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Shakespeare's philosophy of life as revealed in 'The Tempest'

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Abstract:

Shakespeare is one of the greatest dramatists at the world and none equals him in the universality of his appeal. Ben Johnson called him 'the soul of the age' and also that 'He was not an age, but for all times.' He has been read, loved and enjoyed in all ages and countries. There has never been so great a dramatist as Shakespeare and never will be. He wrote 37 plays, 154 sonnets and also composed two long narrative poems – Rape of Lucrece and Venus and Adonis. The last period of Shakespeare's dramatic career includes plays like Pericles, The winter's Tale, Cymbeline and The Tempest. It holds much of the author's mature reflection on life itself. The new vision of life is revealed in his last play. 'The Tempest' embodies Shakespeare's final interpretation of life. The tree of knowledge which Shakespeare nurtured with his own hands brought this fruit of wisdom - to err is human and that highest virtue of man is forgiveness. The Tempest is taken as Shakespeare's farewell to the stage. Prospero is universally acknowledged to be an autobiographical sketch speaks as such was the dramatist's own mature opinion.

Key-words: Shakespeare, The Tempest, Prospero, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Revenge, Universal Appeal.

Everybody says, "There has never been so great a dramatist as Shakespeare and never will be." Ben Johnson his contemporary called him, 'the soul of the age' and also that 'He was not of an age but for all time. He was one of the greatest men of genius that have ever been born on this brightest planet of ours. He is ever changing, ever becoming different from what he was before. Shakespeare's freshness is perennial, his appeal is universal. He wrote for the Elizabethan stage and audience, but he is read and enjoyed even today not only by Englishmen but by the English-speaking people all over the world. He wrote 37 plays and he has given us comedies, tragedies, romances, and