



# THE OLIPHANT

No. 137

WELHAM BOYS' SCHOOL

4th March 1993

## THINK ABOUT IT

*"The only impeccable writers are those that never wrote"*

*-William Hazlitt*

Nostalgic feelings that ruled the roost during the first fortnight have withered away. A lot of credit for that goes to cricket. Our enthusiasts sit boogey-eyed in front of the television sets, watching India win after a long time. Well, cricket is not the only pastime; enterprising Welhamites have found other things to do as well.

"Macavity, Macavity, there's no one like Macavity. He's broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.

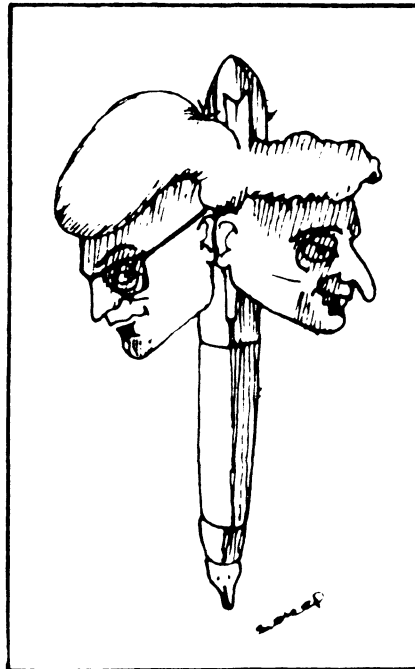
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare."

No, its not only Macavity the cat, who can defy the laws of levitation. No, I am not talking about a saint or an ascetic but our own Phites ! That too with just one finger. Kohli sits on a chair with his legs folded. Four very serious boys stand around him, their eyes firmly fixed on their target. They place their fingers in strategic positions. Two boys place their fingers under his arms and two place it under the knees. They then try to pick him up but fail. With clockwork precision they place their hands over Kohli's head. Then some Mumbo Jumbo.

They try again, Lo ! he is in space, looking below at a bunch of heads. Perfect take-off. The landing needs greater preparation and planning, though. Kohli is left to descend on his own, nosedive in fact is what he does. On asking, one of our teachers explained it had something to do with pressure. This made neither head, nor tail to me. As it is I never did understand

much of science. We would appreciate it if anyone could venture a simpler explanation ? Any takers ?

Things have brightened on the cooking front. Minor complaints apart, food in the dining hall has certainly improved. The catering staff deserve a pat on the back for this. We hope they will improve the food in the near future. For Welhamites, where food is concerned they can only be greater heights to reach !



If you're gorging your food, don't be amazed if some one shouts at you, "Middle-class morality", a handy Shavian coinage to make a dig at the chap's pretensions to hepness in clothes and music but actual 'gurvyness'. Its just a part of the academic fever catching on at Welham. The 12th class which has realised that hardly any time is left for their exams has started to mug-up text books which they blithely

ignored in the past. Arjun enters the room and Lath, quoting Macbeth, says, 'By the pricking of my thumb, something wicked this way comes'. Another Welham interpretation of 'Pygmalien': If you speak with a wrong accent, some 12thie will certainly tell you that you are an "incarmate insult to the columns of the Activity Centre."

We hope that this fever will continue till the end of the board exams of the 10th and 12th. All the best hope they are successful and come out with flying colours.

(Exue.it, until next month)

VIDURA

## WELHAM NOW !

1. The star event of the fortnight was the inauguration of the Activity Centre on the 22nd. Mr. Dharma Vira, Chairman of Managing Committee, inaugurated it. It was a short and simple ceremony and the guests were taken around the Centre to see the huge ball, stage, gym, the cafeteria, the chess room and rooms where sports and trekking equipment are to be housed. This was followed by tea for the boys and guests.

2. Sanjeev Bhadoo (Ex-403/Krishna) got married recently to Vandana Beniwal we wish them a happy married life.

3. Amit Kaul (676/Ganga) won the Coal India Trophy in the 15th All-Assam Amateur Golf Championship at Digboi on 29th January. He won this trophy with the Best Nett score in the 31-36 category. We congratulate Amit Kaul for his great achievement and hope he has many more in the future.

4. An Inter School Maths Quiz was held on 22nd of February at Brightlands School. Our school was represented by Gaurav Jain, Amber Sinha and Milan Gupta. We were honoured by the Runners Up Trophy.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I had been asked (Letter to Editor, 8th Dec. '92) to say what inspired me to make the cartoon 'Welham on the Rampage', (which appeared in the Founder's Day issue Oct. 24th '92). Here is my answer—It is due to my obsession with Mr. Kandhari's personality. In fact, since the very beginning I had made him the subject of my work, representing him as Welham Boys. His dedication and devotion in bringing up the school has been tremendous. He deserves a standing ovation from the entire Welham community. Without his efforts our good ol' Welham Boys would have still been where it was a decade and half ago. I am not speaking

through my hat because I was there in school before he took over as Principal. I saw him take over as Principal, and then nursing and bringing up the school as no other person before him had done. He has proved to be a Messiah for our institution and it is definitely due to his efforts that our school is on the national map today.

We all hail thee Sir, and are truly proud of thee, 'cause you have been through hard fought battles to make us reach where we are today !

Yours truly,  
Mohit Saigal  
(Ex 30-K)

## PRINCIPAL'S SPEECH ON THE INAUGURATION OF THE ACTIVITY CENTRE

Mr. Dharma Vira, Members of the Board, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the staff and students of Welham Boys' School I am happy to welcome you all and thank you for taking the trouble to be with us. I am sorry that Mr. Ashok Jaipuria is not well and could not join us. Today marks a momentous occasion for Welham and is the conclusion of the ten year development plan I drew up in 1983.

The support and encouragement that I have received from the Board, our parents and from many of my colleagues has made the dream of a hall-cum-sports centre come true. A school like ours, with limited

grounds needs to focus on activities that require less space and can be played indoors. So the brief given to the architects (before the selection of the final plan) said that the proposed centre must incorporate :

1) a hall that must conform to international norms—of dimensions and lighting—for basketball and badminton courts, facilities for stage performances with proper amenities for large audiences including a cafeteria.

2) a gym with a sauna bath; rooms for taekwondo, yoga, the adventure club, rooms for PTI and visiting coaches, a store for games equipment, etc.

I am happy to report that the civil work started on 9th November, 1991 is now practically complete. Four

major items of work remain and will be taken to hand after the Board exams. They are : installation of removable basketball boards and poles; acoustic treatment; forced air ventilation and the stage curtain. Then over the next few years, depending upon our cash flow we will fully equip our gymnasium, rooms for various activities, our projection room and the cafeteria. In addition, the tiling of the roof and other touches remain.

I have already approached a few friends to fund various projects and I could then commemorate the donor by suitably naming one room of our Activity Centre. I do hope others will also come forward and help make this Activity Centre superbly equipped.

In this context some statistics may be of interest :

- Dimensions :
- i) Total plinth area : 21,090 sq. ft.
  - ii) Total built up area : 25,685 sq. ft.  
Size of gym : 43'×30'
  - iii) Size of the Hall : 118'×76'

and of course the bottom line, costs :

a) Civil works	Rs. 80 lakhs
b) Lighting electric wiring & fixtures	Rs. 8 lakhs
c) Forced air ventilation (estimated)	Rs. 4 lakhs
d) Fees and charges	Rs. 3 lakhs
e) Acoustic treatment (estimated)	Rs. 2 lakhs
f) Stage curtain	Rs. 1 lakh
g) Sound equipment (estimated)	Rs. 2 lakhs
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs. 1 crore</b>

It is interesting that two years ago when various estimations of the cost of the proposed centre were made they varied from Rs. 70-80 lakhs. Mr. Dharma Vira prophesied that it would be nearer Rs. 1 crore. He has been proved right.

In addition of course will be the equipment that will be fitted over the next few years.

Before we go round this edifice, I'll request Mr. Dharma Vira to say a few words and cut the ribbon.

\* \* \*



**WELHAM ... BEING LED ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS**

## MISFORTUNE ?

“No, we haven’t met before !” he said, and slammed the door. I had expected coldness but not this rudeness from Viren I was dumbfounded. After all at some point we had been the best of friends. I agree we had not met for the past ten years and I had changed a lot. Dressed in a Raymonds pin-striped suit I looked a very different man. Still this kind of behaviour was not expected from a person like Viren, even to strangers.

My first memories of Viren go a long way back in my life. I remember sitting with him in the maths class, in the last row, playing pranks and disturbing the other boys in class. We remained together throughout college, even though our subjects were different. He had wanted to be an artist and I a Chartered Accountant. One had often found him lost in his own world, then trying to put his thoughts on paper.

We eventually parted ways on the day I left for Bombay looking for a job. We tried to keep in touch but had gradually lost contact. However, sometimes while glancing through ‘The Times of India’ I came across his name in the Art column. Buried in my files and ledgers I had never given marriage a thought, even though I was now in my early thirties. The business flourished. I travelled frequently and took part in various seminars, conferences and parties. I tried my best to avoid parties. All the people talked about on such occasions were the country’s economy, what would happen to India and business transactions.

It was at one of these parties, hosted by a business magnate, that I met a lady, Arti. She was not very beautiful, but very attractive yes, and certainly very charming. She seemed to have a way with men – she had then eating out of her hands, I was not one of them but certainly would not have minded her company. In fact, she came up to me and started a conversation. I meet her again and then a few more times. Once I took her out for dinner. Soon I realized I was in love with her. However I did not know of her feelings, or her views about our relationship. She had many male friends, may be she considered me one of them.

We continued meeting. Sometime later, I learned from a common friend that Arti was in love with another person, an artist. I felt that matters had to be put straight I wished to know who she loved.

I rang her and invited her for dinner at a posh restaurant. After the meal, I took her for a drive along the sea. We did not talk much. I drove her home and was about to say good bye when she insisted I come in and have coffee. I agreed I sank into a comfortable chair in a corner of her apartment. She seemed rather cheerful then. She settled herself in a sofa with her coffee. Suddenly she broke down. Tears rolled down her tender cheeks. I was little startled but controlled myself. In a choked voice, she said “I’m getting married”.

My heart sank, I didn’t know how to react. Should I congratulate her or give in to my sorrow ? I remember putting up a brave front, managing a smile and hesitently congratulating her. I asked her whether she loved the man she was to marry. She answered in the positive and said she had loved him for quite some time, but had not told me because her parents had not consented to the match then. He was an artist while her parents were on the look out for an IAS officer or an NRI. I asked her to tell me the name of the person. It struck a chord. I could not believe my ears. Worse was to follow. With quivering lips she told me, he was not ready to marry her because he suspected her of having an affair with me !

The next morning I decided to meet Viren who I learnt, was in Bombay that day. I knocked confidently on his door. He had opened it. I smiled warmly, suddenly happy to see my friend. “Hi ! Remember me ? I’m Amit. We were together at school and college.” But there was no smile. Only a sullen look and the curt words “No we haven’t met before”. It was clear Viren saw me as Arti’s lover not his old friend.

What an irony, I thought. I loved a girl who did not want to marry me and was being rejected by the man she loved and loved, because he thought she loved me !

Vidura Jang Bahadur

XI

\* \* \*

# LITERARY AFFAIRS

## Love ! Oh Love !

It was all of a sudden when it took place,  
When I was fascinated by her face.  
The eyes, the nose, the hair and the lips,  
And not to forget her narrow hips.

She was all that a girl should be,  
And then it happened—She called me for tea.  
I was so glad, I couldn't sleep at night,  
Because she, and only she, was in sight.



when we grew up and went to  
school.....

I chose the best of my double-breasted suits,  
The situation called for Oxfords, not for boots.  
I practised till I got the best of my smile,  
Wore enough perfume—She could smell me from a mile.

Her house was very easy to find,  
Because only her face was in mind.  
I walked up to the door and rang the bell,  
How innocent she looked, I cannot tell.

From then, it all really got started,  
And I wished we would never get parted.  
The rest of the evening we sat and talked,  
And at night, down a lonely street we walked.

Our romance was now at its peak,  
Freely about feelings, we began to speak.

Into personal matters, I dared not tread,  
Talked about books we'd already read.

Everywhere in my mind one question I carried,  
But soon I got the answer.....She was already married.

Ankur Nigam  
IX-B

\* \* \*

## Snowflakes

He was born at midnight,  
and the moon shone bright.  
His Momma died as soon as he was in sight.  
It seemed she'd given up the fight.  
His father cried,  
"You don't have to live, you don't have the right.  
I wish you'd been blown with dynamite."

As it lightly snows,  
As a young boy plays in the park with a runnin' nose,  
(Its a slum, his fortune never rose)  
His friends wet him with a hose  
He catches a cold and starts to freeze,  
Has to take shelter behind some trees.

His life takes a turn and he becomes a thug,  
There's no time and no warm rug,  
Its always time to fight, time to steal,  
To earn enough money for one square meal.  
One night in desperation, the young'un breaks away,  
buys a gun, robs a store,  
Now there's nothing to live for,  
No will to be read,  
A wanted man,  
So he picks up his gun and shoots himself  
through the head.

Sudeep Chaudhuri  
IX-B

(inspired by Elvis Presley's 'In the Ghetto')

# When I tried to be James Bond

It was Saturday eve and I was watching a movie at home. It was a James Bond movie. I stared hard at the screen because the movie was exciting and spine-chilling at times.

After the movie ended I had dinner and went to bed. I got up next morning and looked out of the window and once again thought of the movie. I wondered how I would feel if I was James Bond. An idea struck me. I got out of bed, changed, put my toy pistol in my pocket and went out. I sauntered around my colony. Soon I got bored and went to Coral Lane. It was deserted. Suddenly I heard a noise. I turned around but saw nothing. Only a dustbin. Again I heard the same noise. I ran towards the dustbin and opened the lid. A man jumped out and began to run. I took out my Leo gun from my pocket and threatened to shoot him if he did not stop. He stopped afraid I had a real gun. I asked him where he was going. He did not say anything. All of a sudden he gave me a slap on my face and began to run. I tried to follow but he jumped over a wall and disappeared.

I went to the dustbin and saw a note that said "Time Bomb-Carnival". I ran to Regent Park, where the carnival was being held. I looked around and saw no one who looked suspicious. I opened the lids of all the dustbins but found nothing. Then I went to the control room in the basement. I entered the control room I saw two men who were placing a time bomb there. They did not see me. Then one of the men suggested they run away. "This little bomb will kill all the people of the carnival", he said. I pointed my Leo gun at them and shouted, one turned around "Who are you?" he asked. "My name is Bond, James Bond", I said, with a coolness that would have done Bond proud. But not for long. They realized

*'Oliphant' is to complete 10 years of publication this March. We are bringing out a special issue to mark this. We request everyone - Welhamites ex-Welhamites to contribute to this issue. The matter should reach us by the 20th March at the latest.*

I had a toy gun and pounced on me. I shouted and screamed. Some people rushed to help me.

I was given an award for bravery by the President. Now I am waiting for next Saturday eve, when I can watch another James Bond movie.

Varun Puri  
VII.

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## PUBLIC SPEAKING—II

### Writing the Introduction

The two parts of an address most difficult to prepare are the introduction and the conclusion. Both must be relatively short. Both must be worked out with the greatest care.

In the introduction, the proposition to be discussed must be trimmed to its precise proportions. Sometimes with experience, the introduction may be eliminated, particularly if the title clearly conveys the nature of the topic. However, it is almost always necessary to use an introduction, and seven possible methods of beginning an address are presented below :

- I. *Announce the subject directly in the first sentence or paragraph.*
- II. *Tell a story of human interest, "paint a picture," or give an illustration.*
- III. *Use a statement that excites attention, arouses curiosity, surprises the audience, or is particularly informative.*
- IV. *Tell a humorous story that is definitely related to the subject or to the situation under which the speaker is addressing the audience.*
- V. *Ask a challenging question.*  
A thought-provoking question, directly to the point of the address, focuses the attention of an audience immediately upon the subject.
- VI. *State facts which show the importance of the subject to the welfare of the audience.*
- VII. *Begin by a significant quotation or idea from some other person.*

Courtesy : The Public Speaker's Treasure Chest - Herbert V. Prochnow and Herbert V. Prochnow Jr.

## SPORTS TRIVIA

The games captains for the year 1993-94 have been appointed :

Shaad Ali	Cricket
Rajesh Sehgal	Basket-ball
Himanshu Gupta	Chess
Atin Sharma	Tennis
Mohit Mehta	Football & Swimming
Chirdeep Panasher	Badminton
Jairaj Singh	Hockey
Wanchuk Topden	Athletics
Ramanpreet Hora	Table Tennis
Vidura Bahadur	Volleyball

Cricket season has begun. Boys can be seen practising at all odd hours of the day.

Welham played its first official match under Shaad's leadership against the Veterans Club. We won the toss and elected to field. Mr. Samir Thakur, Catering Officer, who plays for the Veterans Club hit a brilliant half century (52) to enable his team to make a sizeable score of 159. Shaad Ali took 3 wickets giving just 27 runs. Chirdeep and Shantanu also bowled well. Vijay Sushant and Varun Lamba opened the Welham

innings. Vijay scored 48. Surya Todi scored 21 runs and Mohit Mehta scored 25 runs. Together they helped Welham win the match.

The second match was played against YMCA. Welham again won the toss and decided to chase the target. The YMCA team batted extremely well to score 171 in just 20 overs. Shaad Ali again took 3 wickets, giving 33 runs. Varun Lamba took 2 wickets, giving 20 runs. The YMCA bowlers bowled well and soon wickets started to fall. Mohit Mehta was the only Welham batsman who denied the 'YMCA' an easy victory. He scored 35, hitting 2 good sixers. Welham, however, only managed to score 150 runs in 20 overs.

The Basketball team played against 11 Sikh LI under the leadership of Rajesh Sehgal. Welham began slowly but the score increased steadily after the first half. Samarth and Siddhant played exceptionally well. The final score was 72-35 in our favour.

Things however brighter on the table tennis scene. Welham took part in the district tournament for boys under the age of 14. In the singles final Chaitanya Wahi lost in a closely fought match. In the doubles finals Welham came first. The duo of Arjun Bhatia and Akhil Bhanot represented the school.

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## साम्प्रदायिक दंगों से होने वाली हानि

६ दिसम्बर का वह दिन मुझे भुलाए नहीं भूलता। प्रातःकाल चार बजे से ही पूरे शहर में दहशत फैल गई। पूरे शहर में बाबरी मस्जिद के टूटने के कारण, जगह-जगह दंगे फसाद होने लगे। शहर में जगह-जगह वारुद के बम के धमाकों की आवाज गूँजने लगी। बहुत से बेकसूर लोग अपनी जिन्दगियों से हाथ धो बैठे।

उस दिन मैं अपने स्कूल में था, और कुछ ही दिनों के बाद हमारा शीतकालीन अवकाश शुरू होने वाली थी। धीरे-धीरे करके शहर का माहौल दिन पर दिन बिगड़ता गया। शहर की गली-गली में अनेक प्रकार के नारे गूँजने लगे। शहर की वह स्थिति देखकर हमारी छुट्टियाँ जिस तारीख को होनी थी उससे पहले हो गई। पूरे शहर में कर्फ्यू लग गया। उस दिन बहुत प्रयत्न करने के बाद मैंने

अपने घर वात की तथा अपने माता-पिता से घर आने का कोई आसान मार्ग पूछा। अगले ही दिन मेरे पिता जी मेरे खातिर मुझे लेने, मेरे स्कूल आ पहुँचे। उस दिन मैं अपने स्कूल में तो चला गया, परन्तु अपने घर न पहुँच सका, क्योंकि उस दिन देहरादून में कुछ ज्यादा दंगे हो गये थे। उस दिन मुझे अपने पिता जी के साथ देहरादून में ही रहना पड़ा। उस दिन मैं सारी रात यही सोचता रहा कि हमारे रात को घर न पहुँचने के कारण मेरी माता जी की क्या दशा हो रही होगी। मेरे पिता जी भी सारी रात चिन्ता के कारण सो न सके तथा सारी रात करवट बदलते रहे।

अगले दिन प्रातःकाल चार बजे ही हम देहरादून से खाना हो गये और कुछ ही घण्टों में सही सलामत घर

पहुँच गए। वहाँ पहुँच कर मैंने देखा कि मेरी माता जी मारी गत में हमारी राह देख रही थी। मेरे पिता जी तथा मुझे मही सन्मान देवकर उनकी जान में जान आई और वह रोने लगी। तब मेरे पिता जी ने उन्हें धीरज दिलाया।

हमारे देश में इस प्रकार के दंगे करवाने में हमारे देश के राजनीतिज्ञों का बहुत बड़ा हाथ है। मैं पूछता हूँ कि वहशी राजनीतिज्ञों को क्या हक है कि वह अपने स्वयं के स्वार्थ के लिए भोली-भाली जनता की जिन्दगियों में खिन्नवाड़ करें। मैं सोचता हूँ कि इन लोगों का क्या हक है कि वह एक भाई को दूसरे भाई को लड़वाएँ। हमारे देश में भाईचारा जैसा सब मिटा दें तथा पूरे देश में

दहशत की लहर दौड़ा दें? मेरे विचार से ऐसे राजनीतिज्ञों जो एक माँ को अपने बच्चों से सदा के लिए जुदा कर देते हैं, जो एक पत्नी से उसका सुहाग छीन लेते हैं तथा जो एक भाई को उसकी वहन से सदा के लिए दूर कर देते हैं, ऐसे राजनीतिज्ञों को सरे-आम चौराहे पर बाँध कर उनके शरीर को गोलियों से छलनी कर देना चाहिए। ऐसे वहशी दरिन्दों की यही सजा होनी चाहिए। हमारी सरकार को चाहिए कि वह ऐसे देशद्रोहियों को ऐसे कठोर दण्ड दे कि उनकी पापी आत्मा फिर किसी शरीर में समाने का साहस न कर सके।

अभिपेक अग्रवाल  
(कक्षा-६)

## पुरुषार्थ की सिद्धि में भाग्य की भूमिका

कहा जाता है कि मनुष्य अपना भाग्य स्वयं निम्नता है। कुछ हद तक यह कथन सत्य है। परन्तु मनुष्य के जीवन में ऐसे क्षण भी आते हैं जब उसकी मेहनत असफल हो जाती है और उसकी सफलता पूर्ण रूप से उसके भाग्य पर निर्भर करती है। ऐसे ही कुछ उदाहरण इस कथन को स्पष्ट करेंगे।

रमेश नामक छात्र वार्षिक परीक्षा के लिए कड़ी मेहनत करता है। निःसन्देह उसकी मेहनत के लिए उसे फल मिलेगा, परन्तु यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि वह परीक्षा में अव्वल रहे। रमेश सब कुछ याद करता है, परन्तु उसे परीक्षा के दिन उसे हर पाठ विस्तारपूर्वक याद नहीं रहता। एक और छात्र परीक्षा के लिए गिने-चुने पाठों का स्मरण करता है। अगर भाग्य उस छात्र का साथ देता है तब परीक्षा में वही सब प्रश्न आते हैं, जिनके उत्तर उसने स्मरण किए थे। अर्थात् भाग्य इस स्थिति में प्रधान है।

खेलों में अक्सर भाग्य प्रमुख भूमिका निभाता है। ताश के खिलाड़ी में हुनर तो होना ही चाहिए, साथ-साथ खिलाड़ी के सितारे भी बुलन्द होने चाहिए। मनुष्य, चाहे जितना भी दृढ़ संकल्प का हो, उससे बढ़कर भाग्य

होता है। श्री राम तथा राजा हरिश्चन्द्र जैसे महान सम्राटों को कठिन से कठिन परिस्थितियों का सामना करना पड़ा। मेरे दृष्टिकोण में तो यह सब भाग्य का खेल है।

भाग्य के सहारे कभी-कभी मनुष्य अपार उन्नति करता है। उदाहरण स्वरूप कोई व्यक्ति शेयर बाजार में कई शेयर कम दामों पर खरीदता है। अगर भाग्य की उस पर कृपा दृष्टि होती है तो शेयरों के दर अकस्मात बढ़ जाते हैं, जिन्हें बेचकर वह व्यक्ति लखपति बन जाता है। अक्सर देखा जाता है कि भाग्य सज्जन लोगों का साथ देता है। एक चोर एक बार पुलिस में बच जाता है। परन्तु कभी न कभी वह पुलिस द्वारा जरूर पकड़ा जाता है।

इन सब बातों से यह सिद्ध होता है कि मनुष्य के जीवन में भाग्य महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है। अतः हर मनुष्य को इस कथन से सहमत होना चाहिए कि पुरुषार्थ की सिद्धि कुछ हद तक भाग्य के बल पर होती है।

शान्तनु सिंह  
६-वी

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