



Chapter 1 - A Requiem

- William Shakespeare

NOTES

Introduction:-

William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-on-Avon, England.

He is regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist. He is often called England's national poet. His well noted writings include Romeo Juliet, Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Cymbeline, Macbeth, The Tempest etc.

This poem "A Requiem" is taken out from his play Cymbeline. In the poem, the poet expresses his feeling for the rest of the soul of the dead. The poet wants to say that a dead person becomes free from all kinds of anxiety.

Summary:-

This poem is a kind of memorial prayer for the peaceful rest of the departed soul. Shakespeare reminds the dead man or his soul that he has nothing more to fear in this mortal world. He should not be fearful now as he will not feel the heat of the sun nor the harsh coldness of the winter season. After death, a person goes to heaven after finishing his due share of the work while alive on earth. The dead soul goes to eternal home with his success and failures like the labourer who works and goes home after taking his wages. The poet further advises a person should not be disappointed from death because it is the fate of every person. It lays its icy hand over all whether he or she is a handsome fellow, a beautiful girl or a chimney sweeper.

A dead person needs no longer to be afraid of his cruel master. There will be no problems of fooding and clothing after death. Death is very impartial. It does not distinguish between the poor and the rich. Kings, learned men, physicians and doctors must die one day. He no longer needs to be afraid of the lightning flash nor the thunder-storm. He is free from public criticisms and scandals of any kind. Once a person is dead, he can no longer enjoy the happiness [joy] or the distress [moan] that we are allowed to experience during lifetime. At last the poet says that death should not be the cause of sorrow because all persons whether they are young lover or old one must die and meet the dust.