**SEMESTER II**

**Paper 4: ENG-HC-2026 British Poetry and Drama: 14th to 17th Centuries**

By: Umme Tasnim,

Assistant Professor,

Department of English, Dhing College

(Shared via Google Classroom 19th April, 2020)

**EDMUND SPENSER**

**“Like A Huntsman”**

**lxvii: Sonnet 67**

* Born 1552-1599. English poet.
* *Amoretti* (1595) included 89 sonnets along with short poem called “Epithalamion” (a nuptial/wedding song).
* Sonnet means a short poem. 14 lines. In iambic pentameter. First started in Italy. Italian poet Petrarch was one of most prominent sonneteers. Sonnet travelled to England in the 16th century. First used by Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard.
* “Like as a huntsman after weary chase,

Seeing the game from him escap’d away,

Sits down to rest him in some shady place,

With panting hounds beguiled of their prey:”

In these lines the poet is comparing(metaphor) himself with the hunter and his beloved with the prey/deer. Hunting is used as a metaphor for chasing or looking for love.

Poet - huntsman/hunter

Beloved/woman lover - prey/game

Weary - tiresome, winning the beloved’s love is tiring

chase - pursuing or trying to impress the beloved to win her love

Game - woman he is trying to win/court/date

Panting - tired

Hounds - dogs, generally dogs were taken with the hunter to chase after the prey

Beguiled - deceived

When the hunter/lover he saw that his prey/the deer ran away from him, he finally sat down under a shady place. He has been chasing a certain woman for quite some time and it has been very tiresome. Especially, when she's away talking to other men or not wanting to be around him. His dogs who were helping him in the hunt were deceived by the prey and they also sat down. The dogs are his emotions; still enchanted by the charm of the woman. His emotions are going wild and starting to get tired of it.

* “So after long pursuit and vain assay,

When I all weary had the chase forsook,

The gentle deer return’d the self-same way,

Thinking to quench her thirst at the next brook.”

Long pursuit - the long hunt

Vain assay - useless, he could not win her

Weary - tired

Chase forsook - gave up on the hunt because he saw it useless/the woman couldn’t be won

Gentle deer - the beloved returned to him

Self-same - she has never changed

Quench - to fill her thirst

Brook - small stream/river

Just when the poet was giving up on his attempts to win the beloved, she came back to him the way she was running away from him. Still being the same woman she has been the whole time. She runs away and all hope is lost, but suddenly she comes back and the whole poem turns around. The beloved is the same but the chase had changed the poet though. He turned into someone he's not because of his emotions. She returned to him because he had given up and she's testing the water (brook). She was actually testing the extent of his love for her and she felt pity for him when he gave up.

* “There she beholding me with milder look,

Sought not to fly, but fearless still did bide:

Till I in hand her yet half trembling took,

And with her own goodwill her firmly tied.”

Beholding - looked at him

Bide - stayed

Half trembling - shaking a little. He was worried she will run away again.

Goodwill - her own approval, agreement

The deer/lover is looking at him with a milder look as she came back to surrender herself, she will no longer run away from him. Now her intention is not to fly away. She then looked at him without fear because she knew he had returned to himself. The same person she once knew (the one she had liked). His emotions are stable and he is calm. He can actually think and act like himself. She stood there until the poet/lover/hunter caught her shaking hands. She could not be forced to come to him. But she came back with her own free will. He was able to achieve her love through her own agreement.This poem also shows the frustration men have when trying to court a woman. He decides to reach out and grab her hand. She is trembling from fear that he might go back to trying hard and letting his emotions get in the way. But he stays collected and confident.

* “Strange thing, me seem’d, to see a beast so wild,

So goodly won, with her own will beguil’d.”

Beast so wild - the beloved is compared to an animal. wild because she could not be easily caught

Goodly won - easily

Own will - own decision

Beguiled - charm

It is such a strange thing that the beast/animal which was so uncontrollable came back to him in such a mild manner. How she came to him with her own free will? Beast so wild" is the woman's thoughts. Her mind is untamed and cannot be read. She is won over in the end, despite with her wildness.