

# Shakespeare the Greatest Comedian and Tragedian Whom the World Has Ever Known

Robin Ghosh

**Abstract:** *In my earlier article I have dealt with the greatest of Shakespeare place in the field of tragedy. Now I will concentrate on the greatest works of his comedy. Taken as a whole Shakespeare plays constitutes the Surgle body work which any writer has contributed to our literature. A few lines about Shakespeare as a tragic hero. The tragic hero of high state Hamlet for example is a Prince Lear, is a king Othello and Macbeth are generals. Further, Shakespearean tragic hero is a noble and lofty spirit. Hamlet, Lear, Othello and Macbeth and noble and lofty soul. But each of them has a marked imperfection in the tragic flow in his character. For example, the tragic flow of Hamlets character is that he thinks as too much. Lear is too much simple and rash. Othello is simple credulous, and acts on impulse, Macbeth is highly ambitious, Brutus is much too noble. The wrong actions of taken by the hero under the power of his tragic flow. Hamlet spares king Claudius, while the latter is prayer to God. Lear deprives Condeila of her share in his Kingdom. Othello easily believes that Desdemona is unfaithful to him. Macbeth tries to seize the throne by killing king Duncan Brutus spares Antony and allows him to make a funeral speech after Caesars murder. And the greatest of all is his one letter word for the hero.*

**Keywords:** Comedy, Romantic, Restaurant, Wit and Humour, Love and Music

## Research Methods

Research Methods are well claimed by claims and counter claims in the article.

## A Shakespearean Comedy

We must of all first know what a Shakespearean comedy is, It is a dramatic category that deals with a theme in a light amusing manner and gives it a happy ending. As a play comedy is a stage play of light, amusing, often satirical, character chiefly representing a romantic or realistic story with a happy ending. The principal aim of the comedy is to amuse with verbal humour, music and dancing. But moderate comedy is also the instructive. According to George Meredith, comedy appeals to the metions, committee often concerns 2 the social group while tragedy concerns of the fate of the individual. The elements of comedy are: A story with a happy ending, light amusing, style, humour exciting smalls and laughs, principal aim to amuse the audience with humour, music.

## History of Comedy

Comedy came into being 3 in ancient Greece. The earliest known comedy appeared in the 5th Century BC. It developed from the simple local festivals in honour of Dionysus Greek God of fertility, wine and drama. It was produced by Aristophanes. In literature such comedy in called old Greek tragedy. It is open ribala 4, occasional burlesque 5 and generally fantastic 6. It is also satarised contemporary politicians. Examples of this comedy are the plays knights (424 BC), clouds (423 BC) and Wasps (422 BC), all produced by Aristophanes. Later on a new comedy came into being. It was produced by Menander and others. Its theme was often familiar and domestic. It satirized contemporary manners. Its stock characters were the boastful soldier, the courtesan, the comic slave and the pedantic. The Romans adopted the conception of the new comedy without the radical change. The great Roman comedies were Plotinus and Terence. There comedies were popular in the 3rd and the 2nd centuries BC. Plotinus famous comedy in Menaechmi.

Then came the Restoration Comedy, the 18th and 19th

Century comedy then come the modern comedy then came the Acharians, Knights and Frogs, the Roman comedy, Classical Comedy in English Then came the four shafes of his comedians from 1590 to 1911. His earliest comedians were Loves labour lost (1590) The comedy of errors (1590) The Gentleman of Verona (1590) A mid summer's night dream (1594) The Merchant of Venice (1596) Much about nothing, As you like it (1599) and Twelfth night (1600) They are called summer comedies. All that is well that ends well (1602) and Measure for Measure (1603) They are "Dark comedies", Finally Shakespeare wrote comedies between 1608 and 16011.

## Features of Shakespearean Comedies

- Romantic Settings
- Real human, characters
- Love and Music
- Wit and Humour
- Heroines greater than heroes
- Magic etc Improbabilities
- A complicated plot

To illustrate the view that events in a Shakespearean Comedy take place in an imaginary land. It may be in ancient Athens as in Midsummer Night's Dream. Venice in far off times, an imaginary Forest of Arden (as in As you like it) or an imaginary Illyria (as in Twelfth Light) such a land as may be called 'a romantic song'. But it is in habited by human beings of real human nature. They suffer from heat and cold, quarrel, hate or fall in love. Love is the cardinal feeling that affects Shakespeare heroes and heroines mast. Their love is true love. It is intensified by separation or disturbed by misunderstanding, disguise, temporary, unfaithfulness, etc. Shakespearean comedy is also made sweeter with music and delightful with wit and humour. In the sunny comedies such as the merchant of Venice and As you like it, heroines, are greater than heroes. For examples, Portia is greater than Bassano and Rosaling is greater than Orlando. Then there are improbabilities, magic, chance, etc in Shakespeare comedies. For example a great merchant Antonio is unable to pay back the petty sum of the three thousand ducats after three months, in the merchant of Venice. It is a great improbability. In Midsummer's Nights

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Dream, there is free use of magic. Next the plot of a Shakespeare comedy is complicated. For example, the plot of *As you like it* is made up of one main plot, three sub-plots and now minor sub-plots.

#### Abstract:

Casamean observes that Sheridan's comedy had no more lasting results. So, comedy could not destroy the vitality of the sentimental comedy. The reason was the great wave of cult of sensibility. The struggle between sentimentalism and comedy till 1190's then both of them were lost in the continued great outburst of the Romantic revival which began clowns.

A comedy is a composition of amusing character. As a dramatic composition it is humorous kind of drama. It represents a romantic or realistic story with a happy ending. The principal aim of comedy is to as to amuse with verbal humour satire music or dancing. Comedy is a gyet of ancient Greece. The great writer of ancient Greece comedies clouds (423 BC) and wasps (422 BC) was Aristophanes. Then Meander wrote satirical comedies. Later that comedy was adopted by the Romans. But they added satire to it. In England, comedy appeared during the Renaissance the first English comedy was Ralph Roister Doister (1553). These comedies were written by John Lily William Shakespeare, and Ben Johnson. Shakespeare as you like it and Ben Johnson's every man in his humour (1598) are great examples of roment and classical comedies respectively. Then during the restoration period comedy of Manners' was by Dryden. Etherege Wycherley and Congreve great example is the way of the world by Congreve. During the last thirty years of the 18th century the satirical comedies were written R. B. Sheridan's the rivals (1775) and Goldsmiths She stoops to conquer (1773) were great examples. Then comedy went out of fashion. It was revived by the modern age by G B Shaw, wilde and Maugham. Shaws Arms and the Man (1894) is a great example of modern comedy. Today there are many great writers of comedy in Britain.

#### Classical Comedies (500 BC – 1790 BC)

Comedy is a dramatic composition of light, amusing, theme marked by wit, humour, satire, etc and a happy ending. It came into being in its earliest form in ancient Greece. The earliest known comedy appeared in Athens in the 5th Century BC. It was written by Aristophanes (448 BC to 300 BC). It was staged in the open in honour of Dionysus, Greek God of fertility. It was packed with irrelevant matter 1 matter, coarse 2 humour and satire. It's name is not know. Later Aristophanes more comedies of nature.

#### Acharnians, Nights and Frogs

Among his extant comedies, the first well known is entitled Acharians. It is a satire of the war party of Athens that advocated great war on Sparta. The second is knights. It is a biter satire on the demagogue 3 "cleon" who was a war of lord. The third is Frogs who are Aeschylus and Euripides contending for the tragic prize among the dead. The comedy by Aristophanes was poetic, marked by three unities and single theme, humour, satire and irrelevant matter. The comedy of Aristophanes was developed by another great

Greek poet Menander (342 – 292 BC) He made the contemporary life of Athens the theme of the his comedy and added refined with humour and mile satire of vice and folly. This was the new classical comedy of Athens.

#### Roman Comedy

The New Classical comedy was adopted by the first great writer of Rome. He was Plotinus (254 – 184 BC). The great comedy which he wrote by imitating Meander is a celebrated one. It is entitled *Menachmi*, meaning comic errors. The comedy on the turns mistakes results from the resemblance of twins brothers. Some English cricitics suggest the English translation of *Menanchami* might have inspired Shakespeare to echo its comic theme in his comedy of Errors. Plautus deft behind about 20 comedies. Many of them were initiated by English comic poets during the Renaissance and by Moliere in France. Another Roman poet was Terrence (190 – 159 BC) He was a freed slave but very intelligent. Unfortunately he died young. He wrote only six comedies but all based on Menander comedies.

#### Classical Comedy in England

The classical comedy in England arrived through Itality in 1553. The first English comedy was Ralphy Roister Doister written by Nicholas in 1553. He was the Head Master of West Minister. It was written in imitation of a dotein and three unities. It is written in rhymed doggerel (i. e. poor trivial verse). It was classic through and through. It was staged by West Minister boys in 1553. It was published in 1567. Johnson was the last man of the Renaissance to write classical comedy. Chapman, Marston, Dekker, Heywood, Middleton, Tourneur, Webster, Fletcher, Be amount, and Massinger, all his contemporaries were either romantic comedies or revenge or horror tragedies.

#### Last Flickers of Classical Comedies

In the first two decades of the 18th Century, Sentimental comedy of Cibber, and Steele come to the fore. Then in 1760's and in 1770's the classical comedy was revived by Sheridan and Goldsmith. The Rivals (1775) by Sheridan and Shee Stoops to conquer (1773) by Goldsmith were the last flickers of the classical comedy. Thereafter it died away.

#### Summary

The details furnished above wood show how, cleverly Shakespeare handled his comedies with minute details so that one can understand them thoroughly. The explanation of sunny comedies, classical comedy in England, last flickers of comedices all explained with illustrations. His details about Plotinus and his theme in his comedy of Errors had nothing more to be explained.

#### Conclusion

Today came the comedy with a great medium of entertainment and instructions. It is enacted on the stage, shown on the television or broadcast by the radio. It is also given the form of feature film. Under the modern conditions, it is a wonderful entertainer and a great "eye opener". Then classical comedy was the product of Aristophanes and Menander in Ancient Athens in the 5th and 4th BC. It

treated the amusing light theme of Athenian social life To conclude, the comedy by Shakespeare is a romantic comedy of free imagination love, in trigue and happy ending. It made delightful with music, wit, humour improbable incidence etc. It has clowns and with persons. It has gulls we laugh at But generally its world is the world of love. So Raleigh remarks “The world is of a Shakespearean comedy of love in idleness.”

References are given at the end of the article wherever it is required.

### **Bibliography**

- [1] Type
- [2] Honour of Dionysus – name into being
- [3] Related to
- [4] Occasional
- [5] Burlesque
- [6] Fantastic
- [7] Gestures (Clowns)
- [8] Coleridge 1778