Russell was an outstanding mathematician, writer and thinker of our time. He is best known for introducing scientific attitude in politics and sociology. He was a sincere advocate and technical aid to Asia.

ABOUT THE ESSAY:

In this lesson Russell has tried to present a historical study and analysis of the reconciliation-emergence of the east as a powerful influence in the world after centuries of subjugation and exploitation by the western imperialism. He praises the people of the east and criticizes the people of the west. He admires the Muslims of Spain who had a brilliant culture at that time when the Europe was sunk in barbarism. He has expressed his hopes and apprehensions as regards to what Asia should and what it will do after it achieve its political and economic independence. He also desires that the east will use its power to promote peace, justice and happiness in the world.

SUMMARY:

According to Bertrand Russell the reconciliation-awakening of the east is an enormous movement. During the period of more than two thousand years, the east and the west held the power alternately. In the earlier history, the east predominated. It was more civilized and more powerful than the west. However the west got the lead in civilization with the rise of Greece and it came into power with the conquests of Alexander. But after the fall of Rome, the east regained the power and very large parts of the Roman Empire were conquered by the Muslims, who had an empire considerably larger than that of Rome. The east was dominant in power as well as in barbarism. There was no culture in Europe but only in Christian Europe for the Muslim of Spain had a brilliant culture. However the west once again came into power and prominence due to the stupendous progress of science and by following the policy of imperialism. But the two world wars so enfeebled Europe that it was no longer able to hold Asia in subjection. Now most of the Asian countries have achieved independence and the other will achieve it soon.

Welcoming the emergence of these new countries Russell warns the Asian people of the danger of communism which he believes, is the worst kind of western imperialism. He is of the opinion that Asian people can raise their standard of living by making tremendous progress in science and technology and in the field of industry.

Asian countries should adopt the western scientific technique but they must not follow it blindly. They must retain the glorious traditions of the civilization. They must avoid the mistakes and blunders committed by the west. Russell has strong hope that the Asian countries can play a vital role in maintaining the international peace and in making the world a place of happiness.

EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT:

The supremacy of the east was not only military but science, philosophy, poetry and the arts also flourished in China and the Mohammedan world at a time when Europe was sunk in barbarism. Europeans with unpardonable insularity, called this period "THE DARK AGES"; but it was only in Europe that it was dark indeed only in Christian Europe, for Spain, which was Mohammedan, had a brilliant culture.

REFERENCE:

These lines have been extracted from a thought provoking lesson of our prose text "REFLECTION ON THE RE-AWAKENING EAST"; written by "BERTRAND RUSSELL".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Bertrand Russell was an outstanding mathematician, writer and thinker of our time. He is best known for introducing scientific attitude in politics and sociology. He was a sincere aducate and technical aid to Asia.

THE DEVOTED FRIEND

INTRODUCTION OF THE AUTHOR:

Oscar Wilde was one of the most innocent and elegant writers of the 19th century. He became dazzlingly famous with the publication of his novel "Dorian Gray". He was one of the foremost exponents of the doctrine of art for art's sake given first place in literature.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STORY:

The devoted friend is an interesting short of two friends having different temperaments and different conceptions of devoted friendship. The story is both tender and profound in its treatment of the conically one-sided friendship between poor Hans and the rich Miller.

SUMMARY:

One morning an old water rat put his head out of his hole. He saw the little ducks swimming in the pond with their mother. He told the duck that friendship was a higher thing than love. A green Linnet who was sitting on a willow tree near by, asked him to explain the conception of devoted friendship. The duck said that she also wanted to know the water rat's view about the duties of a devoted friend. The water rat could not explain his point of view then the green Linnet told a story on the subject of a devoted friendship.

Once upon a time there was an honest little fellow named Hans. He lived alone in a tiny cottage surrounded by a lovely garden. In his garden he grew various kinds of flowers who was a smooth-tongued fellow. Hans was under the impression that the miller was his fast, bossom and devoted friend, but he was a selfish friend. He used to get flowers and fruits from Hans but didn't give any thing in return, though he was very proud of his friendship with the miller. To justify his selfish attitude, the miller used to say to little Hans;

"Real friend should have everything in common."

When the winter came Hans began to starve but the miller didn't go to see him. He used to say to his wife;

"When the people are in trouble then should be left alone and not be bothered by the visitors."

When the winter was over, the miller came to see Hans. Hans said to him;

"I was half afraid you had forgotten me."

The miller pleased Hans by speaking a beautiful sentence. He said;

"Friendship never forgets."

Hans told the miller that he was obliged to sale many things including wheel barrow. The miller promised to give his own broken wheel barrow. Now he began to exploit Hans. On the very day he got a plank from him then he asked him to repair the roof of his barn. Once he asked him to carry his sack of flour to the market, thereafter the miller asked him to take his sheep to the mountain. He reminded Hans that he was going to give him his wheel-barrow. On a stormy night he sent Hans to call in a doctor as his son was injured. While returning with the doctor, he lost his way and was drowned. Next day his body was found floating in the pool of water. Every body attended the little Hans funeral and the miller, who was responsible for his tragic death posed himself to be the chief mourner. Hans sacrificed his life for the sake of devoted friendship. He was the embodiment of sincerity and sacrifice. He departed from the world leaving a shining example of devoted friendship.

"Sacrifice is the quintessence of devoted friendship."

CONCLUSION:

Oscar Wilde has deliberately written the story in order to explain his point of view that when a story is written with a moral the writer is bound to weave unrealistic elements into the texture of the story. For example the miller's son is injured and he refuses to give his new lantern to Hans. Hans is so simple that he doesn't get angry at the refusal and goes to call in a doctor while returning he is drowned in a foot of water. It is difficult to find such a person in the realistic world. The moral behind the story is dominantly repeated saying:

"A friend in need is a friend indeed."

PAKISTAN AND THE MODERN WORLD

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER:

Liaquat Ali Khan was the right hand man of the Quaid-e-Azam. During the crucial years of Muslim struggle for the creation of Pakistan. In 1947, he becomes the first Prime Minister of Pakistan. He was a great states man and an eloquent arator. He steered the country with immense ability through its early years of drile and tribulation. On 16th October 1951, a fennatic at a public meeting in Rawalpindi assassinated him. He worked for the achievement of independence tirelessly and selflessly. He had profound love for Pakistan. He lived for Pakistan and he died for Pakistan. Beyond any shadow of doubt he was a great man and a great leader.

ABOUT THE SPEECH:

Pakistan and the modern world is a magnificent, memorable, inspiring and though providing speech, delivered by Liaquat Ali Khan during his historic visit to the United States of America in 1950 to acknowledge the conferment of an honorary degree upon himself by the University of Census. The address auspiciously outlined the historical perspective and the ideology of Pakistan. He also highlighted the problems and difficulties faced by the new nation in the initial years of independence by speaking to the scholars, diplomats and distinguished citizens of U.S.A. Liaquat Ali Khan also tried to clarify different misconceptions about Pakistan.

“We believe then and we believe now that the demand of the Muslims in British India to have a separate state of their own was on both the human and geopolitical grounds a very reason able demand.”

SUMMARY:

Liaquat Ali Khan in his speech says that Pakistan is a new country which came into existence in 1947. Before partition, Pakistan was only an ideal and alonging. It was the part of the vast sub-continent, which was inhabited by a 100 million Muslims and 300 million Hindus. The Britished ruled the sub-continent. When the dawn of freedom was drawing near, the Muslims realized that at the end of the British rule they will have to live in a perpetual political minority and to them freedom should mean no freedom but merely a change of masters. But that was not only reason for the demand of a separate country for the Muslims of the sub-continent. There were religious and cultural differences between the Muslims and Hindus. They feared that their culture would suffer a great backward economically and industrially so they demanded a separate homeland. The demand was very reasonable on human and geo political grounds. Further more the creation of Pakistan was the greatest contribution that could be made towards the stability of Asia.

Chastic conditions exists in almost all the countries of Asia but Pakistan stands unified as its people are free from mental confusions. They democracy, human liberty, universal peace but an equally strong belief in resisting aggression tirenly and exploitation. They establishment Pakistan for practicing these believes without being thwarted by the domination of the Hindus and their conflicting ways of life. During the three years of independence Pakistan had to face many problems such as the setting of administrative machinery, industry and the rehabilitation of 7 million refugees migrated from India to Pakistan made astonishing progress. Maintenance of freedom requires constant vigilance so the Pakistani must maintain their own freedom first and they must strive seeslessly to achieve real freedom which means freedom from hungry, disease, ignorance and want. Having firm faith in the ideology of Pakistan they must make progress in the field of science and technology.

Backward people of Asia want progress in all works of life so the western world must demonstrate that true democracy is international and it must allow them to share the great kind of knowledge, skill and experience without their progress the world will limp along one leg so the Americans, it is certain regard the emergence of Pakistan, its progress and future development as of great importance. In the end Liaquat Ali Khan says that he came to America with a purpose of bringing the people of two countries closer. The Americans have fulfilled this mission by honouring him and his country.

SILVER BOX

INTRODUCTION OF THE POET:

John Galsworthy is a famous novelist and playwright whose works contains a great deal of criticism of British society. The Silver Box is a powerful and bitter play. Through the character of James Jones, Galsworthy criticizes the British society in which law favors the rich and injustice is done to the poor.

“Law grinds the poor, and rich men rule the law.”

He wrote a number of novels and plays, “The Silver Box”, “Justice”, “Loyalties” and “Escape” are the best plays of his time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLAY:

This play is criticism of British legal system. IT deals with the old era when there was one law for poor and another for rich. This play is written in his typical style, and is a fine piece of satire on the degradation of moral values.

“The more corrupt the state, the more laws.”

SUMMARY:

Mr. Barthwick was a member of the British Parliament. He posed himself as a social reformer who seemed to have great sympathy and compassion for the poor people. In a drunken state, his son, Jack Barthwick, stole a lady’s purse. He returned home very late a very late at night. James Jones, a poor and jobless person, happened to pass near the house of Mr. Barthwick. He saw Jack Barthwick trying to find the keyhole on the wrong side of the door. He helped Jack in unlocking the door of his house. Jack invited him to have a drink. Jones entered the house with Jack. He drank whisky excessively and under the influence of whisky, he stole a silver cigarette box and the same purse, stolen by the jack. In the morning Thomas Marlowe found the silver box missing. He Communicated the loss to Mr. Barthwick who sent him to the police station to lodge the report of the theft.

The police acted promptly and arrested Jones along with his innocent wife who was employed as a charwoman in the house of Mr. Barthwick.

“How easy it is to judge rightly after one sees what evil comes from judging wrongly.”

Jones became violent when they arrested his wife who did not commit any crime. The police took her into custody because they suspected that she might have stolen the silver box or helped her husband in entering the house of Mr. Barthwick. Jones was sentenced to one month’s imprisonment with hard labor. He protested against this injustice, for Jack who committed the identical crime, was not punished. Mr. Jones not only explains his position but he also exposes the similar act committed by young Jack Barthwick on the same night. He says to Magistrate:

“Call this justice? What about him? He got drunk! He took the purse. But its his money got him off-Justice!”

The charges leveled against his wife could not be proved and she was acquitted. At the end of the trial, she looked at Mr. Barthwick with a silent request for re-employment but he made a gesture of refusal and hurried out of the court. Thus, the poor family was ruined completely. Mr. Jones bitterly remarks.

“I am a poor man. I have no money and no friends, and he (Jack) is a doff. He can do what I can’t.”

CONCLUSION:

“Money can change the cause of justice without any consideration.”

The dramatist concludes that it is the poor people, who always suffer and pass through mental and physical torture and they are the one, who face these difficulties with patience. While the rich people make use of their resources and enjoy a trouble, free life even committing the crimes.

“O! Judgment thou art fled to brutes.”

MUHAMMAD HASSAM

The Prisoner of Zenda

By Anthony Hope Hawkins

Character Sketch

Princess Flavia

Black Michael

Rudolf Ressendyll

Colonel Sapt

Rupert of Hentzau

Fritz von Tarlenheim

Antoinette De Mauban

PRINCESS FLAVIA

INTRODUCTION:

Princess Flavia is a character from the novel entitled *The Prisoner of Zenda*, written by Anthony Hope. She is the only female character who is not directly involved in the conspiracies, which pervade the entire atmosphere of the novel. She is the cousin and fiancé of King Rudolf Elphberg and is the immediate inheritor to the throne. She bears a bewitching personality and fascinates the readers by the elegant attitude.

Her appearance can be perceived by Rudolf Rassendyll's saying:

“A girl pale and lovely, surmounted by a crown of glorious Elphberg hair.”

BEAUTIFUL ASPECTS OF HER ROLE:

Princess Flavia is a young, captivating and decent lady. She possesses a character full of virtues and commands great respect and admiration among the people of Ruritania. They wish to see her as the future queen of the country. She is a noble and kind-hearted woman.

“Trust men, and they will be true to you; treat them greatly, and they will show themselves great.” _____ Ralph Waldo Emerson

SOBERNESS AND INTELLIGENCE:

Princess Flavia is a wise woman. Her wisdom keeps her aware of the evil desires of Black Michael, who is not a good man. She very intelligently keeps herself away from all sorts of intrigues. She is a sensible person who has the courage to face the realities of life.

Her intelligence is enlightened when she said to Rassendyll:

“Do be careful,” she went on, “you don't—indeed you don't—keep enough watch on him.”

ROMANCE:

Princess Flavia is a lady with elements of love in her heart. These elements increase the fascination and temptation in her character. She sincerely and quite confidently admits her inclination towards Rassendyll. Being impressed by this personality, she was bold enough to propose to Rassendyll but her sensibility restricted her to perform any action below dignity. She gave heart and soul to Rudolf Rassendyll considering him to be the real king. She never mourns her decision even after coming to know that he is a pretender. She confused that Rudolf Rassendyll was acceptable to her even if he was a beggar.

“The fate of love is that it always seems too little or too much.” _____ Amelia Barr

DEVOTION:

The princess was a sincere and devoted lady, always worried about the security of Rassendyll. She advised him time and again to be cautious of the wicked plans of Duke Michael. When Black Michael was successful in injuring Rassendyll, she at once reached Zenda to look after him. This action reflects her sense of responsibility and devotion towards the man whom she loved from the depths of her heart.

She said to Rassendyll:

“Oh, if you were not the king, then I could show you how I love you.”

DUTY AND PATRIOTISM:

Princess Flavia is a responsible lady. She is very loyal to her country and knows the difference between love and duty. She sets an example of the greatest sacrifice by giving up her love at the altar of duty. This aspect of her character shows that she is not the slave of her passions.

Her sense of duty is enlightened when she says to Rassendyll:

“Your ring will always be on my finger, your heart in my heart. But you must go and I must stay.”

THE GREAT SACRIFICE:

In order to maintain peace in Ruritania and not to disgrace the Royal family, Princess Flavia took a sensible and daring step. She sacrificed her love for the sake of her homeland and parted with Rassendyll forever. It was a noble and graceful decision in the interest of Ruritania and the Royal family.

“there is no moral authority like that of sacrifice.” _____ Nadine Gordimer

CONCLUSION:

Princess Flavia proves to be not only the leading female character of the novel but also the most lively and integral personality. She holds the attentions of the readers because of her charm, duty and incredible virtues. She respected the wished of the people and the country and gave up her love for the sake of her country. She is a complete symbol of love, beauty and sacrifice, which makes her an admirable character.

“To love one person with a private love is poor and miserable, to love all is glorious.” _____

Thomas traherne

RUDOLF RASSENDYLL

INTRODUCTION:

Rudolf Rassendyll is the hero and central character of the novel entitled *The Prisoner of Zenda*, written by Anthony Hope. The integral character of Rassendyll holds the attention of the readers throughout the exciting events of the novel. Rassendyll possesses a prime personality and is linked with the main incidents of the novel in one way to the other.

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HIS ROLE:

Rudolf Rassendyll is a tall, young and handsome man, who belongs to a noble family in England. He is an educated man of twenty-nine, who has perfect command over German and French. He is bold, cultural and knows the art of becoming popular. He has red hair, straight nose, blue eyes and beard. His physical appearances. Rassendyll himself pointed out:

“The king’s face was slightly more fleshy than mine, the oval of its contour the least trifle more pronounced and his mouth lacking something of the firmness which was to be gathered from my close-shutting lips.”

However, in spite of these differences, Colonel Sapt could not help mentioning to Rassendyll:

“You’re an Elphberg, every inch of you.”

ADVENTURE:

Rudolf Rassendyll is very fond of adventures and loves to roam about instead of sticking to a job. He is also a good mastermind who handles difficult situations seeming effortless. The desire to participate in sensational events is always there in his heart. This desire was fulfilled by his play-acting of king Rudolf Elphberg, who very identical to him. His likeness with the king of Ruritania helped him to make his mission a success. He pledges in strong and unequivocal terms:

“I have been an imposter for the profit of another, but I will not be one for my own; and if the king is not alive and on his throne before the day of betrothal comes I will tell the truth, come what may.”

WISDOM AND PRUDENCE:

Rudolf Rassendyll proves himself to be a man of outstanding attributes and full of wisdom. He plays the role of the king very intelligently. Once he gets entangled in Ruritanian politics, he becomes conscious not only of the significance of his royal position but also of the responsibility, which lies on his shoulders. He is a wise, cool minded and responsible man.

FAITHFULNESS AND SINCERITY:

Rudolf Rassendyll is a sincere man. He does not want to keep the throne to himself. He carries out all his responsibilities with firmness and confidence. He realizes that it is his duty to restore the real king to the throne and he never tries to take undue advantage as a pretender. His veracity and sincerity is outstanding as he declares:

“If I’m found out, I’ll make a clean breast of it, and fight it out with the Duke.”

BOLDNESS AND COURAGE:

Rudolf Rassendyll is supposed to be gifted with extraordinary courage and chivalry, and does not fall short of our expectations in this matter. He is an expert rider and an excellent sword man. When time and

fate offered Rassendyll a challenge, he accepted him as a brave man. His stay in Ruritania unfolds his marvelous sense of responsibility, boldness and wisdom: The role played by him in Ruritania to save the throne from Black Michael was really an act of gallantry and wisdom.

ROMANCE:

The romantic aspect of Rassendyll's personality shows that his heart throbs for Princess Flavia but the sense of duty and devotion to the throne is far stronger in him. The circumstances urge him to express love to Princess Flavia but both to feel it. Being deeply conscious of his responsibility and dedication, he declares:

“I had to keep the princess devoted to me and yet indifferent to me;
I had to show affection for her and not feel it.”

THE GREAT SACRIFICE:

In order to maintain peace in Ruritania and not to disgrace the royal family, Rudolf Rassendyll took a sensible and daring step. He sacrificed his love at the altar of duty and left Ruritania with tears of regret in the eyes of Princess Flavia, words of gratitude on the lips of king, applause and appreciation from all the countrymen and feeling of satisfaction on his own part.

“There is no moral authority like that of sacrifice.” _____ Nadine Gordimer

COLONEL SAPT

INTRODUCTION:

The masterpiece of adventure and romance *The Prisoner of Zenda*, written by Anthony Hope Hawkins, has a number of prominent and impressive characters. Colonel Sapt is one of these great characters.

Sapt is one of the dedicated and royal followers and personal attendants of king Rudolf.

He is described as:

“Rather short and very stoutly built, with a big bullet-shaped head, a bristly grey moustache, and smell, pale blue eyes, a trifle blood short.”

He is an experienced military man, faithful and devoted to monarchy. The spirit of patriotism is always alive in him, and he does not hesitate to put his life at the stake for safe guarding the throne.

A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF REAL KING:

Colonel Sapt is one of the stronger supporters of the real king of Ruritania. He is a monarchist and serves the cause of the king with great devotion. He leaves no stone unturned to liberate his master from the cruel clutches of Michael. He is not at all a stonehearted man as people think about him. He is always calm, composed and calculated, He stands as firm as a rock and never gives way to any kind of pressure.

LOYAL AND DUTIFUL:

“The path of duty is the way to glory.”

Sapt is imbued with a keen sense of duty and dedication. It is he who thinks of the plan to have Rudolf Rassendyll take the king's place for his one desire in life is to see his master on the throne. He is always ready to stake his life for the sake of duty Rassendyll pays tribute to Colonel Sapt by saying:

“He is always ready to sacrifice for the sake of duty.”

A BRAVE, DEVOTED AND COURAGEOUS SOLDIER:

Colonel Sapt is a brave, chivalrous, faithful and courageous soldier and is extremely devoted to king Rudolf Elpherg. He always remains by the side of Rassendyll, and is prepared to encounter the enemy on the spur of the moment. He accompanies Rassendyll to the summerhouse, and remains alert and vigilant in case any harm come to the fair cousin of his king.

“The best hearts are ever the bravest.” _____ Sterne

HIS OPINION ABOUT WOMEN:

Colonel Sapt does not hold good views about women. He considers them the cause of all the destruction in the world. When Rudolf Rassendyll talks about the beauty of Princess Flavia. Colonel Sapt says to him.

“Never mind the woman”

He has not faith in the fair sex, and thus he openly asserts:

“I don't believe in any woman.”

A REMARKABLE PSYCHOLOGIST:

Colonel Sapt has a good knowledge of human psychology and possesses a rich and varied experience of the ways of the world. He has a profound insight into Rassendyll's character and declares:

“Before God, you are the finest Elphberg of them all.”

He is familiar with the fluctuations of fortune, and fears that if he fails to defend the throne, all the evil plans of Duke Michael will become feasible. Sapt is rather a cold, unemotional, harsh person, but as Rassendyll states:

“His rough manner covered a wonderful—and, as I came to recognize more and more, a remarkable knowledge of human nature.”

A RELIABLE AND AN INTELLIGENT GUIDE:

Colonel Sapt is a good companion, an intelligent and reliable guide and a sober advisor to both Rudolf Rassendyll and Fritz. The mastermind behind all the plots and counter plots is that of Sapt. He is the one who decides that Rassendyll should impersonate the king, and in the light of his rich experience points to Rassendyll:

“As a man grows old he believes in fate. Fate sent you here. Fate sends you now to Streslau.”

A SINCERE FRIEND:

Colonel Sapt is a sincere and devoted friend of Rudolf Rassendyll. After the restoration of the throne to the real king of Ruritania. When Rassendyll is about to leave Zenda, Colonel Sapt becomes very sad and despondent. It is rightly said:

“Sincerity is the essence of true friendship.”

HAD CONTROL OVER PASSIONS:

Colonel Sapt is not a slave to his passions. He is never swept away by his emotions and always avoids taking hasty, irrational decisions. He exercises a lot of restraint and self-control and is gifted with the ability of adjusting himself to any given situation.

“Patience, perseverance overcome passion.”

CONCLUSION:

To sum up, it can be said that Sapt is an old, experienced soldier who proves his worth in every sphere of life. His worldly wisdom is unmatched, his gallantry outstanding, his devotion to his master and indeed an embodiment of truth, loyalty, dedication, sincerity, wisdom and co-operation.

ANTOINETTE DE MAUBAN

INTRODUCTION:

Among the leading characters of the novel, Prisoner of Zenda, there are only two belonging to the fair sex, which are of paramount significance. Princess Flavia gains more prominence being the heroin of the novel but lady Mauban is of no less importance for the development of the plot.

Antoinette De Mauban is described as:

“A widow, rich and handsome and according to repute, ambitious.”

It is pointed out that:

“she is perhaps a year or two over thirty, tall, dark, and of rather full figure.”

Rudolf Rassendyll speaks of her handsome face and proud smile. She is rolling in wealth and is known to be very ambitious.

POLITICAL ADVENTURESS:

Antoinette De Mauban is wealth widow and a very popular figure in the aristocratic circles of the society. She is not a Ruritanian by birth. She comes to Ruritania to attend the coronation ceremony of Rudolf Elphberg. She is a political adventuress that is why she takes stocks of the political situation of Ruritania and wants to exploit it.

INTERESTED IN OUTWARD GLAMOUR:

She is interested in outward and superficial things of life. This is the reason that she is impressed by the outward appearance of life and people. On her way to Zenda, she refuses to be introduced to Rudolf Rassendyll, because he is shabbily dressed.

Regarding this, George says to Rassendyll:

“well, I offered to bring you to her; but she said, another time.”

She loves to be in the lime light all the time:

“she flew like a beautiful butterfly in the high circles of society.”

A SYMBOL OF JEALOUSY:

It is said that:

“love makes one jealous.”

This saying holds true for Antoinette De Mauban. When she comes to know that Black Michael has diverted his attention towards Princess Flavia in order to fulfil his evil plans, she warns Rassendyll and Flavia about the evil intentions of Black Michael. She is not ready to allow Black Michael to marry Princess Flavia.

She said to Rassendyll about Black Michael:

“My God! Shall I see him marry her?”

KIND-HEARTED, SYMPATHETIC AND HELPFUL:

She is kind-hearted, sympathetic and helpful. She cannot see others engulfed in troubles and storms of life. She is very helpful in the attempts made by Rassendyll to rescue the real king of Ruritania. She not only acquaints him with the evil nature and evil designs of Black Michael but also saves his life at the summer house. She says to Rassendyll:

“Go past the summer house, on far a hundred yards, and you will find a ladder against the wall. Get over and fly for your life.”

SINCERE IN LOVE:

“Fate of love is unpredictable. A lover gets a few moments to smile; often the lover sighs, sobs, weeps, writhe in agony and pines away in love.”

Antoinette De Mauban loves Black Michael with the core of her heart. Her love is based on sincerity. She trusts him and for quite sometimes believes that he is going to marry her. Then her innocent and tender heart has to sustain a severe shock as she realizes that Black Michael is not faithful to her. He is over ambitious and wants to get the throne as well as, Princess Flavia. However, she does not give up her claim over Michael and keep striving to possess him for ever. She is a woman of strong nerves and unshaken will power.

“Frustration in love results in emotional action.”

A LADY OF MARVELOUS BEAUTY:

Beyond any shadow of doubt and without any exaggeration Mauban is a paragon of beauty. Mauban's presence in the castle adversely affects the cause of Black Michael. Rupert, one of his strongest supporters, is attracted by Mauban's ravishing beauty and wants to make love to her but she repulses him. This is something which is also not bearable for Michael. There develops a conflict between him and Rupert. Rupert fights with Black Michael in order to win her and stabs him to death.

Rudolf Rassendyll says about her beauty:

“She was in evening dress, arrayed very sumptuously and her dark striking beauty was marvelously displayed.”

AN IMPORTANT CHARACTER:

A deep study of her character reveals that despite loving a villain like Black Michael, she herself is not a villainous character. Her character is very interesting and absorbing and holds our attention throughout the novel. Her only weak point is her love and irresistible desire for glamour, fame and high status. In short, she occupies a significant position in the female gallery of characters created by mighty pen of Anthony Hope.

RUDOLF ELPHBERG

INTRODUCTION:

Rudolf Elphberg is one of the central characters of the novel entitled *The Prisoner of Zenda* created by Anthony Hope. He is the prisoner in the castle of Zenda. He is son of late king of Ruritania and heir to throne.

APPEARANCE:

Rudolf Elphberg is a young, tall and handsome man. He is an educated man. He has red hair, straight nose, blue eyes and a beard. His physical appearance bears striking resemblance to that of Rudolf Rassendyll, though there were some points of differences, which are pointed by Rudolf Rassendyll:

“The king’s face was slightly more fleshy than mine, the oval of its contour the least trifle more pronounced and his mouth lacking something of the firmness which was to be gathered from my close-shutting lips.”

However, in spite of these differences, Colonel Sapt could not help mentioning to Rassendyll:

“You’re an Elphberg, every inch of you.”

LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMON SENSE:

Rudolf Elphberg, the king is a happy-go-lucky type of young man. He is a pleasure loving man and wishes to pass a happy and care free life. He is devoid of a sense of responsibility and lacks even common sense. He is indiscreet and trusts even his half brother, Black Michael. He does not care even the coronation and drinks excessively. HE also drinks the wine sent by his wicked brother. He does not even think or suspect about it. It is well known to the people of Ruritania that Black Michael intends to get through the access to the throne and wants to marry Flavia, but Elphberg is not aware of this fact.

A WEAK MAN:

He has not the quality to face the dangers and odds boldly. His behaviour in prison throws a shadow upon his person. HE becomes completely demoralized and losses all grill. His health suffers and he becomes partially insane. He requests Detchard to persuade his brother, Black Michael to kill him. He becomes hopeless and sobs on his fate.

NOT A BAD MAN:

Rudolf Elphberg cannot, however, be called a bad man. He may be a weak king, but as a man, he has some very good qualities. He is a pleasant tempered man, a sincere and good friend. He stands by his friends and has a great trust and faith in them. There is in him a peculiar charm of personality, which inspires confidence in the heart of those who come into contact with him. He loves and admires Flavia. He is sincere, kind and open-hearted.

CONCLUSION:

Although he remains captive throughout the novel and we cannot see him in action, but the whole story revolves round him. He attracts our attention in the forest as a charming and gay person. He reigns in the readers mind although remains behind the scene.

FRITZ VON TARLENHEIM

INTRODUCTION:

Fritz Von Tarlenheim is an important supporting character of the novel, The prisoner of Zenda created by Anthony Hope. He belongs to a rich and aristocratic family of Strelson. He is an army man. He is young and athletic.

APPEARANCE:

Fritz is a slender young fellow, of middle height and bearing himself with grace and distinction. He is a gentleman accustomed to more in good society, but not viewed to military life either.

LOYAL TO KING:

He has unlimited love for the king and when he learns that dangers threaten the king's life and position, he becomes impatient and cannot brook even a moment's delay. In fact, his worry for his friend, who is also his king, is the greatest. As long as the king remains a prisoner in the castle of Zenda. Fritz cannot devote attention to anything to anything else except forming plans and schemes for the deliverance of the king.

LOVE AND REGARD FOR RASSENDYLL:

Fritz has love and regard for Rassendyll whom he finds a friend, who can be relied upon in the hours of need and who happily braves every kind of danger. They have worked in union for liberating the king from the prison. This connection between the two soon becomes a lasting and intimate friendship, which is kept up the two even after Rassendyll leaves Ruritania and goes to England.

A LOVER:

He is a young man and is passionately in love with Countess Helga. He meets her off and on, at the residence of Princess Flavia. At last, after the political crisis of Ruritania elapsed, he married her and passes a very happy marital life.

A BRAVE MAN:

He is a brave and courageous man. In the face of difficulties he puts up a brave fight. He is a soldier by profession and is ever ready to discharge his duties with responsibility and care. During the melodramatic fights, which occur in the story, we always find him in the thick of the fight.

CONCLUSION:

Fritz is a lovable character. He is youthful and has a pleasant and affable manner. HE proves himself sincere, loyal, dutiful and brave with a simple nature and thus receives the admiration of the readers.

BLACK MICHAEL

INTRODUCTION:

Black Michael is introduced as the stepbrother of King Elphberg in the novel entitled as “The Prisoner of Zenda”. He is not the legal heir to the throne. Black Michael is the owner of castle of Zenda and the surrounding estate. He was appointed as the Duke of Strelsau. He is evil by nature and deserve.

SELFISH AND HYPOCRITE:

Black Michael is a selfish man. He loves Princess Flavia just to get the throne. He is a hypocrite and makes a false show of love towards. Madam Mauban. He is over ambitions and greedy.

“External life is nothing but a shadow of inner reality.”

A WICKED PERSON:

Black Michael is a sinful man that’s why his followers betray him, when he is expecting complete victory. He invites Rassendyll to the Summer House through a conspiracy, but fortunately, Rassendyll survives. This sharp and evil act shows his wickedness. As Johan says, “He is an evil master who is greatly feared.”

A CRUEL MAN:

Black Michael is indeed a cruel person. He treats the king in a very harsh and inhuman manner. He does not feel pity for his brother even. Black Michael is a coward man. He wants to save his life at any cost.

“An evil’s end is always worst.”

A COOL-MINDED CRIMINAL:

Black Michael is a wicked but a cool minded and genius criminal. When he sees that Rassendyll has impersonated the king of Ruritania he does not make it known to the people even Rupert’s interest and love for Mauban do not irritate him. It shows that he is a controlled emotion criminal.

DECEIVES IN LOVE:

Black Michael makes love to Mauban and gives her the promise of marriage. However, during that he tried to win countess Flavia to get the throne. IT is well said that:

“Deception and Fraud can bring neither prosperity nor honor.”

LACK OF SELF-CONTROL:

Black Michael has no control on his passions and desires. His guilty feelings always appear on his face. As Rassendyll says,

“The man had many qualities but he could barely conceal his feelings.”

VILLAIN OF THE NOVEL:

He is a black sheep of his family. His plans made him as a most uneasy person. On his cruel and selfish nature, he may be rightly called villain of the novel.

THE TRAGIC END:

Black Michael always deceives his close companions. That is why he is killed by one of his own followers. Thus, the villain of the novel receives a tragic end.

“Causes of defeat is always present in the man but he finds them in others.”