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Mob No - 9199895259 Topic - Explanation
Lecture No - 20 'The Rape of the Lock'
24.10.2020

Explanation - 10

one speaks the glory of the British queen,
And one describes a charming Indian screen;

snuff, or the fan, supply each pause of chat,
with singing, laughing, ogling, and all that.

Belinda and her friends landed from the barge at Hampton and went into the court, a royal place, where ministers held their cabinet meetings and Queen Anne herself met her ministers. There the lords and the ladies were busy in idle gossip. Some were talking of the pomp and splendour of the British Queen while others were praising the wonderful designs of Japanese curtains. Another gentleman was giving a malicious interpretation to the ladies' notions, looks and eyes, in order to conclude that they are in love with such and such persons. These aristocratic youths and ladies indulge in malicious scandals so violently that each word of their conversation conspires to infamy a person (male or female) who is important in the public eye. To fill the intervals between the conversations, some take snuff, some flutter their fans, some hum a tune of song, some laugh and some exchange amorous glances.

The lines give a beautiful picture of court life during the reign of Queen Anne. Snuff taking was a fashion of the day. In 1702, the Duke of Ormond seized vast quantities of snuff from Spain and snuff-taking gained a sudden impetus.

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24.10.2020