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CHAPTER

The True Beauty

Thomas Carew (1595-1639)

➔ About the Poet

Thomas Carew, one of the cavalier poets, was born in West Wickham in 1595. His father's name was Sir **Mathew Carew** who was a master in Chancery. He was educated at Corpus Christ, Oxford. He got favour of King Charles-I and was appointed to an office at his court. He was a true disciple of Ben Jonson. He was also influenced by Donne. So he wrote a fine elegy on Donne. His longest and the masterpiece creation, 'The Rapture' is a fine love poem. He also wrote a number of graceful songs and lyrics; 'The True Beauty' is one of them. His poems are highly musical.



➔ About the Poem

The poet prefers spiritual beauty to physical beauty. He says that physical charms decay with the passage of time and with the decay of these charms, the intensity of lover's feelings also declines. But spiritual beauty never dies. The poet, therefore, glorifies the beauty of mind and soul which is true beauty and ignores physical charms if it is devoid of virtues.



*He that loves a rosy cheek,
Or a coral lip admires,
Or from star-like eyes doth seek,
Fuel to maintain his fires;
As old time makes these decay,
So his flames must waste away.
But a smooth and steadfast mind,
Gentle thoughts, and calm desires,
Hearts with equal love combined,
Kindle never-dying fires;
Where these are not, I despise,
Lovely cheeks or lips or eyes.*

—Thomas Carew

➔ Appreciation of the Poem

The poem 'The True Beauty' is one of the most famous lyrics of Thomas Carew, who was one of the seventeenth century poets. He was in poetry, disciple of Ben Jonson but he was influenced by Donne; a great metaphysical poet of England. The poem inculcates in us a genuine regard for

spiritual beauty and teaches us the lesson that we should not be after physical charms for they decay with the passage of time and are deceptive.

The poem is a fine lyric. It is musical and poetic. Each stanza consists of six lines. The last two lines of the stanza rhyme together. The poem is also rich in figures of speech, '*Star-like eyes*' is a beautiful simile. The use of metaphor '*in fuel*' and '*fire*' is very powerful and heighten the poetic effect of the lyric.

||Glossary||

rosy cheeks	: cheeks as red as a rose (गुलाब की तरह लाल गाल)
coral lips	: lips as red as the gem (मूँगा के समान होठ)
star-like eyes	: eyes which are as bright and beautiful as the stars in the sky (आकाश में तारों की तरह चमकीली और सुन्दर आँखें)
fuel to maintain his fires	: for the most people physical charms keep alive the fires of love (अधिकतर लोगों में शारीरिक आकर्षण प्यार की आग के रूप में जीवित रहता है)
decay	: loss power (शक्ति का हास)
waste away	: becomes less, comes to an end (समाप्त होना)
flames	: intensity of love in the heart of lover (प्रेमी के हृदय में प्रेम की ज्वाला)
smooth and steadfast mind	: constant and firm mind (दृढ़ और स्थिर मस्तिष्क)
gentle thoughts	: pure and good ideas (शुद्ध एवं अच्छे विचार)
calm desires	: desires free from agitation (शान्त भावनाएँ या इच्छाएँ)
hearts with equal love	: The women who have gentle thoughts and calm combined desires, combined with love in the same degree.
kindle	: excite (प्रेरित करना)
despite	: hate (घृणा करना)

||Exercise||

➡ Answer the following questions :

1. Write the central idea of the poem 'The True Beauty'.
2. What does the poet prefer to and why ?
3. Find out the Figures of Speech used in the lines '*Star-like eyes*' and '*fuel to maintain his fires*'.

➡ Explain the following lines with reference to the context :

1. He that waste away.
 2. He arts with lips or eyes.
 3. But a smooth and or lips or eyes.
- Or Hearts with equal lips or eyes.

