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Date - 18.01.22 "The Rivals"

Question :- 'The Rivals' is a farce not a comedy.

Answer :- A farce is a crude form of comedy. In a farce the chief aim of the dramatist is to create laughter and laughter only and for this purpose he introduces such situations and scenes as are charged with elements of crude laughter and horse play. He does not bother for absurdity. It will not be justified to call 'The Rivals' a mere farce as it does not have full farcical elements. But some farcical elements, situations and dialogues cannot be ruled out. Such as conversation between Sir Anthony Absolute and his son Captain Absolute is farcical. Attitudes of Lydia, Malaprop, Julia, Sir Lucius and Bob Acres are also seen farcical to some extent. Malaprop's dialogues are full of farcical statements. She has become a cause of laughter on the stage. But in spite of all this, it will

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not be justified to call the play 'The Rivals' a farcical play and not a Comedy. It may be observed that Comedies very often contain farcical elements for they are geared to the purpose of amusing and entertaining the audience. Even Shakespeare has such farcical elements in his Comedies, 'The Merchant of Venice', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Much Ado About Nothing'. These plays have not been called farcical and on the basis of some farcical situations, we cannot say, 'The Rivals' is a farce but - it is a ~~poor~~ praiseworthy Comedy.

The end.

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