

Mercutio is dead, Romeo exclaims: "This day's black fate on more days doth depend." Hamlet's agony grows unbearable as he realizes his peculiar situation: "Oh, cursed spite that ever I was born to set it right." *King Lear* is full of suggestions of some mysterious wire-puller controlling whimsically the helpless puppets on the grim stage of life.

Finally, two fundamental characteristics shared by the Sanskrit masters and the great English dramatist may be noted. First, the essentially human appeal of their plays proceeding not from various 'humours', idiosyncrasies and exaggerated sentiments or caricatures, but from a profound study of types who are individuals as well. The mastery of mundane realities and the power to discriminate between the essential and the accidental are remarkable in both cases.

Secondly, exquisite realism is tinged in all these masters with beautiful idealism. The quality of high nobility in all fine art is thus strikingly maintained. There is neither the study of incest or diabolical crime like parricide as in the Greek tragedy, nor the stereotyped low farcical devices of Latin comedy, in Sanskrit drama. In Shakespeare also high seriousness is never absent from his great plays. The most charming Sanskrit heroines noted above purify the atmosphere they breathe and adorn whatever they touch. The human soul is chastened and ennobled after witnessing the tragic conflict. To observe Duṣyanta repentant on the stage, Vikrama, semi-lunatic, questioning every object of Nature about his beloved, Rāma performing the Horse-sacrifice with the golden image of his Sītā by his side, and Cāṇakya, the king-maker, living deliberately a life of poverty and meditation, is to love and admire the good, the beautiful and the noble in man. Similarly, the audience is struck with awe and admiration for high character at the conclusion of Shakespearean tragedies. One feels proud to belong to the human stock after being exalted by the sight of a few fine souls like Candanadāsa and Maitreya on the one hand and Kent and Lear's Fool on the other.