**SEMESTER II**

**Paper 4: ENG-HC-2026 British Poetry and Drama: 14th to 17th Centuries**

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**EDMUND SPENSER**

**Sonnet 57: “SWEET WARRIOR”**

* Sweet warriour! when shall I have peace with you?

High time it is this warre now ended were,

Which I no lenger can endure to sue,

Ne your incessant battry more to beare.

Warrior - fighter

Ne - nor

Incessant - endless

Battery - beating

Beare - to bear/to hold on

The beloved is a warrior, a fighter as she does not accept his affections and love. He is addressing his beloved as sweet warrior. How long will this battle go on? He is frustrated and desperate to win her love now. Will we ever be in peace as he fed up of the war where he is pursuing her. It is high time their war should end, as he can no longer tolerate the way you reject me. He cannot tolerate her cruelty(she is cruel because she does not accept his love). He can no longer bear her endless beating(battery). Beating here in a kind of romantic torture. This sonnet continues the ongoing struggle the speaker suffers in dealing with an unresponsive beloved. This sonnet continues with the torment the speaker is going through while dealing with an indifferent beloved.

* So weake my powres, so sore my wounds, appear,

That wonder is how I should live a jot,

Seeing my heart through-lanced every where

With thousand arrows which your eyes have shot.

Sore - painful

Wounds - injury

Jot - short time

Lance - shot

The poet is very tired and losing his energy and interest in the game of pursuing/winning his beloved’s affections. He asks her to end the war she has waged against him as he cannot tolerate any more. His wounds which have been given by her are becoming very painful. So he will die probably in a short time as my heart is injured, it has been shot everywhere by the beloved’s refusal. He says that the arrows shot from her eyes pierce through his heart and make him unable to survive without her.

* Yet shoot ye sharply still, and spare me not,

But glory thinke to make these cruel stoures\*.

Ye cruell one! what glory can be got,

In slaying him that would live gladly yours?

Spare - leave

Slaying - killing

This sonnet is reflective of the sufferings the poet is going through. The intense emotional frustration that arises in him when his beloved is in continuous refusal of his proposal can be seen in the line “Yet shoot ye sharply still, and spare me not”. The poet cries in pain when she shoots him with her arrows that directly touch his heart. What is the glory of this cruelty? He asks her to keep her cruelty in store and not use it on him. He asks her what glory she can gain “in slaying him that would live gladly yours”

* Make peace therefore, and grant me timely grace,

That al my wounds will heal in little space.

Grant - allow

Heal - becoming healthy

In the final two lines he requests her to “Make peace” “and grant” him “timely grace”, “so That” all his “wounds will heal in little space.” Her attacks are the constant refusals that make him suffer.

In the sonnet, poet describes himself as a mere slave pleading her in order to make her accept his proposal. He wants to end all the conflicts and wars in between them and want to live in complete peace with her.