

16.2.24

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Topic - Restoration Comedy •

B.A. Part II (Hons)

Sub-English PAPER III

Faculty - Art (Literature)

Q - "Good satire implies an effort to understand". Discuss with citation from The Way of the World.

Ans. ~~It~~ It is assumed that The Way of the World is a good satire, it is as Congreve states, a satire upon expectations of wit, and we may take Witwoud and Petulant as examples. Witwoud, as his name implies, is crazy for showing off his wit. Petulant again as his name implies, cracks his by way of contradicting whatever is said. Witwoud and Petulant often engage in a tussle, and are often jeered by it.

brags of its wit, at least
 yet believes that he had
 the better of it in a wit
 contest with Petulant, of
 whom he has a very good
 contempt. In his opinion,
 Petulant has a pretty deal
 of an odd sort of a small
 wit". Behind Petulant's back
 Witwoud discusses his character
 and wit. Fainall and Mirabell
 listen to him and we
 may well ~~im~~ imagine,
 how they are laughing in
 their ~~be~~ sleeves. Witwoud
 characterizes Petulant as
 "having no more greeting
 than a 'game-bailey'", and
 he certainly thinks that
 it is a good stroke of
 wit. It should be noted
 here that Witwoud is
 being made ridiculous.

To appreciate good satire, one should be able to look beneath and beyond, and miss no subtle suggestions. We have a true measure of wit would wit when we recall Mirabell remark as we watch wit would outburst here. Fainall think that wit would is a good natured and has something of a wit. Mirabell comment is very pertinent when Fainall comments that if Petulant has any fault, it is that he is "unsincere, it some such trifle!" "A wit should be no more than sincere than a woman constant; one argues a decay of parts, as the other of beauty." Petulant, however, has no pretensions like wit would. The questions of morality seems to be irrelevant - and so it does when we

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Longfellow's... The...
friendship of...
Yet there is a strain of
reaction in his plays,
for as far as the...
and... he finds them
in line, may be, with a little
of exaggeration which is
natural to an artist.

He is a master
of dialogues and dialogue
and he makes his...
live. Louis Cazamian right
says that "cynicism is more
notable in Longfellow than
in Webster, and that in
his... more...
depicted a...
which sinks to the...
and snags the...
indignation."

Prof. K. V. ...
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