

Paper III

Topic - Character - sketch of Piers Gaveston
in Marlowe's Edward II

Piers Gaveston is a French minion of King Edward II of England. He is a very famous ~~and~~ Marlowian character. It is very significant in view of the conflict in the play, entitled Edward II. This conflict is between the sovereign and the barons of the realm. He is the central figure of this historical play. We observe that the character of Gaveston has limited personal shortcomings, which have been exaggerated by the opponents. The character of Gaveston is not complicated, but it is simple. His faults and weaknesses are quite obvious on the ground. King Edward has ~~not~~ bestowed his immense love on him. He loves Gaveston above his wife, Queen Isabella.

When we read the English history of King Edward II, we observe that he comes of a blue blood family. In a very early age Gaveston ~~was~~ banished from the kingdom for using corrupt and voluptuous impact on the prince, Edward II. He has been given several titles by the king. He is crowned as the Earl of Cornwall and is married to Margaret, the king's niece. The two appear to be responsive friends. They are iron and magnet ~~as they are~~ in mutual affection and devotion. They seem to be two bodies physically but undoubtedly one soul.



When we read the conversation between Edward II and Gaveston, we observe that Gaveston pines for the King with a note of earnestness

It can be said that Gaveston is the most despised personality in the play. No one looks at him sympathetically except Edward II. Mortimer Junior regards him ridiculously

Warwick calls Gaveston, 'ignoble vassal', Lancaster calls him 'base and obscure Gaveston', Queen Isabella calls him 'villain' for expropriating

and robbing her husband from her; Bishop of Coventry wishes him to be 'dead'. We see that even Mortimer Senior regards him as a traitor

Gaveston, it is very important to mention here that Gaveston himself has despise within him.

Abhorrence breeds abhorrence in Edward II, the crop of hatred is now planted and harvested in this historical tragedy. Hatred coupled with corruption and egotism is the chief cause of the ruin of Piers Gaveston. The egotism and haughtiness of Gaveston is the remarkable feature of his mean malicious character. He obviously

and fearlessly says, "My knees shall bow
to none but to the king." We find that
he has been more sinned against than sinning.
Gaveston and King Edward II are two
frivolous and amorous souls. As a friend, Gaveston
is acquainted with the taste and nature of
the king and always wishes to amuse him.
Gaveston is a flat character. He remains
the same from the beginning of the play to
the end. He is a mean character often
accused by James Mortimer. His banishment
is withdrawn by Edward II.

The character of Gaveston has been
portrayed by Marlowe in such a way that
it depicts many events of the play.
The character of Gaveston is not ideal, yet
it does not mean that he should be
given a capital punishment. Gaveston feels
proud because he has been privileged
with passionate love of the King.

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