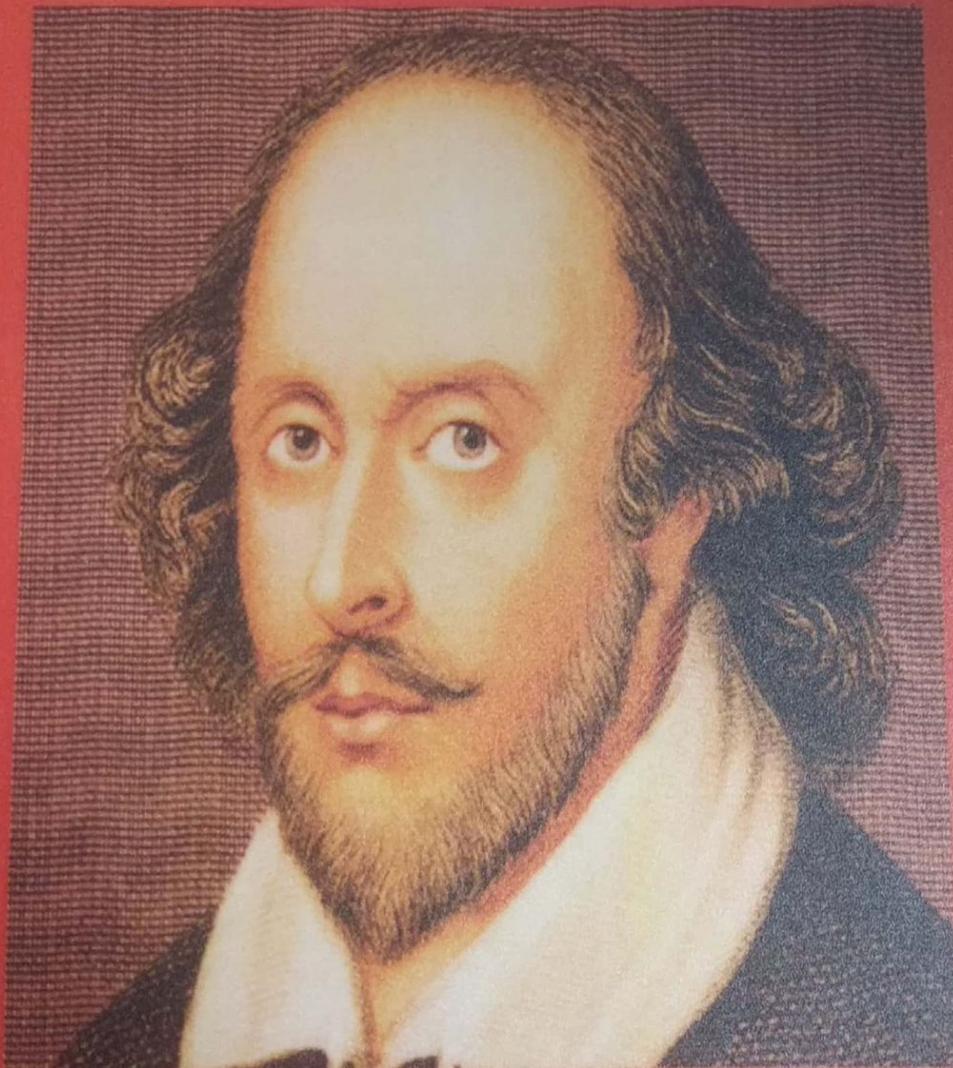


SHAKESPEARE FOREVER

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SHAKESPEARE - AN ENIGMA

Mrs. JEYAPUSHPA

Shakespeare – the name makes everyone who knows him, bloom with a smile as great admiration and love dawns upon their hearts at the very mention of his name. What is so bewitching about him? We all know, he is matchless forever. He is a combination of Aristotle, Plato and Socrates of the early Classical Age and also many of the Biblical characters like King Solomon, David, Daniel, Isaiah and a host of many other prophets though he was more mundane than most of them.

Shakespeare was born for literature--a down-to earth human who had a vast knowledge of men of all ranks though there is a grievance against him that he never discussed the dark side of his age in his works. This is not totally true as we often come across clowns and fools who though belonged to the court came of the poor class. Maids and servants of the elite, the grave diggers and the like of course, never belonged to the ruling or the rich class of the day. In spite of all the contradictions and concepts regarding the authenticity of his writings and even the very existence of such a renowned writer, Shakespeare still holds the reins over vast population of admirers across the world.

The entire reading community and the educational institutions which still entertain a fair study of Shakespeare show an overwhelming enthusiasm in commemorating his anniversary along with the country men of Shakespeare. This may be due to

the fact that his impact on foreign readers is not less than what he has on his own people even today. The charm he wields over even the people of the twenty first century never seems to terminate. The charm and the lure are as fresh as it was in his days. Everyone relishes his memories as they get united to reflect upon him.

This is the unique feature of great men to whatever field they may belong. Shakespeare's keen sense of humor, philosophy of life, portrayal of human nature and human destiny, his assumptions of God and religion- everything have a sway over the heart, mind and soul of any reader who happens to read his works with involvement . His appeal never fails to win over readers. Irrespective of their likes and dislikes every individual will fall a prey to his more genuine and powerful presentation of man and life. Human beings may have different aspirations in life. Yet what they cherish, what they crave for in their private domain is all related to human bondage and man's relationship with God. These are the most appealing subjects than any other. Since Shakespeare's plays without any exception have a fair exposition of these subjects, they never meet with failure. They have never failed to have impact on the reader. This has resulted in the sustained excavation of Shakespeare's genius and psyche through various researchers across the world and across the Ages. His life and Age, Shakespeare's Company, Editing Shakespeare, Shakespeare's Canon, his works etc, provide ample scope for furthering and extending our knowledge of this icon. He remains a household name in the Far East, West, North and South. He has the transcending power crushing to pieces all

creeds and decrees as everyone mutely acknowledges and concedes with whatever he has presented to the men of all ages. Every reader can feel the warmth and cordiality with which he approaches the human mind, heart and soul. His characters come alive as his dialogues and representations abound with reality and practicality. We join with him when he praises the rulers and monarchs or condemn the villainous and vicious ones, ridicule the foolish, laugh at the clowns, pity the mob etc. No wonder this 'Upstart Crow' has a very few critics who may contradict with him in certain respects. Hence could there be any other cause other than these which has made the ever unparalleled 'Bard of Avon', a bosom friend and philosopher of everyone of his readers? To me he always remains an enigma.

Work Cited

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