

Class – U.G Sem VI

Paper – MJC 12 (English)

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Character sketch of Marchbanks

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The character of Marchbanks in *Candida* is a romantic one. It is a kind of interlude in the otherwise unromantic world. No classical ruggedness is seen in this character. There is poetic flexibility in him, but at the same time the firmness can also be seen which he gears in his awesome arguments with Morell. He loves his wife, and he does not mince matters in that respect, he tells it in his face. Such behavior of Marchbanks brings a turmoil in the married life of Morell, a parson and his wife, *Candida*. It is the character of Marchbanks that the author G.B.Shaw expresses his views on matrimony with force and candour. In certain ways Marchbanks resembles Shelley. He resembles him in respect of revolt. He is romantic as a poet, and a little introvert too in approach to the people. As a poet he has no idea of the worldly affairs. He does not know as what to pay to the cabman. He has an overpaying instinct which is liked by Morell. He is not interested in the cant called socialism. He is ill at ease with the strangers. The way he intends to retaliate by committing suicide, when maltreated by Morell, is a striking attitude of a poet.

The character of Marchbanks can be analysed with following major points.

- A boyish looking poet who can scarcely be called a man. He has no idea of worldly affairs.
- His dress is anarchic. He wears an old blue serge jacket, unbuttoned, over a woolen lawn tennis shirt, with a silk handkerchief, trousers matching the jacket, and brown canvas shoes... no evidence of his ever brushed them.
- He believes in the freedom of women. He does not want that women be asked to do the dull domestic chores. They should be adored by the poets and not engage themselves in the sordid kitchen works. Why should she fill the paraffin oil in the lamps, and the husband away to make a fool of himself outside. He hates the feminine servility.

- There is much theoretical strength in him than the practical stamina in Morell. He has a strange manner of taking revenge. 'Stop, Morell : if you strike me, I'll kill myself.
- Marchbanks has a psychological insight into the inner life of a person. He comes to know that Proserpine is in love with Morell. This he elicits from her in a dramatic manner.
- Marchbanks is gently human. He treats Burgess with kindness, accepts his invitation with a human grace. Burgess ,otherwise, is hated by Morell and Proserpine, but Marchbanks shows the human regard to him.
- On the whole, the character of Marchbanks has been carved from the romantic stuff. Shaw lends to the character his shrewdness with which he deals with the people . Though he has an external innocence, yet he knows how to handle a person.

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