

'TIS PITY SHE IS A WHORE

- 1) **WRITER: JOHN FORD** (1586 – c. 1639) was an English playwright and poet of the Jacobean and Caroline eras born in Ilstington in Devon, England.
- 2) **WRITTEN:** 1629-1633
- 3) **PUBLISHED:** 1633
- 4) **LITERARY PERIOD:** CAROLINE AGE
- 5) **GENRE :** REVENGE TRAGEDY
- 6) **SETTING :** PARMA, ITALY
- 7) **CENSORSHIP:** Due to the portrayal of incest, in the early publications of the work, the play's title was unprintable and was often replaced with euphemistic substitution like *THE BROTHER AND SISTER*, *'TIS PITY* or simply *GIOVANNI AND ANABELLA*.

SUMMARY:

- 1) The play opens in Parma.
- 2) GIOVANNI and the FRIAR are having philosophical discussion over GIOVANNI'S romantic feelings towards his sister, ANNAELLA.
- 3) SORANZO and GRIMALDI are rivals competing for ANNABELLA'S love.
- 4) SORANZO'S servant VASQUEZ challenges GRIMALDI for a duel because GRIMALDI has been allegedly spreading rumors about SORANZO, to malign his reputation.
- 5) FLORIO, ANNABELLA'S father resolves the fight saying that there should be no bloodshed in ANNABELLA'S name.
- 6) ANNABELLA'S servant PUTTANA knows of the incestuous consummation of love and she supports the love the siblings share.
- 7) Meanwhile, SORANZO'S former lover, HIPPOLYTA appears, and she curses him for not keeping his promise. In the past, SORANZO AND HIPPOLYTA had carried out an affair. SORANZO had promised Hippolyta that if her husband died, he would marry her. HIPPOLYTA had sent her husband, RICHARDETTO, on a dangerous journey with the intention of killing him. But, she is unaware that RICHARDETTO is alive and has returned in the guise of a doctor to take revenge on both of them.
- 8) GRIMALDI approaches RICHARDETTO to lend him love potion. But, RICHARDETTO, intending to take revenge, convinces GRIMALDI to kill SORANZO with a poisoned dagger.
- 9) GIOVANNI discloses to the FRIAR of what has happened. The Friar advises him to marry ANNABELLA. But, GIOVANNI drops the idea, saying that it will ruin her reputation.

- 10) ANNABELLA falls ill. She comes to know that she is pregnant. To atone for her sins, she decides to marry SORANZO. Meanwhile, GRIMALDI is waiting for SORANZO to kill him with the poisoned dagger, but kills BERGETTO instead.
- 11) GRIMALDI is protected by the Cardinal and BERGETTO receives no justice.
- 12) At the wedding of SORANZO and ANNABELLA, HIPPOLYTA drinks the poisoned wine given by VASQUEZ, that she had meant for SORANZO.
- 13) After some days, SORANZO finds out that ANNABELLA is pregnant with GIOVANNI'S child. He and VASQUEZ plans to take revenge on GIOVANNI at his birthday feast.
- 14) ANNABELLA writes a letter to GIOVANNI to let him that SORANZO knows of the pregnancy. On reading the letter, GIOVANNI plans to take revenge of SORANZO at his wedding feast.
- 15) GIOVANNI, before visiting the feast, stabs ANNABELLA to save her reputation.
- 16) At the birthday feast, GIOVANNI confesses his incestuous relationship in front of everyone.
- 17) Crushed FLORIO dies. GIOVANNI stabs SORANZO.
- 18) VASQUEZ stabs GIOVANNI, and the BANDETTI ruthlessly wound GIOVANNI.
- 19) GIOVANNI AND SORANZO, before dying, are happy to have taken revenge with each other. VASQUEZ has carried out his duty and RICHARDETTO is avenged.
- 20) The Cardinal looks at the bodies and says it is a pity that ANNABELLA was a whore.

CHARACTERS:

1. GIOVANNI	9. FRIAR
2. ANNABELLA	10. RICHARDETTO
3. FLORIO	11. PHILOTIS
4. SORANZO	12. DONADO
5. VASQUEZ	13. BERGETTO
6. GRIMALDI	14. POGGIO
7. HIPPOLITA	15. THE CARDINAL
8. PUTTANA	16. BANDETTI

THEMES:

- 1) *Passion, lust and bloodlust*
- 2) *Desire versus duty*
- 3) *Injustice*
- 4) *Religious piety versus false idols*
- 5) *Female sexuality and social expectation*