

**DR. MADHUKRRAO WASNIK P.W.S. ARTS AND COMMERCE
COLLEGE, NAGPUR
BA III YEAR: VI SEM**

2019-2020

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY ENGLISH

TOPIC: MICHAEL (ONE ACT PLAY)

PRESENTED BY

ASST. PROF. MONIKA SHENDE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

MICHAEL: A PLAY IN ONE ACT

AUTHOR INTRODUCTION:

- ❑ Michael is a play written by William Miles Malleon born on (25 may 1888- 15 March 1969) widely known as Miles Malleon, was an English actor, screenwriter, and Playwright, particularly remembered for his appearances in British Comedy film 1930s to 1960s.
- ❑ He also contributed in the field of translation and translated many plays of Moliere such as *Le Misanthrope*, *Tartufe*, *Le Malade Imaginare* and the one act play *Sganarolle*.
- ❑ Miles Malleon's present play *Michael* is an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's short story *What Men Live By*, based on the main character Michael.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAY

- Michael is a play in one act divided into three scenes.
- The play is an adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's short story *What Men Live By* from the collection of *What men Live By and Other Tales*, published in 1885.
- Each scene shows the three different circumstances but ultimately one truth behind all that is "Living with Love" binds humankind to live happily even in poor conditions of life.
- It is a story of main character of the play, Michael is an Angel in heaven punished by the God for not to owe to God's command of taking life of dying mother of newly born twin and send Michael on the earth to seek the three truth of life what men is lived by.

CHARACTERS

Major Characters

- Michael – Angel punished by god and is turned into mortal.
- Simon – A humble shoemaker who is very poor.
- Matryona – Wife of Simon.
- Aniuska – Daughter of Simon and Matryona.

Minor Characters.

- Noble Man
- Servant
- A country woman

PLOT LINE

- Scene I:
- The first scene of act one open with the conversation is going on between mother Matryona and daughter Aniuska.
- Simon is a shoemaker by profession. He is a husband to Matryona and father of Aniuska.
- It is the winter season time, they lived somewhere in the Russian countryside and as Simon barely made a business in a year to make enough to feed the family and saved.
- Simon is gone out to the town to buy a ship-skin to make a coat for winter and has to collect the money to he owe but he could not get from the debtor.
- He went to dealer to buy the ship-skin on the installment payment but seller refused to give.

- While returning back towards home he was fully drunk so that he could not feel the cold, but spend all the money on it. On the roadside, he saw a man lying down, firstly he thought it would be a trick for robbing but later he found that he has nothing to get robbed by the man so he went back near to the person.
- He found him naked and covered him with his old coat and taken him with him (Simon).
- Matryona eagerly waiting for the Simon but when she saw that Simon come with the nothing she got angry and upset.
- to begin to quarrel with Simon on taking the stranger person named Michael in with him when there is barely food left to feed for themselves and this stranger is now addition in that.
- Being a mother of daughter and gentle at heart she could not stop herself further and served and feed Michel.
- Matryona is looking pity at Michael condition, Michael smiled for the first time.

Scene II:

- Time passes, it's been a year now, Michael is staying with the Simon family.
- Scene opens with dialogue held between Simon and Matryona. Simon sits for shoemaking and Matryona is seated for sewing, recollecting the old memories of Michael when he for the first time came to their house and today is the same day.
- In all, now Simon is a reputed and gets famous in shoemaking, people of all walks come to get shoes from him.
- Michael was busy in shoemaking works. Since a year he has been a master of making shoes unstoppably working and this is the hard work of Michael that turned Simon into a man of reputation.
- A nobleman came to the door of Simon to make a good pair of shoes of leather he brought with him.
- Nobleman gives a strict instruction for making shoes.
- Warning given to the Simon if Simon is unable to make shoes as per the instruction given by the nobleman, the nobleman will put Simon's family in trial and jail for the rest of their life.

- As nobleman left Simon home and Simon give all the instruction to the Michael for making shoes.
- Instead listening to Simon, Michael cut the leather for making slippers and Simon got angry on Michael but Servant of nobleman come to tell that his master no more need these shoes because he died last night and now, make slippers for the nobleman.
- And Michael smiled for the second time.
- Simon found out very mysterious that “how did Michel know all this?”
- Thinking about Michael is not just ordinary human being.

Scene III

- in the sixth year another customer comes in who happens to be a woman with two girls, one of which is crippled.
- The woman requests if she could order a pair of leather shoes each of the girls.
- Michael stares intently at the girls and Simon wonders why he is doing so.
- Simon asks the woman, how was the girl with the lame foot crippled.
- The woman replied she has no relation with the girls but she loves and raised them as her own children.
- She expresses that she could not find it in her heart to leave them in a safe home or orphanage and took them as her own.
- When Michael heard this he smiles for the third time since he has been there.
- After the woman and the two children left.

Michael approaches to the Simon:

- Michael approaches Simon and bids him farewell explaining that god has finally forgive him.
- Simon asks him why light emits from him and why did he smile only those three times.
- It was punishment given by the god for his disobedience to the god.
- And god asked me to seek answer of the three question and send me on the earth.
- Three Questions:
 1. What dwells in man?
 2. What is not given to man?
 3. What do men live by?
- Michael now find out the three answer of them so he smiled at each ans he got for the questions and learn truth of human life.

Ans of the Three Questions:

- The answer to the second Question came to him when he realized that the angel of death was looming over a nobleman who was making preparations for a year though he would not live till sunset, thus Michael realized that what is not given to man is “to know his own needs.”
- Lastly, he comprehend the answer to the final question when he saw the woman with the two girls from the mother of whom he previously did not take the soul, thus smiling and realizing that regardless of being a stranger or a relation to each other, “all men live not by care for themselves but by love.”
- Michael concluded, saying, “I have now understood that though it seems to men that they live by care for themselves, in truth it is love alone by which they live.
- he learned the answer of the first question when Matryona felt pity for him, thus smiling and realizing that what dwells in man is “Love”.
- He who has love, is in god, and god is in him, for God is Love. “When Michael finished, he sang praise to God as wing appeared on his back and he rose to return to heaven.

THEME OF THE PLAY

- 1) Search theme
- 2) Time

THANK YOU