

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Sheridan was a great dramatist. He was a dramatist, the writer of a comedy. He was a writer of 18th century literature. He was associated with 14th ~~century~~ ^{century} 'Stury Lane Theatre'. He was also a member of parliament from Stafford, where he proved to be a good orator. 'The Rivals' is one drama which is enough to prove Sheridan as a good and scholarly dramatist.

The Play takes place in 'Bath'. Bath was a fascinating place for fashionable people of England. It had good climatic conditions, well known for mineral water - the place had grey towers, with wide streets and curved passages. 'The King Bath' was popular place for Bathing by paying. There were circulating libraries and Billiards was the popular game.

~~The~~ Sheridan is known for sentimental comedy. Farce and sentimentalism was the potential focus. ~~sentimentalism~~

The Play 'The Rivals' has warmth and spirit. The Play 'The Rivals' shows high designing of Sheridan as an artist. There is right order of the machinery of the plot with conventional notions of time, place and action. Olyphant describes "strong situations and highly effective scenes". The plots are simple. The plot is suited to farce, where such situations do not occur in real life but such

characters are seen. The plot is never
remorse is spread all over. The Plot is
two things — comic and sentimental.
central element lies under the main plot
comedy. The story has a lot of laughable
material. He was master of negroes. Plot and
effective scenes. Plots are not complicated
so, "Columbus plots are hard to follow and
hard the plots are not hard to follow."

The farce is the chief element
of the play, therefore it is artificial and never
appears to be natural. In 'The Rivals' there
is no realistic spontaneity, everything seems
to be pre-planned. Everything is from out-
side. The incidents and characters are easily
suited into the play.

Character in the play 'The
Rivals' has well maintained the three unities
i.e. time, place and action. It has also good
beginning, middle and end. The entire action
takes place in town 'Bath'. There is good length
of time and actions are logical. Intrigue is
the life of the play in creating action and
comedy of manners. There is brisk and delightful
movement of the play. According to H.V. Routh,
'The Rivals is a comedy of incident, the excel-
lence of which is partly to be found in the
action'. The events in the play move towards
dramatic effect in the plot.

The main feature of the plot is

farce and a sentimental comedy.

The Intrigues of 'The Rivals' is not original. The skillful constructed plot, the humour of Malaprop is really marvellous. Antony, Bob, Acus, indeed the whole cast is a triumph of theatrical genius. "The Rivals" is the drama which has comedy of one kind on the other. 'The Rivals' is a comedy of humour and not sentiment. The comic-struc-
ture and spirit comes from intellectual treatment of characters, amusing situations, sparkling wits, reunion of father and son, Aunt and niece and lastly the union of lovers. They create an atmosphere of joy, gaiety and mirth. The quarrel between father and son, distinguished Lydia and Captain Absolute, between Lydia and Malaprop are the elements of intrigues and adds to the joy and mirth in the drama. Sheridan has adopted a device called 'Malapropism'

The sentimental attitudes of Sheridan denounced the suspicious, excess of aptitude and association with hollow moralism and ~~by~~ hypocrisy. His work without being didactic, ~~not~~ nevertheless recommends and suggests a sort of natural morality, a man's heart philosophy. ~~It is not free from the~~ It is not free from the diffuse of the sentimentalism of the period.

Shridan combines with skill, the diverse elements, plots and themes. They are the amalgamation of successful admirable scenes rather than masterpiece. Shridan is not a psychologist, he appears to be shrewd observer. He is more able to perceive the secret movements of vanity of characters. He was able to create the ridiculous farce of mechanism and built enough to tie the prejudices of mind and distance of judgement. The province of comedy in which he moved in ready moods is that of situations and verbal virtuosity. In this he moves with astonishing mastery.

"The Rivals" is a youthful gay comedy of no great substance. But it has joyous fancy and create an atmosphere of almost peaceful novelty on the ground of emotion, memory of restoration, and there are figures that are new or appear to be, so without any disappointment for the public completely set in its sentimental expectation. The play outlines in the name of reason, reaction, temperament and test against the whole range of pre-romantic preferences.

Shridan's achievement in comedy how grave its success, did not destroy the vitality of the sentimental comedy play. The contagion of reductive age was stronger than the example of an individual triumph in the mediocrity into which the dramatic production takes place.

The thread of ~~the~~ sentiment opens sufficient
for optimistic and soft conception of nature
present the general public from testing any
sure in comedy ironical picture of life. In
main plot and ~~main~~ ^{sub.} plot he seems Shridhar
carries out his challenge to perfection. But in
the main plot and sub-plot he seems to
have glided to the prevailing contemplation
of sentimentalism. It is true Shridhar did not
succeed completely in sentimental form in his
plays. He does not aim at moral preaching
and sentimental efforts. His achievement in com-
edy is decidedly great. We can say without
hesitation that 'The Rivals' is a sentimental
comedy rather than anti-sentimental comedy.

Humorous Shridhar in 'The Rivals'
has taken the farcical line and naturally his
work must conform to that type of writing.
But no one can deny the fact that he
delinates the character with 'bold pencil' and
his characters enjoy great "warmth and spirit".

There is a peculiar contrast
between the characters in 'The Rivals'. We
can put Captain Absolute against Faulkland,
Lydia against Julia. Bob Scur against Lucius
'o' Trigger. There is a clear contrast in the

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the group of characters. Captain absolutely
mundan vivacious traits and Faulkland that
melancholy springs from suspicion. The friend-
ship of Lydia has been contrasted against the
society of Julia.

Shridan's art in 'The Rivals' is
superb and ~~fantastic~~ fascinating. Even an exa-
ggeration as art aptly design in this sphere.
Artificiality needs a different head, and Shridan
is a master of art.

It

Shridan has keen sense of
humour. It springs from the plays impulse-
tion, we find both in characters and situa-
tions, often situations evokes out laughter. We
laugh when Lydia asks for the smelling bottle
and her maid confuses with the book, we la-
ugh when Lydia writes letter to herself. In the
presence of Fag we find the conversational
humour in Bob Acres, the comic element
bubbles right from the follies and Mrs.
malapropos wrong words tickle us beyond the
measure. Further the conversation between
Captain Absolute and Sir Antony provides
plenty of humour.
The humour, comic strength
and spirit comes from its intellectual treatment

of characters, amusing situation, sparkling wit
by by union of lovers, reunion of father and
and Aunt and Niece. They all create an atmosphere
one of joy, gaiety and mirth. The humours of
Mrs. Malaprop, Sir Anthony, Bob Acres, indeed
are the whole cast are the triumph of theatrical
comical genius.

The dialogues in 'The Rivals' is
full of humour. Generally the tone of the talks
between the characters are pleasant and interesting.
Humour, but occasionally it turns out to be
sombre for instance the words of Trigg about
the possible disposal of the body as a equal
of dual scars Acres to death. It has a quality
of humour, but the suggestion attending it
have a frightful grimace about it. We enjoy
the conversation of father and Aunt, the irate
father and grumbling son. The tough words of
Aunt Malaprop sets us with roaring laughter.

There is no sitting of malice
in the humour of Sheridan. Neither pity nor
hatred seem to govern his misanthropic spirit.

Captain Absolute has a abundant
sense of humour. It is genial and morbid. It has
a keen edge of wit. It becomes clear when he
meets with her in a humorous fashion. This
type of humour does not have the shape of
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eyes. It has a normal stage about it. He
was upon Malabar without giving her an idea
that he is no one else but Bernley in the eyes
of Lydia. He is also humorous while dealing
with his father. It becomes clear when he is
narrating his death. The talk between the
old Pop and Tark indeed is a funny play
again, we find Absolute carrying a weapon and
his father enquiring about it, Absolute tells
him about it.

As an artist Sheridan is versed
in 'the mechanical part of the fine art'.
In 'The Rivals' the purpose of writer is to excite
its laughter and raising situations. The most
humourous situation is that when Mrs. Mal-
prob abuses the same person for writing nasty
letters, whom she thinks to be the best hus-
band for her niece. Even the grim dual prop-
ositions are not free from humour. Sheri-
dan as an artist has studied the play with
the humourous situation.

Humour is the important
spirit of the play. It pervades the entire atmosphere.
Its comic tone grips us like vice. Both the
characters and situations are humorous. All the
characters serve different purpose in the drama
they the purpose of exposing oddities and humours
of the characters. But it is joyous, gay, comely,
more particularly the comedy of human. ©