

Aristotle's Theory on Tragedy (2)

MJC 02

Unit IV

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Aristotle puts great emphasis on these elements of the tragedy – plot, character, and thought. Though he says in his Poetics “ a tragedy must have six parts “ - plot, thought, character, diction, spectacle and song (music). But his main stress is on the plot, thought, and character and he says that they must be inter-related. The poet has nothing to do with the spectacle. Diction is the selection of the appropriate words to convey the exact meaning. And sound is the most pleasurable accessory of the drama.

Aristotle presents a spectacle of life of man in action. It does not present any type of man or any type of situation. If a worthless or bad person passes from prosperity to adversity, it does not create tragic play. When tragedy evokes pity, it

calls for nobility in the character of the hero. The character must be a man of noble character, just and good. He must be almost an ideal person. He must have even some basic weakness in his character which is in Greek tragedy "Hamartia" and his adversity or even his death must be done to this weakness.