All the World’s a Stage
-William Shakespeare

Poet:-This poem is written by the greatest dramatist of English the World has ever produced. William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon, England on 23rd April, 1564. It is often said that it is futile to learn English if one does not study the writings of Shakespeare.

Poem:- This poem is actually a passage taken from the Shakespeare’s romantic play, As You Like It. These lines have been taken from Act 2, Scene 7 of the play. Jaques is a character who is the speaker of these lines. He is both wise and comic. Here Jaques compares the different stages in a man’s life to different scenes of a play!!!!!!

Summary:- This poem begins with the title itself “All the World a Stage”. The poet depicts the fact serially and exhibits the different stages in a human’s life along with its characteristics. The poet writes that this whole world is a stage and all men and women on this earth are just actors and actresses who are on the earth (stage) to play their unique roles. Everyone has acts which is subclassified as seven ages.

The first age is of an infant, innocent and immaculate, crying in soft voice and frequently vomiting on the caretaker’s arms. The second age is of a crying
school boy with a school bag not willing to go to school with a bright shining morning face. The third is of a lover who writes long narrative poems on his lover’s (mistress) beauty as on eyebrow. The fourth is of a soldier who takes strange oaths, bearded like an animal always jealous to gain honour, short tempered and thus quick in quarrell and willing to gain reputation even in the gun’s mouth. The fifth age is of a justice with a fat protruded belly all lined with fat and flesh with severe eyes and beard with formal cut. The sixth age shifts to a thin, stooped man again with a childish shrill voice, spectacles on nose, pouch on one side resembling an old fashioned trousers known as pantaloons. Lastly the second childish scene is attained with forgetfulness and possessing no teeth, no vision, no feeling of taste and nothing…… all futile to him!!!!!!

Comment:- Shakespeare has elaborated suggesting an image of various stages humans have to pass during their life time. Reading this poem it seems to be true that this whole World is a stage and all living things are assigned with specific duties one has to complete in his life time. It is very true that we all are merely players governed by that supreme power who rules and sustains the whole firmament-GOD.

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