



## CHAPTER 1 TRUE LOVE

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### NOTES

#### Introduction :

‘True Love’ written by William Shakespeare is a sonnet. He wrote many dramas and sonnets in his lifetime, around 154 sonnets. The word ‘sonnet’ is derived from the Italian word “*sonetto*” meaning a “little sound”. Sonnet is a poem expressing one main idea or emotion consisting of fourteen **decasyllabic** lines (meaning consisting of ten syllables). The sonnet is chiefly found in two forms:-

- i) Italian or Petrarchan
- ii) English or Shakespearean

The Shakespearean sonnets are divided into 3 quatrains (of four lines each followed by a rhyming couplet of two lines). It has no pause or turn of thought at the end of the eighth line. It works right upto the final couplet, where the highest peak of the poet’s thought is reached. Its rhyme scheme is ***abab, cdcd, efef and gg***.

#### Paraphrase :

In this sonnet, the poet glorifies true spiritual love and not to admit hurdles to the union of two sincerely loving minds. “Love is not Love” which alters when it meets with alteration, or changes when one of the lover changes. No, it is like a fixed beacon that is not shaken even by storm. It is the star that guides every voyaging ships. Its true value is unknown, though its altitude can be known. Love is not time’s fool, though “rosy lips and cheeks” are subjected to its damaging effects. But true love does not wane with the passage of time. Love continues till death. If the belief of time is proved wrong, then I should be considered man who has never wrote poetry. In that case it should also be taken for granted that no man ever loved truly.