

PG Sem-1

Subject : English

Topic : "The Garden"
(By - Andrew Marvell)

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Central theme of "The Garden"

By - Andrew Marvell

The real object of Andrew Marvell in writing The Garden seems to have been to establish the superiority of a contemplative life over a life of action. True contemplation, according to the poet, is possible only in the green shade of a tree in a garden. A garden offers quiet and repose; and here one can enjoy the pleasures of the mind and soul as well as the pleasures of the senses. A life of action, on the other hand, is futile, and men make a mistake in spending their time in feverish

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endeavour in order to win honours in different fields of life. In stanza ii, the poet expresses in an ironical and witty manner, the view that neither the white complexion nor the red lips of women can make woman so loving as is the beautiful greenery of this garden. Lovers are foolish, as well as cruel, when they carve the names of their sweethearts on the barks of tree. These lovers do not realize that the beauties of a garden exceeds the beauties of their ladies. Then in stanza viii Marvell praises a state of being alone. Adam's happiness, according to Marvell was perfect as long as he was alone in the Garden of Eden.