



**The Retreat**  
**By**  
**Henry Vaughan**  
**1622-1695**

**Programme:**  
**B.A.**

**Class:**  
**BA Part-I**

**Subject:**  
**English**

**Paper – 'A'**  
**Poem – IVth**



## About the Poet

- Born in Brecknockshire, Wales.
- Received his early education in Wales and in 1638 matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford.
- Left Oxford without taking degree and started studying law in London.
- Fought Civil war and served on the Royalist side in South Wales.

## About the Poem

### Stanza Ist

- The poet remembers his childhood which was a happy time, marked of innocence and ignorance.
- In his childhood he was not far from God and used to shine like an angel.
- In this period he knew only purity of heaven and was away from the crooked ways of life.

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## Stanza II<sup>nd</sup>

- In his childhood he used to see the reflection of God in beautiful things of the world like cloud or flower.
- Man is close to God in the childhood but as he grows up he moves away from God due to materialism.

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## Stanza III<sup>rd</sup>

- Remembers innocent days of his childhood.
- Away from wicked nature and unaware of any sinful word which would hurt others' conscience.
- Used to feel the bright rays of eternity through his body.

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## Stanza IV<sup>th</sup>

- The poet wishes to go back to his early childhood and experience those happy days once again.
- Wants to enjoy the golden memories of that period from where he had seen heaven from close quarters.



## Stanza Vth

- Due to his long stay in this materialistic world he cannot go back to the heavenly days of his childhood.
- The poet says that people wish to move forward, he wishes to go back but he cannot do so.
- After his death, he wishes that his soul should return to heaven in the same glorious state from where it came.

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**Paper – 'A'**  
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**Shadwell**  
**By**  
**John Dryden**  
**(1631-1700)**

**Programme:**  
**B.A.**

**Class:**  
**BA Part-I**

**Subject:**  
**English**

**Paper – 'A'**  
**Poem – Vth**



## About the Poet

- Born in Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, England, the eldest of fourteen children.
- Entered Trinity College, Cambridge in 1650.
- Heroic Stanzas (1658), written on the death of Oliver Cromwell, is his first important work.
- Became Poet Laureate and Royal Historiographer.

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## About the Poem

### Stanza Ist

- The poet states the reality of life that all human beings are mortal.
- Death comes to everybody and when it comes, even kings have to obey it.
- MacFlecknoe, the emperor of the realm of Nonsense also realized this hard fact.



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## **Stanza IIrd**

- Flecknoe, the king, was considered famous in his empire in the matter of prose and poetry.
- The king was ruling his empire successfully and was blessed with a number of children.
- After growing old, he wanted to choose his successor.

## **Stanza IIIrd**

- The king thought about his sons as his successor, who could be the greatest enemy of wisdom and wage a never ending war against it.

## **Stanza IVth**

- The king chooses Shadwell, his son, as his successor who resembles him most in stupidity and foolishness.
- Other Children may show some rays of wisdom but Shadwell stands confirmed in foolishness.





## Stanza Vth

- Flecknoe compares Shadwell with his other sons and says that they have a little bit of commonsense but Shadwell's stupidity is like a dense fog where day-light cannot pass through it.

## Stanza VIth

- Flecknoe says that Shadwell's fat body will attract others' attention and appears that it has been designed like this to rule the empire.
- Flecknoe compares Shadwell's fat body to a huge Oak tree which spreads over vast area and casts its shadow on the ground. In the same way Shadwell is a useless person and will rule the realm of Nonsense.
- Other Foolish writers like Heywood and Shirley were merely the shadows of Shadwell.

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