

## Chapter – 2

### Ode on Solitude

Alexander Pope

#### About the poet

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) is a great poet of the eighteenth century. This poem is an ode which means a meditative (thoughtful) lyric poem. It draws a beautiful picture of a happy man.

#### Main idea (s) of the poem

- The poem brings out the bliss of solitude (seclusion).
- A man living in seclusion enjoys health of body and peace of mind.

A person who is satisfied with what he has and whose wants are simple is a happy person.

#### Presentation/ style

The poem is a graphic presentation of a happy and contented person. The picture is presented by giving minute details of the person. .

#### Detail of a happy person in the poem

- His wants are satisfied with his paternal property
- He gets food from his own farm.
- He gets milk from his own cattle.
- He gets wool from his own flock of sheep.
- He enjoys shades of trees in summer.
- His body is healthy and mind is peaceful.
- His days pass away quietly
- He has sound sleep at night
- He spends his time in studies and meditation mixed with recreation (pleasure).

#### Conclusion

The poet wishes to live and die in solitude. Nobody should know him in his life and his death. He thinks that a quiet life in solitude is a happy life.

#### Questions

Now, on the basis of your understanding of this poem, try to answer the following questions:

1. Why does the poet want to live and die stealthily (secretly)?
2. The poet thinks that those who are contented with what they have are happy men. Do you agree? Give reasons.