

# **UNIT 1**

## **FRANCIS BACON'S ESSAYS OF STUDIES**

### **Introduction to Author**

Francis Bacon (1561-1626), was the son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper to Queen Elizabeth I. Born in London and educated in Cambridge, Bacon in his young age became the queen's ambassador to France. After his father's death, he returned to England and became a lecturer in law. Later he became the Member of Parliament and held various legal offices. Under King James, Bacon achieved high public offices and was appointed Lord Keeper in 1617. Due to some political turmoil, the government's enemies succeeded in having him impeached in the House of Lords of charges of bribery.

He was fined and imprisoned. Out of office Bacon started writing. Some of his important works are: A History of the Life and Reign of King Henry VII. The Advancement of Learning, Novum Organum, Essays and New Atlantis. Bacon's writings inspired the founding of the Royal society in 1662. He speaks of his essays' as 'certain brief notes set down rather significantly than curiously; of a kind where of men shall find much in experience and little in books'. The essays cover a wide field of topics and convey profound and condensed thought. Bacon's prose is rich, clear, concise and often epigrammatic.

### **Introduction to the Prose**

'Of Studies' is written by Bacon in an epigrammatic (a pointed, pithy saying) style (It focuses on the importance of 'Studies' Studies) According to Bacon studies serve a threefold purpose: they provide enjoyment, enhance one's personality, and increase knowledge. The essay no doubt, is a practical guide. Its condensed style and relevant matter has made it one of the most popular essays of Bacon.

### **OUTLINE SUMMARY**

In this essay Bacon states that learning is important in every man's life) He says that studies serve a threefold purpose, namely, enjoyment (delight), personality (ornament) and knowledge (ability). While learning one must choose books. He asserts that 'some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested'. He is of the opinion that 'Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man and writing an exact man'. He further says in the essay that the study of history makes men wise. The study of poetry makes man

intelligent. The study of mathematics enable men concentration and the study of science deepen the ability to understand people. Bacon strives to persuade us to study, and tells us how to study if we are to make the best of what we read.

## **ESSAY**

### **Introduction**

Francis Bacon is generally regarded as the father of English essay. Bacon is the first essayist in England, and one of the greatest. Bacon called his essays, "dispersed meditations". His purpose was not to preach ideal morality, but to give valuable guidance on a variety of subjects drawn from day to day affairs of practical life: Bacon's "Essays" are of the aphoristic kind. In the essay 'Of Studeis' Bacon states that learning is important in man's life)

### **The usefulness of studying**

Bacon gets to the point in his opening sentence, "Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. He then elaborates on how studies are useful in these three ways. Studies are a source of delight in one's leisure time and solitude. Studies give happiness to people.

They also have an ornamental value that it decorates the talk of people in their conversation with others. Studies help to develop one's ability to judge, interpret what is right and what is wrong. It also helps to handle one's business with ease and success. It is the men of letters and wisdom who can be expected to formulate general plans and policies and manage the affairs in its overall aspect.

### **Three types of men**

Bacon felt that there are three types of men. They are reasonably straightforward and require diminutive thought. He expressed, "Crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them".

### **The disadvantage of studies**

Bacon, in the essay points out certain disadvantages of study to the surprise of the readers. He says that if we spend too much time or waste our time over theoretical aspects instead of applying our knowledge practically to certain life situations, we encourage only the habit of laziness. He further says that too much of study may also tempt us to make a needless show off or display of our acknowledgement in order to impress others. We should not be too proud of our knowledge.

### **Avoid bookishness**

Too much of study may develop in us a tendency to separate studies from the practical use of book learning. This kind of bookishness is to be avoided. Knowledge is gained by experience and that study perfects human nature. Many people who are book learners are simple innocent souls in worldly matters. They fail to realize that everything can be achieved only through observation.

### **Subjects that improve man's intellectual capacity**

Bacon, in the essay points out that one should read a book so that one can think carefully about what is said in it and draw conclusion and then judge its value. Different kinds of books have different impact on the reader, asserts Bacon. For example, History makes a man wise. Men's imagination broadens by poetry. Mathematics makes a man's mind keen and subtle.

It is good for unstable minds. Men's ability to debate and argue is developed by rhetoric and logic. Moral philosophy fosters a serious attitude in a man and natural philosophy enables a man to go deep into a subject. A man, who is unable to retrieve references and illustrations to clarify his arguments, should read law cases, where precedents are used at every step.

### **Conclusion**

Bacon has written this essay to inform us the benefits studying. Studying is applying the mind to learning and understanding a subject, especially through reading.) Bacon strives to persuade us to study and tells us how to study if we are to make the best of what we read. As a master of the aphoristic style in the history of English essay, Bacon is the first and the greatest.

## **2. OF FRIENDSHIP**

### **Introduction to Author**

Francis Bacon was an English philosopher and statesman. He was born on 22 January 1561 in London, England. He served as an Attorney General and Lord Chancellor of England. He was known for his promotion of the Scientific method. He argued for the possibility of scientific knowledge based only upon inductive reasoning and careful observation of events in nature. He was the first recipient of the Queen's counsel designation, conferred in 1597 when Elizabeth I of England reserved him as her legal advisor. His important essays are "of unity in religion", "of Nobility", "of Superstition" and "of goodness and goodness of Nature". He breathed his last on April 9, 1626 at Highgate in England.

## **Introduction to the Prose**

Francis Bacon highlights the importance of friendship in his essay "of Friendship. He considers the world without friendship as wilderness. He says that friendship is a necessary one in everybody's life and it is splendid. He further suggests that friendship consists of a mutual feeling of goodwill between two people. They admire each other about their goodness and help each other at the time of their need.

At the next instance Bacon talks about the friendship between Emperors and their servants. He gives examples of L.Sylla, the commander of Rome. Then he cites the example of the friendship between Julius Caesar and Brutus. In the same way, Bacon gives some more examples of Tiberius

### **DETAILED SUMMARY**

Francis Bacon in his essay "Of Friendship strongly advocates for real friendship. He opens the text with the words of Aristotle on companionship. He points out that human nature demands company and social contact. Isolation and solitude are traits of either wildbeast or heavenly God. God is exceptional because he is of divine nature. According to Bacon, a Friendship demands the involvement of passions and feelings. They form the foundation of any friendship. Emotions are the threads that bind the hearts together.

A healthy heart requires intimate friendly conversation with one's companion. Friendship is the Panacea for heart aches. A true friend acts as a secondary valve for the heart to pump life into a sick person. Patients take many medicines for different physical ailments but for the issues of the heart, the love and affection of a friend is the best medicine.

Even the emperors of the world understand the value of friendship. The rich and the powerful people make friendship with noble and influential people through gifts, badges of reverence and their wealth. Bacon comments on some historical examples. He says that Roman ruler Sylla gave Pompey the moniker of "the Great". In spite of that Pompey rebuked Sylla in public when they had some disagreement. He called Sylla as the setting sun while calling himself the rising sun of Roman power.

Similarly Caesar had a close friendship with Brutus but Brutus became one of his conspirators. His blind trust in Brutus caused Caesar's downfall. Even though Agrippa was from an ignoble birth; Augustus befriended him and honoured him with royal commendation. Augustus decided to give his daughter, Julia in

marriage with Agrippa. Later he changed his proposal and decided Agrippa had to be killed. Bacon reiterated that all the historical figures he mentioned were hard and practical men. They did not have the noble heart and compassion.

Bacon feels that a loyal and self-sacrificing friend is a friend not just for life but even in death. A true friend will honour his departed friend's wishes and take care of his responsibilities. Bacon says that a loyal friend is a true blessing. Bacon ends the essay condemning an unsociable man without friends as an aloof being not fit to belong to the society.

## **ESSAYS**

### **Introduction**

Francis Bacon begins his essay "Of Friendship" with an anthropological statement of Aristotle "Whatsoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or God". It is quite natural for human beings whenever they come across solitude, they act as wild beasts due to the environmental factors. In this essay Bacon talks about the bitter realities of Friendship also. He portrays some examples from the history where Friendship has taken place between emperors and their servants.

### **Justification for Friendship**

After advocating the need for friendship, Bacon tries to justify his views on Friendship. Bacon tries to glorify friendship by addressing the friends as 'Sharers of their cares'. He quotes examples from the Roman history to prove his points. Bacon refers to Combines letter on Duke Charles the Hardy. In that letter he mentions about the deterioration of Duke's mental faculty which arises due to his loneliness. According to Bacon friendship is beneficial for the clarity of understanding. If a man has a faithful friend, he can be consulted for clarifying the confusions of the mind. One can lighten the heart by revealing the pent-up feelings and emotions such as sorrows, joys, fears, hopes and suspicions. He says that those who live in society should enjoy the bliss of friendship.

### **First Fruit of Friendship**

The communication of a man's self to his friend works on two different levels. At first it redoubles his joys and second it cuts his griefs in halves. It is a common fact that bodies become healthier upon natural actions such as joy and happiness. When they are weakened, the mind becomes dull.

### **The Second Fruit of Friendship**

As the first fruit is for the affections, the second fruit is for understanding of things under different perspectives. It makes 'daylight in the understanding out of

darkness and confusion of thoughts'. Moreover a friend is a witty counselor. He helps in different tough situations. Sharing one's problems with a friend is far more fruitful than a day's meditation. A friend's counsel always works when a person himself is not clear with his thoughts. Bacon says that a good counsel strengthens one's business. The counsellor should be fully aware of his friend otherwise his counsel may lead to dangerous results.

### **The Last Fruit of Friendship**

The first two fruits help for the peace in the affections and support of the judgement. The last fruit is like a pomegranate, full of many kernels. It helps in several ways. There is an ancient saying,

"A friend is another himself; for that a friend is far more than himself"

There are many things which a man cannot do by himself and a friend is an appropriate alternative. If a man dies, a true friend is highly suitable to do his unfinished work. A man owns a single body that is confined to a single place but where there is a friend, he will discharge his duties as his deputy. Similarly a man cannot speak to his child except as a father. On the other hand, his friend can fulfill his job in a better way. So, a friend can be helpful in handling his public and personal relations.

### **Correct Counselling**

Bacon claims that every businessman must have a single reliable counselor. It is dangerous to pick counsels piece by piece. The counsellor should have a thorough understanding about the man and his business. Multiple counsellors may lead us to confusing paths. So the two main advantages of friendship are emotional support and good advice. So it is clear a friend is more than one body. A friend is a replice of one's self. In the light of good friendship darkness flies away.

### **Conclusion**

A man receives more pure judgement and understanding by counselling. There lies the difference between the judgement that one takes himself and that he knows from his friends. Bacon ends his essay condemning an unsociable man without friends as an aloof being not fit to belong to the society. A true friend will always have his best interest at heart. Good friends are vitally important to our mental health.

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### ***3. SIR ROGER AT THE PLAY***

***- Joseph Addison***

#### **Introduction to Author:**

Joseph Addison (1672-1719) was an English politician and writer. His name is remembered along with Richard Steele with whom he founded The Spectator magazine, Addison contributed to three of the most influential periodicals of the 18th century- Tatler, The Spectator and The Freeholder. They set standards for literary taste and literary criticism. Addison was also an accomplished poet and dramatist. Addison is best remembered today as having perfected the form of the periodical essay.

#### **Introduction to the Prose**

Like Richard Steele, Addison was a keen observer of contemporary customs and manners of his time. His main purpose was to banish vice and ignorance out of the territories of Great Britain. Through his essays Addison has raised the fundamental questions of social, political and domestic conduct. He composed his essays with purely moral and didactic aim. It is important to note that the 17th century character study with a bundle of catalogues of qualities became purely vital and personal in the hands of Addison. His essays are rich in humour, wit and irony.

#### **DETAILED SUMMARY**

Sir Roger was made a man of very 'singular behaviour', he was made a humorist but not a mere flat character, a mere social type individual. Rather Addison imparted him with the life like rounded qualities. Critics have alleged, of course, some of them, that Addison had made Sir Roger's characterization as a caricature of the typical, simple minded Tory squire of his days. But the allegation is not based on sound footings.



In that case we could not have the life like 'rounded' effect that it had. Of course Addison had emphasized some of the oddities of his character, but this is not the only facet. A caricature is a distorted or absurd representation of a person devoid or respect of sympathy for him. But that is not the case with Sir Roger. We read about him with interest, even sometimes, we respect him, though we know many of his mistakes and weaknesses. Hugh Walker observes, "He (Sir Roger) never becomes so absurd as to lose our respect."

His eccentricities that he exhibited, were born out of the innate goodness of a knight and this, of course, has made him a "three dimensional figure" a living character. He was at first drawn as a caricature but then developed and drawn as a living individual..

Thus, there is no doubt that Sir Roger's portrayal is remarkable as well as admirable. Legouis has rightly observed, "The man is not only an excellent figure of comedy with his eccentricities, his peculiar expressions, his attitudes, his mental leaps, but he is foremost among those characters who are not only loved but respected even while they are laughed at."

He is unquestionably one of the treasures of our literature. We can conclude with Courthope, "The figure of Sir Roger, though it belongs to a bygone stage of society, is as durable as human nature itself."

## **ESSAY**

### **Introduction:**

Sir Roger is presented in these essays as kind, generous, lovable, and sometimes as a peculiar person. But in the hand of Joseph Addison, Sir Roger's character is conveyed ironically. For that reason, he sometimes seems odd. Sir Roger, amidst all his good qualities, is something of a humorist. Despite being a man of great honor, Sir Roger is regarded as a humorist and sometimes eccentric because of having some oddities or peculiarities in him.

**Kind-hearted:**

He loves not only the servants of his house but also the people who live around him. In the essay 'Sir Roger at the Theatre' we see that he is asking about the condition of the people who are present in the playhouse. It suggests that he is very kind hearted and generous for who he is very aware of others. But in the hand of Joseph Addison, Sir Roger's character is conveyed ironically. For that reason he sometimes seems odd. Although he is gentle and mild in nature and lovable to people, he has some eccentricities and oddities.

**Remarks on Stage:**

Well, says the knight, sitting down with great satisfaction, "I suppose we are now to see Hector's ghost." He then renewed his attention and fell a praising the widow. He made a little mistake as to one of her pages, whom at his first entering, he took for Astyanax; but he quickly set himself right in that particular, though, at the same time, he owned he should have been very glad to have seen the little boy. He must needs be a very fine child by the account that is given of him. Upon Hermione's going off with a menace to Pyrrhus, the audience gave a loud clap; to which Sir Roger added, "On my word, a notable young baggage!"

**Conclusion:**

Sir Roger had the habit of making sweeping generalisation from his own particular experiences. We have seen several absurdities of his character, but these were not at all grotesque. Sir Roger in Church is the revelation of Joseph Addison's power to mingle respect and laughter together. He was a good church man, good landlord, an ardent believer of faith and religion. Yet he had his own peculiarities. He said extra two or three 'Amens', tried to keep strict discipline in times of prayer.

## ***4. THE MAN IN BLACK***

***- Oliver Goldsmith***

### **Introduction to Author**

An essayist, novelist, poet, and playwright, Goldsmith was born in Kilkenny West, County Westmeath, Ireland. He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin and studied medicine in Edinburgh but never received a medical degree. He traveled to Europe in 1756 and eventually settled in London. He worked as a writer and was friends with the artistic and literary luminaries of the time, including Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Edmund Burke.

Goldsmith is author of the essay collection *The Citizen of the World* (1762), the novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766), the plays *The Good Natur'd Man* (1768) and *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773), and the poetry collections *Traveller, or, a Prospect of Society* (1764), *An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog* (1766), and *The Deserted Village: A Poem* (1770).

### **Introduction to the Prose**

The essay 'The Man in Black' written by Oliver Goldsmith is a satirical piece of writing attacking the kind of socio-political situation that prevailed in England during the period of Anglo Saxons. Oliver starts by writing that if there was any personality that he admired, it was the Man in Black. He states that the reason why he admired that man in black was because of his appearing as something that he in fact is not.

### **SUMMARY**

'The Man in Black' essay written by Oliver Goldsmith attacks the socio-political situations of England through this satirical piece. The essay commences by Oliver stating that if he admired someone it was the man in black. He states the reason why he admired them. The characteristics of the 'Man in Black' are shown

as genial, kind and sympathetic. On the contrary, he had the characteristics as stern, curt, unkind and rude. During that time it states that man was prevailed to be stern, chauvinistic, macho or masculine. In the family, the patriarchy was politically and socially acceptable and was encouraged. The man was considered to be dignified and prestigious and society encouraged them to be dominant. Therefore, through this essay Oliver discourage the thought of "Being what you are not."

## **ESSAY**

### **Introduction**

Oliver Goldsmith is a novelist, dramatist and poet, His writings are graceful and charming. They form a delightful commentary on the customs and manners of the English people. In this essay, The Man in Black, in the guise of Altangi, a Chinese Philosopher, Goldsmith gives an interesting account of an English man, the Man in Black. The Man in Black is an immortal creation of Blacksmith.

### **Inconsistencies:**

The Man in Black had some strange inconsistencies. He was extremely generous but he pretended to be miserly. He spoke selfishly but acted selflessly. While many tried to hide their hypocrisy, he tried to hide his benevolence. But often his mask of cruelty fell off and his nobility was revealed. Oneday the Man in Black talked about the charity provided by the Government. The Government had made enough provisions to the support the poor people and the beggars. Even then beggars disturb the people. So the public should not encourage the beggars by giving alms.

### **Scene with the Beggar:**

An old beggar appeared before them. He told them that he had to support his dying wife and five hungry children. His story had no influence on Altangi. But it moved the heart of the Man in Black. He gave a silver coin secretly to him.

However, he scolded him not to fease passengers with false stories but to work for food. He continued his speech against beggars.

He narrated two stories of ladies robbed by beggars. While he began the third story, a sailor with a wooded leg desired their pity. On hearing the story, how the sailor lost his leg, the Man in Black felt sorry for him. He gave a shilling and got the chips he had.

### **Conclusion:**

The Man in Black proudly told Altangi that he had the chips at a cheap rate. Suddenly he saw a woman in rags. She had one child in her arms and another on her back. Her misery moved the heart of the Man in Black. He forgot his pretensions and tried to put his hand into his pocket. But his pocket was empty. His agony was greater than, the poor woman's misery. He simply put his shilling's worth of matches into her hands and got relief. Thus, the Man in Black put up a black exterior but had a white interior.

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## ***5. IN PRAISE OF CHIMNEY SWEEPERS***

***- Charles Lamb***

### **Introduction to Author**

Essayist, critic, poet, and playwright Charles Lamb achieved lasting fame as a writer during the years 1820-1825, when he captivated the discerning English reading public with his personal essays in the *London Magazine*, collected as *Essays of Elia* (1823) and *The Last Essays of Elia* (1833). Known for their charm, humor, and perception, and laced with idiosyncrasies, these essays appear to be modest in scope, but their soundings are deep, and their ripples extend to embrace much of human life-particularly the life of the imagination. In the 20th century, Lamb was also recognized for In this essay poor but kidnapped aristocratic children his critical writings; *Lamb as Critic* (1980) gathers his criticism from all sources, including letters.

### **Introduction to the Prose**

In the essay poor but kidnapped aristocratic children are presented with extreme brevity. These children are forced to work in a chimney. The essay shows the humane and sympathetic nature of the writer. There are three segments here. He describes what he calls 'sassafras tea which is greatly adored by the chimney sweepers. His slippin has become a puppet of ridicule in the first paragraph. The second refers to the children in the aristocratic families. In the third paragraph there is a long anecdote relating to the sumptuous entertainments in honor of the young chimney sweepers. Lamb's unique style of writing is very clear in the essay. It is highly intellectual and imaginative with an abyss of emotions.

### **OUTLINE SUMMARY**

The writer provides an emotional account of his interaction with the young boys who used to sweep the soot-covered chimneys in industrial England. They

would begin at dawn and spent hours to get the soot sticking to the chimney ducts. There used to be a year- end fair for the chimney sweepers which was like Christmas to them and they had lots of fun in it.

Lamb also gives an indication of the dark side of such an occupation when the sweepers would use younger and smaller kids for the work. They could go deeper into the ducts than adults. He imagines the fear they must encounter when travelling through the dark pits of narrow pipes and ducts. They used to sing in order to entertain themselves. But even more tragic was that they were still so underpaid and under-rewarded.

Then he describes their love affair with Sassafras tea which was like nectar to them as they flooded at the tea counters in large numbers. At least Mother Nature appreciated their toil and offered a sweet reward to them. He remembers one day he took a misstep and fell and the onlooking sweepers laughed at his fall. But he did not mind their laughter as it was well earned. It might be one of those rare moments when they could forget about their pain and have fun, even if it is at the expense of a faltering man.

## **ESSAY**

### **Introduction:**

Charles Lamb provides an emotional account of his interaction with the young boys who used to sweep the soot-covered chimneys in industrial England. They would begin at dawn and spent hours to get the soot sticking to the chimney ducts. Yet, even with all their troubles, they would laugh and sing together. They would crack jokes and live an honest life. There used to be a year-end fair for the chimney sweepers which was like Christmas to them and they had lots of fun in it. He also gives an indication of the dark side of such an occupation when the sweepers would use younger and smaller kids for the work. Due to their tiny size, they could go deeper into the ducts than adults. He also ignores the risks and

dangers involved in the profession in order to paint a rather storybook image of their lives.

### **Tragic Life:**

Lamb imagines the fear they must encounter when travelling through the dark pits of narrow pipes and ducts. They used to sing in order to entertain themselves. But even more tragic was that they were still so underpaid and under-rewarded. The writer even encouraged his mates to offer them small amounts in return for their brave and dangerous service. Then he describes their love affair with Sassafras tea which was like nectar to them as they flooded at the tea counters in large numbers. At least Mother Nature appreciated their toil and offered a sweet reward to them.

### **Rare Moments:**

He remembers one day he took a misstep and fell and the onlooking sweepers laughed at his fall. But he did not mind their laughter as it was well earned. It might one of those rare moments when they could forget about their pain and have fun, even if it is at the expense of a faltering man. On the whole, he describes their general attitude as being gentle and polite maybe due to the hardships that they must have suffered in younger days or at home. One of the writer's friends James was also one such person that shared his sympathy for these people.

### **Conclusion:**

James was a charitable man and organized the year-end fair for their enjoyment and celebrations. They were given tasty treats at a gratifying dinner. However, when James died so did his generosity. There was no more dinner and the occasion became too disturbing. and unpalatable for the more privileged people of the land. Thus Lamb could bring in both sympathy and humor in his essay



## ***6. ON GOING A JOURNEY***

***- William Hazlitt***

### **Introduction to Author**

William Hazlitt (1778-1830), critic and essayist was born in Maidstone, the son of a unitarian minister. His childhood was passed in Ireland and in New England, his youth in the Shropshire village of Wem. He attended the New Unitarian College at Hackney, London. He refused the ministry, hoping to become a philosopher or painter. The influences of S.T. Coleridge, William Wordsworth and Charles Lamb turned him away from painting towards writing. He soon became a dramatic and artistic critic as well as an essayist.

Hazlitt's familiar essay in 'Table Talk', and the posthumous 'Sketches and Essays' which contain some of his best work, have less charm than Lamb's essays. Hazlitt's prose style is relatively simple and unadorned, yet robust and often brilliant. He is fond of literary allusions. He has the habit of digressing from his theme, and, not infrequently Hazlitt's digression is of fascinating interest. In his long sentences Hazlitt often loses the thread of argument. Additionally he is also elliptical, lapsing into obscurity at times. But with all his faults Hazlitt is always robust and provocative.

### **Introduction to the Prose**

On Going A Journey is one of the greatest essays of Hazlitt. This essay was first published in The New Monthly Magazine in 1822. It was re-published in Table Talk and is regarded as the first essay in that magazine. In the essay Hazlitt describes as how he enjoyed himself in his rural strolls over England, travelling incognito (not revealing identity) and

## **OUTLINE SUMMARY**

Hazlitt shows himself in this essay as a sort of Bohemian. He describes his rural journey. Ever and anon he breaks away into a bisurely flight from place to place. He is always on a journey, in this essay, but there is not much ado about large travelling bags, or hot-boxes, or tiffin-carriers but about taking or not taking companions. If anything is to be carried, it must be a book. Thus it was that Hazlitt first read Fanny Burney's *Camilla*, and the pastoral *Paul and Virginia*. A noble tribute is paid to Coleridge for he could be a great companion on a journey and could convert a landscape into a didactic poem or a Pindaric Ode. Charles Lamb was bad company out of doors, just because he was the best company within, says Hazlitt. At the end of this essay, Hazlitt cannot avoid paying a tribute to the glorious thing that France was under Napoleon.

## **ESSAY**

### **Introduction**

'On Going a Journey' is one of the popular essays of Hazlitt. In the essay he describes as how he enjoyed himself in his rural strolls over England, travelling alone and how as "the gentleman in the parlour" he speculated on the mysteries of the kitchen and the nice things that were being prepared for him inside.

### **Going on a journey a pleasant thing**

Hazlitt opens the essay saying that 'one of the pleasant things in the world is going on a journey. He wishes to lead an idle and aimless life in a country side and forget the town life. The soul of his journey, he says is perfect liberty, to think, feel, do just as one pleases. He wants to enjoy the nature of the countryside, the clear blue sky, the green turf and the winding road and play some solo game. After three hours of strolling, he wants to eat delicious food in an inn followed by thinking. He also wants to go back into himself and into his past life like a black

Indian who plunges into the waves is carried back to his native shore. He points out that 'mine is that undisturbed silence of the heart which alone is perfect eloquence'.

### **Journey without companion is pleasant**

Hazlitt wishes to go on a journey alone. He points out that he can enjoy the society in a room, but out of doors nature is his company. The reason for his solitude is that he does not like talking while walking, for he is of the view that one cannot do two at a time. He dislikes on taking a friend with him to avoid talking stale topics over and over again. He wants to put an end to the talk that does not pertain to the subject.

### **A friend on a journey is bad company**

Hazlitt feels that having a friend on a journey is a bad company, because comments and explanations to others will spoil one's admiration of nature on his journey. If one is alone he can act according to his mood but in a company this may be considered a breach of manners, a neglect of others. Hence Hazlitt wants to avoid a companion. He feels that it will be boring to be always explaining his friend what flowers and scenes he admires and why.

### **The inns provide pleasure to the author**

The one subject that is pleasant to talk about on a journey is the supper that the travellers are going to have in the inn that night. After a long stroll, it is delightful to take one's tea and speculate in the inn-parlour what you are going to have for supper. An inn restores one to the level of nature, says Hazlitt. He writes that he has spent some enviable hours at inns. He has also tried to solve some of his metaphysical problems.

The drawings, the cartoons at various inns attracted him much. The inn-people don't know who the traveller is and take him to be a great big-wig. Another interesting thing about Inns is that they have a stock of some interesting books. Hazlitt says that he found some pleasant books like Paul and Virginia and Fanny

Burney's Camilla in an inn. At one of the inns on one of his birthdays, he read Rousseau's book, New Elise, that describes of the Swiss Alps.

### **Hazlitt contradicts his previous thought**

Hazlitt has the habit of digressing from his theme. Changing his previous views on not taking a companion on going a journey, now Hazlitt wants to go in company during his journey in Arabia, Rome, Athens and Egypt. He now wants to take a companion to hear the sound of his mother-tongue. It is natural for one to talk with a friend about what one sees, says Hazlitt.

### **Conclusion**

At the end of the essay, Hazlitt cannot avoid paying a tribute to the glorious thing that France was under Napoleon. The essay is full of Hazlitt's learning and vast reading, and the quotations from all sorts of poets, have a great range. To sum up, the essay 'On Going a Journey' is at once interesting and thought provoking.

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## PROSE

### UNIT- IV : E.M. FROSTER: A NOTE ON ENGLISH CHARACTER

#### First note .

I had better let the cat out of the bag at once and record my opinion that the character of the English is essentially middle class. There is a sound historical reason for this, for, since the end of the eighteenth century, the middle classes have been the dominant force in our community. They gained wealth by the Industrial Revolution, political power by the Reform Bill of 1832; they are connected with the rise and organization of the British Empire; they are responsible for the literature of the nineteenth century. Solidity, caution, integrity, efficiency. Lack of imagination, hypocrisy. These qualities characterize the middle classes in every country, but in England they are national characteristics also, because only in England have the middle classes been in power for one hundred and fifty years. Napoleon, in his rude way, called us “a nation of shopkeepers.” We prefer to call ourselves “a great commercial nation”—it sounds more dignified—but the two phrases amount to the same. Of course there are other classes: there is an aristocracy, there are the poor. But it is on the middle classes that the eye of the critic rests—just as it rests on the poor in Russia and on the aristocracy in Japan. Russia is symbolized by the peasant or by the factory worker; Japan by the samurai; the national figure of England is Mr. Bull with his top hat, his comfortable clothes, his substantial stomach, and his substantial balance at the bank. Saint George may caper on banners and in the speeches of politicians, but it is John Bull who delivers the goods. And even Saint George— if Gibbon is correct— wore a top hat once; he was an army contractor and supplied indifferent bacon. It all amounts to the same in the end.

#### Second Note.

Just as the heart of England is the middle classes, so the heart of the middle classes is the public school system. This extraordinary institution is local. It does not even exist all over the British Isles. It is unknown in Ireland, almost unknown in Scotland (countries excluded from my survey), and though it may inspire other great institutions—Aligarh, for example, and some of the schools in the United States—it remains unique, because it was created by the Anglo-Saxon middle classes, and can flourish only where they flourish. How perfectly it expresses their character—far better for instance, than does the university, into which social and spiritual complexities have already entered. With its boarding-houses, its compulsory games, its system of prefects and fagging, its insistence on good form and on esprit de corps, it produces a type whose weight is out of all proportion to its numbers.

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## UNIT- V

# On the Rule of the Road Summary

## Introduction

The topic "On the Rule of the Road Summary" can be considered as "prose," this prose is written by a British writer "*Alfred George Gardiner*" and published under the name "Alpha of the Plough," this essay On the Rule of the Road, comprised in one of A.G. Gardiner's titled "*Leaves in the Wind*." A.G. Gardiner's prose or essays are graceful, humorous, and elegant, and they are written in "The Polish" language; his greatness is that he presents the basic truth of real life in an amusing manner. He wrote these essays when the war was going on in the world. In this article, we will know the summary of this essay.

## Explanation

In his essay "On the Rule of the Road," A.G Gardiner reflects the concept of liberty and the role of liberty in understanding and developing social order. He starts this essay by describing an incident witnessed by him in Petrograd (now renamed Saint Petersburg in Russia); he saw that an old lady was walking in the middle of the road or street that caused confusion and danger to her and other drivers and pedestrians. When someone tells her that the pavement is a place for pedestrians, she replies that "I'm going to walk where I want to walk. We got liberty now." The writer used this phrase to illustrate the danger of that person being "liberty-drunk" and forgetting that personal liberty must be in balance with the liberty of the people's lives in society.

Then the writer gives another example of a policeman giving directions to traffic in Piccadilly Circus in London (it is a phrase used to express a place or a situation that is extremely busy or crowded with people). Some people may think that the actions done by policemen are breaching the liberty of persons. But the writer says that here the policeman is actually the symbol of liberty; he argues that the action of a policeman is maintaining social order and safety on the road. Because if the policeman does not intervene in the actions of traffic on the road, chaos will be everywhere, and the liberty of everyone will be threatened. The writer says that the liberty of individuals must be curtailed to maintain the liberty of all.

The writer (A.G. Gardiner) then expands this argument of liberty to show that liberty is not just a personal matter, but it is to maintain social liberty; he says that an individual is free to do anything he/she likes unless that does not affect the liberty of others liberty. He also gives examples, such that if anyone wants to dye his hair, wants to go to bed late at night and wake up early in the morning, or wants to wax his mustaches (which, heavens forbid), he/she shall follow his/her fantasies, they do not need anyone's permission to do that. But, he says as soon as the liberty of the individual starts to disturb the liberty of people/ society, it becomes a concern for social order; he also illustrates this by giving an example, if someone wants to practice playing the trombone, they can practice whenever they want. If they want to practice till 3 A.M. or practice on Everest, they can do it. But, if he/she practices in his bedroom at midnight, their

family member's liberty will be disturbed; if he practices this in the streets, the liberty of the neighborhood to sleep in quiet will be disturbed.

The writer, A.G. Gardiner, emphasized that we must consider the feelings and rights of others to form a foundation of social conduct; he says that it seems very small, but everyday interaction with people and try not to disturb their liberty whether they are civilized or uncivilized. He says that the liberty of an individual must be in balance with the needs of greater society to ensure social safety and order; without this balance, the liberty of the individual will only lead to chaos and anarchy.

He concluded this essay by reminding readers that it is the little habits of commonplace intercourse that make up the great sum of life and determine whether the journey of life is bitter or sweet, by considering others' feelings and social order; people can ensure that their life will be pleasant and fulfilling one.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we can say that the essay "On the Rule of the Road" is trying to make us understand the balance between the liberty of an individual and the social order. He used some examples to show that liberty-drunk persons are a threat to society, and in order to maintain the social order and liberty of all, we must consider the fillings of others and not interfere with their liberties.

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