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B.A. Part II (English Honours)

Date - 21.02.22

"The Rivals"

model explanation

"Why then, the cause of all this is - Love, Love Thomas, Love (Cupid), you may have read, is the most mischievous and tricky of all gods since the time of Jupiter."

These words are spoken by Fag to Thomas in Sheridan's play, 'The Rivals'. Fag, the servant of Captain Absolute, meets Thomas the Coachman in a street of Bath. He tells the Coachman that he is no longer a servant to Captain Absolute, but at the moment he is in the services of Ensign Beverley. The Coachman is surprised to hear this and asks Fag the background of all this.

On being assured that Thomas will keep it a secret, Fag tells him that his master is in Bath, not in connection with his military duty but on a secret love-mission. Fag discloses that Captain Absolute

arranged in seven-line stanzas as in *Troilus* and *Crisseyde*. The heroic couplet he introduced in English verse the rhyme royal he invented. He had a firm grasp on the true way of wedding the stressed and syllabic systems by accommodating metrical ictus to national accent. In his shorter poems he made, however, endless metrical experiments and showed a mastery of intricate verse forms remarkable even in an age when the French had made verse writing a matter of almost gymnastic skill.

Chaucer kept the sense of melody. From his very earliest poems his work is almost faultless and as he progressed in skill his music became constantly more varied and flexible. He was an artist in verse effects, who not only wrote with a metrical accuracy, fluency and variety

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that have rarely been surpassed, but also paid constant and delicate heed to the necessities of rhythm and tone colour.

The end.

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