

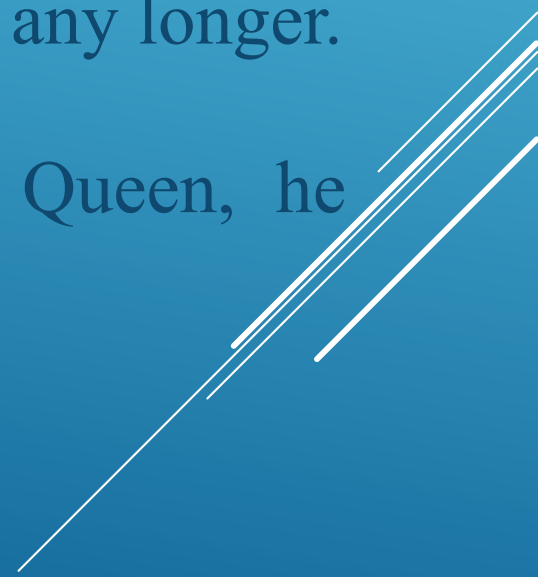
SHAKESPEARE – 18BEN61C


UNIT – IV

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THE WINTER'S TALE

- **The scene is laid in the palace of the King of Sicilia, Leontes.**
- **Leontes, Camillo, a lord of Sicilia and Archidamus, a Lord of Bohemia are engaged in a friendly talk.**
- **The King of Bohemia, Polixenes, is on a visit to his friend, Leontes.**
- **They are cordially received by the Leontes. Leontes and Polixenes have been very intimate old friends.**
- **They kept in close contact with interchange of gifts and letters.**

- ▶ Leontes, his Queen Hermione and their young Prince Mamillius and Polixenes are talking.
 - ▶ Polixenes says that he has stayed in Sicilia for nine months and he wants to leave next day.
 - ▶ Leontes persuades him to stay for a week, but Polixenes expresses his inability to stay any longer.
 - ▶ After listening to the request of the Queen, he agrees to stay for another week.
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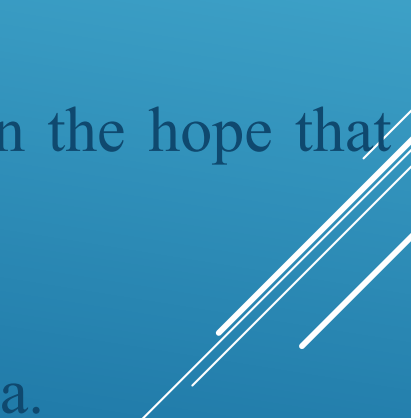
- ▶ It raises jealousy and suspicion in the mind of Leontes.
 - ▶ The rage of jealousy grows ‘inch thick, knee-deep, over head and ears’
 - ▶ He believes that the love of Hermione and Polixenes must have been popular among the people.
 - ▶ He cannot digest the fact that his queen is an adulteress.
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- ▶ He talks to Camillo in confidence and acquaints him with his conviction that Hermione is an adulteress.
- ▶ Camilla makes every possible effort to make Leontes believe that the queen is noble and faithful.
- ▶ He is filled with suspicion, jealousy and vengeance.


- ▶ He appoints Camillo to poison Polixenes.
- ▶ Camillo finds himself in a hard plight.
- ▶ His conscience does not allow him to poison Polixenes.
- ▶ He confides the treacherous plan to Polixenes.
- ▶ He advises him to leave Sicilia immediately.
- ▶ Polixenes expresses his gratitude to Camillo and promises him that he will be respected as a courtier in his kingdom.

- ▶ Hermione and Mamillius are playing and the Queen is going to beget a new prince.
- ▶ Leontes and his Lords arrive there. Antigonus informs the King that he saw Polixenes and Camillo escape from Sicilia.
- ▶ Leontes accuses Hermione of adultery with Polixenes.
- ▶ The Queen is filled with astonishment, pain and shame.
- ▶ He turns a deaf ear to all the lords , who try to silence him

- ▶ The queen is sent to the prison.
- ▶ Antigonus and other lords argue with the king in defence of Hermione's purity but fail to move him.
- ▶ Leontes informs his Lords that he has already sent Cleomenes and Dion to Apollo's temple at Delphos to bring the Oracle on the conduct of the Queen.
- ▶ He promises to act in accordance with the instructions given in the Oracle.

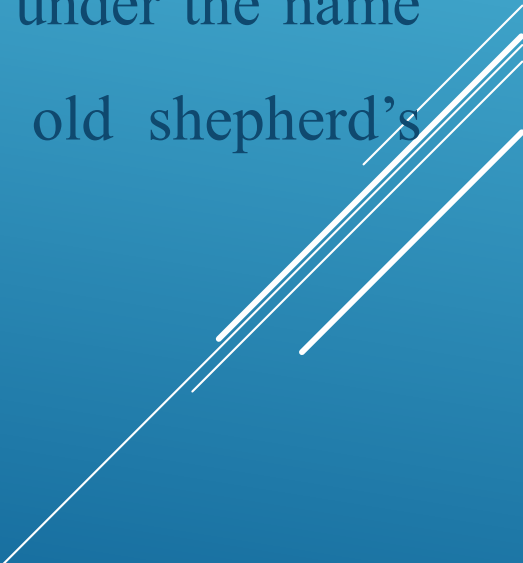
- ▶ Paulina, the wife of Antigonus goes to the prison.
 - ▶ She is a noble lady faithfully devoted to the queen.
 - ▶ Emilia informs Paulina that the Queen has delivered a beautiful daughter.
 - ▶ She reports that the queen finds comfort in it.
 - ▶ Paulina proposes to take the child to the king in the hope that the sight of the child may soften him.
 - ▶ Emilia delivers the child into the hands of Paulina.
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- ▶ Leontes is informed that Prince Mamillius has taken the dishonour of his mother deeply.
 - ▶ He has lost his appetite and sleep.
 - ▶ Paulina enters with the infant daughter in her arms.
 - ▶ Her husband, Antigonus and other lords try to prevent her from entering the king's chamber.
 - ▶ She speaks loudly at the king's door.
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- ▶ The king gets annoyed and asks Antigonus to drive away his wife.
 - ▶ She asserts that the queen is noble and honourable and that the king is a heartless tyrant.
 - ▶ Paulina leaves the infant daughter at the feet of the king.
 - ▶ The king appoints Antigonus to take the child to its own protection.
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- ▶ Before the queen is recovered from her grief for the loss of her baby, he has brought her to a public trial.
- ▶ The unhappy queen is standing as a prisoner before her subjects to receive her judgement.
- ▶ Cleomenes and Dion present to the king the answer of the Oracle sealed up.
- ▶ Leontes commands the words of the Oracle to be read out aloud. “Hermione is innocent, Polixenes blameless, Camillo a true subject, Leontes a jealous tyrant and the king shall live without an heir if that which is lost be not found.”

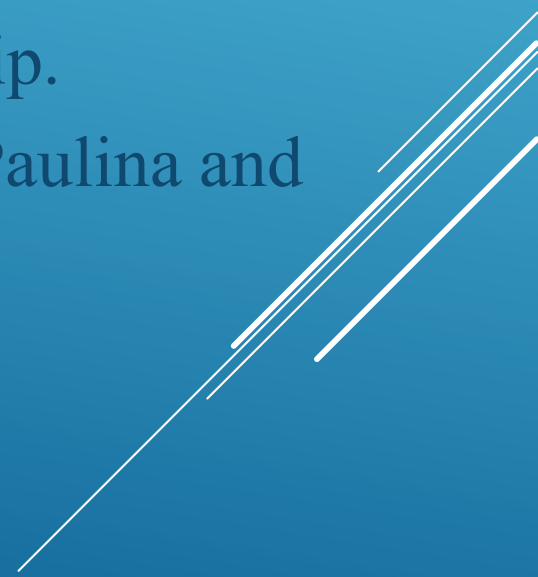
- ▶ The King would give no credit to the words of the Oracle.
- ▶ A messenger enters and tells him that Prince Mamillius was struck with grief and shame, had suddenly died.
- ▶ Hermione , hearing the death of her son faints.
- ▶ Leontes , pierced to the heart begins to feel pity for his unhappy queen.
- ▶ Paulina tells the king that Hermione is dead.
- ▶ He repents of his cruelty to her, he believes her innocent.
- ▶ Antigonus' ship is driven by a storm upon the coasts of Bohemia and he leaves the child.
- ▶ He never returned because a bear tore him to pieces.
- ▶ The child was dressed in rich clothes and jewels.

- ▶ Antigonus had pinned a paper to its mantle, with the name of Perdita written thereon.
 - ▶ The poor deserted baby is found by a shepherd. He is a kind man and he brings up Perdita as his own child.
 - ▶ Florizel, the only son of Polixenes sees the old shepherd's supposed daughter, falls in love with her. He, under the name of Doricles becomes constant visitor to the old shepherd's house.
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- ▶ Florizel's frequent absence from the court alarm Polixenes.
 - ▶ He discovers his love for the shepherd's daughter.
 - ▶ Polixenes and Camillo, both in disguise arrive at the old shepherd's house, as they are celebrating the feast of sheep-shearing.
 - ▶ Polixenes gets angry with Florizel and Perdita and leaves the place.
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- ▶ The kind-hearted Camillo is charmed with the propriety of Perdita's behaviour. He thinks of a way to befriend the lovers.
- ▶ Camillo knows that Leontes has grown into a true penitent.
- ▶ He proposes to Florizel and Perdita that they should go to the Sicilian court.
- ▶ The shepherd takes with him Perdita's jewels, her baby clothes, and the paper.
- ▶ Florizel introduces Perdita as his princess.
- ▶ Leontes perceives a resemblance between Perdita and his dead queen.
- ▶ Polixenes and Camillo arrive in Sicily in pursuit of his son and Perdita.
- ▶ Camillo has a secret plan to join Leontes and Polixenes.
- ▶ The shepherd realises that Perdita as the lost daughter of Leontes.

- ▶ Florizel and Perdita, Camillo, Polixenes and the faithful Paulina, are present when the old shepherd relates to the king the manner in which he had found the child , and also the circumstances of Antigonus' death.
- ▶ The King is struck with great sorrow that Hermione was not living to see Perdita.
- ▶ Paulina says that she had a statue of Hermione, newly finished by the Italian master, Julio Romano.
- ▶ Perdita has been admiring the statue of her matchless mother.
- ▶ Paulina orders some slow and solemn music. The statue comes down from the pedestal of and throws its arms around Leontes' neck.
- ▶ The statue blesses her husband and Perdita.

- ▶ Paulina had falsely reported to the king the death of Hermione.
 - ▶ She had forgiven injuries which Leontes had done to herself.
 - ▶ Congratulations and affectionate speech are heard on all sides.
 - ▶ They bless the old shepherd for preserving their child.
 - ▶ The two royal kings renew their friendship.
 - ▶ Leontes takes the hands of Camillo and Paulina and joins them.
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THANK YOU

