

Chapter : 2

Henry Fielding : Joseph Andrews

Introduction to Henry Fielding

Henry Fielding was born in on 22 April 1707, in a landowning family in Somerset, England. He was educated at Eton and later went to the University of Leyden, in the Netherlands. In 1729 he left Leyden to go to London where he began a career as a professional dramatist. During the early part of the 18th century, Fielding wrote many plays which satirized the leading politicians and public figures of the day, including Hugh Walpole, King George II and the Queen. This resulted in the censoring of the stage and the closure of Fielding's own theatre. He had to find other means of livelihood and soon became a novelist.

In 1740, Samuel Richardson's novel Pamela or Virtue Rewarded was published and immediately became a sensation. Richardson's story of a virtuous servant girl protecting her chastity against her wealthy employer, which resulted in her triumph over him and their marriage, was highly praised as an example of moral purity. Several writers wrote burlesques and parodies of Pamela. Fielding felt that Richardson's novel was clumsy, pretentious and absurd. In 1741, he wrote a parody, An Apology for the Life of Mrs. Shamela Andrews, which treated the chastity of Richardson's heroine as dishonest and hypocritical, having little to do with goodness of heart or spirit.

In 1742, Fielding published The History of the Adventures of Joseph Andrews. And of his Friend Mr. Abraham Adams. Written in Imitation of the Manner of Cervantes. Author of Don Quixote, to ridicule Pamela. He reversed the situation in Richardson's novel by presenting Joseph the chaste servant (instead of the innocent and virtuous serving - maid), whom Lady Booby tempts from the path of virtue, and who runs away to save his chastity. At this moment in the story, Fielding became so engrossed in the narrative that Richardson was almost forgotten, and described a series of adventures on the road, where Joseph is accompanied by Parson Adams. Joseph Andrews was followed by The History of Mr. Jonathan Wild the Great,

in 1743, a satiric novel which alluded to Sir Robert Walpole. Fielding's belief that generosity frequently exists in those whom society condemns, intensified, as is seen in his next novel, Tom Jones, published in 1749, which has as its theme the life and adventures of Tom Jones and is a profound portrait of what Fielding considered a complete man. His last novel, Amelia, published in 1751, does not have the balance of his preceding novel, and was not very successful. The only major English novels before Joseph Andrews were Defoe's Robinson Crusoe and Moll Flanders and Richardson's Pamela. But with Fielding the novel had come of age. He endowed it with form and gave it middle - class realism and used characters and places that existed and represented real life.

Summary of Joseph Andrews

Joseph Andrews consists of a preface followed by four books divided into sixty-four chapters. Each chapter is prefaced by a short, often humorous summary. In the preface to the novel, Fielding calls it a comic romance, a comic epic poem in prose. He also says that the novel is not a burlesque, as the characters are based on those found in real life. Fielding begins Book I by talking about the moral purpose of actual examples, and declares that the reader is improved by a mixture & of instruction and entertainment. He says that Joseph Andrews is the brother of Pamela and has kept in mind the pattern of his sister's virtues, thus being a good example of "male - chastity". Fielding talks about Joseph as if he were a great hero. By the time he was ten and could read and write, Joseph was apprenticed to Sir Thomas Booby. He took care of dogs and horses, and was moved from working in the fields to the stables because he had an excellent voice. At the age of seventeen he caught the eye of Lady Booby who wanted him as her personal servant. Fielding then tells us about Parson Abraham Adams, an excellent scholar, good - natured, but ignorant of the ways of the world. Simplicity is the hallmark of his character, and he is a good parson but earns a small income which is not enough to live well with his wife and six children. He is surprised at Joseph's knowledge of the New Testament. Mrs. Slipslop, "the waiting - gentlewoman" likes to use jargon, which she often does not understand, and wants Parson Adams to accept her superior knowledge of theology. Lady Booby wants to go to London and take

Joseph with her. In London Joseph follows the fashions, but avoids gambling, drinking and other vices. Lady Booby now finds him attractive, and tries to tempt him by holding hands with him, leering at him, and having him bring messages to her room. Joseph remains chaste, but London gossip suggests that he has become her lover. When Sir Thomas Booby dies, she pretends to mourn, but in fact plays cards with her friends for six days. On the seventh day she attempts to seduce Joseph. When Joseph does not respond, she says that he is either a fool or pretends to be, so as to avoid what she is offering, and orders him out of the room. Joseph writes to his sister Pamela complaining about Lady Booby's behaviour and expressing a wish to look for another job as London appears to be a bad place. Then Joseph is approached by Mrs. Slipslop, who also desires him. An ugly old woman, Mrs. Slipslop has been without a lover for so long that she is no longer afraid of ruining her reputation. But Joseph offers her respect and she feels insulted. Lady Booby calls Mrs. Slipslop to her room and the two disappointed women talk about Joseph. Mrs. Slipslop says that he is a drunkard, gambler and a rascal who has made a chambermaid pregnant. Lady Booby tells her to dismiss Joseph and the maid, and asks her to send Joseph to see her immediately. She then talks to him about his supposed misbehavior with the maids in the house, and implies that he will be excused if he kisses her and may also take other liberties. Joseph says that he hopes to remain virtuous and follow his sister Pamela's example. Lady Booby orders him out of the house and summons Mrs. Slipslop to tell her about her decision. Mrs. Slipslop mocks her and Lady Booby wonders if she should dismiss her because Joseph may have told her about Lady Booby's passion for him. But she decides not to dismiss Mrs. Slipslop, who, in turn, decides to continue working in her house. Joseph writes a letter to Pamela, telling her about Lady Booby's passion for him and resolving to imitate her chastity. He receives his wages from Peter : Pounce, the steward (who lends money at very high rates), and leaves the house. Joseph leaves London and towards Lady Booby's house in the country because in that parish lives Fanny, a beautiful but poor girl, he loves. She has been brought up by Sir Thomas's family and they have not married because Parson Adams advised them to wait until they had sufficient money and experience to live comfortably.

During his journey, Joseph is at first offered the use of a horse by another traveler, but later continues alone on foot. He is attacked and beaten unconscious by two thieves who take his clothes and money. After a time a stage-coach passes by. The passengers do not want to stop to help because some are afraid that they will also be robbed, some object that Joseph is naked, and some say that if he dies they will have more trouble. None of the rich passengers will lend him clothing, but the postillion gives him his own coat so that he can enter the coach. The coach moves on and is also robbed. They reach an inn where Betty, the maid, provides a shirt and a bed for Joseph, while Mr. Tow-ouse, the owner of the inn, and his wife, argue over the charity Betty has shown. A stranger enters the inn, and turns out to be Parson Adams. One of the thieves is caught and Joseph's clothing and a gold coin belonging to him are also found. The thief is to be taken before a justice of the peace the next day, but is left unguarded and escapes during the night. Parson Adams is on his way to London to sell his sermons, and Barnabas, the local clergyman, introduces a bookseller to him. The bookseller tells Adams that the trade is overstocked with sermons. Betty falls in love with Joseph but is rejected and in anger, allows herself to be taken to bed by the landlord, whose wife discovers them and dismisses Betty from employment.

Fielding opens Book II by giving reasons for dividing a work of literature into books and chapters. Adams leaves the inn to sell his sermons in London, but accidentally leaves them behind. He takes this as a sign that he should return to the parish, and decides to accompany Joseph who is going to meet Fanny. With one horse between them, Joseph and Adams take turns to ride and walk. The rider, after a distance, will tie the horse to a tree and proceed on foot until the other catches up with him. Adams goes ahead and waits for Joseph at an alehouse where Mrs. Slipslop arrives in a stage-coach. Apparently, she met Joseph when he was detained for the debt of the horse and paid for it. Joseph keeps the horse, while Adams rides in the coach with Mrs. Slipslop and they travel towards an inn. On the way, Joseph is thrown from the horse and gets a sore leg. The innkeeper's wife tends to his leg instead of preparing food for the coach passengers and is scolded by her husband. There is a quarrel in which Adams and Mrs. Slipslop join in.

The journey continues and Joseph sees Adams walking ahead. The absent-minded parson forgot his horse and left it at the inn. They try to catch up with Adams but he walks so fast that he out distances the coach and takes a wrong turning. As he continues, it becomes dark, and hearing the sound of a woman shrieking, Adams goes to her rescue. He fights with the ravisher and knocks him unconscious. Several young men appear and as Adams is telling them what happened, the man regains consciousness and accuses Adams and the woman of attempting to murder him. The young men decide to hand over Adams and the woman to the justice of the peace. Adams realizes that the woman he rescued is Fanny, Joseph's beloved. The justice is about to send them to prison, when someone recognizes Adams and has him released, while the real criminal escapes. Fanny and Adams meet someone who knows where Joseph is, and they go in search of him. They stop at an alehouse because of a storm, and meet Joseph, as well as Mrs. Slipslop. She refuses to acknowledge Fanny, though she has lived in the same house for many years, and departs angrily in the coach. They wake Adams and request him to wed them immediately, but he insists that they follow the church regulations and wait until their intentions have been publicly announced three times. As they do not have money to pay for the bill, Adams decides to borrow money from a local parson, named Trulliber, who takes a dislike to him because of his poor appearance, insults him, and will give him nothing. As the hostess refuses to let them go without paying the bill, and no rich person in the neighbourhood will lend them money, they cannot leave, but a poor pedlar comes to their rescue by lending them all he has.

Book III begins with praise of biography and how good literature is based on real people and has the object of correcting behaviour. Fielding says that Joseph, Fanny, and Adams leave the inn, and in the course of a dark, starless night, reach a house where they are offered refreshment. Mr. Wilson, the owner, tells the story of his life and he and Adams sit up all night drinking and talking. He tells Adams how he had spent his fortune, married the daughter of the man who had swindled him, and that their eldest son had been stolen by some gypsies and never been found. Wilson says that he will be able to recognize his son by a strawberry mark on his left breast. As they observe the Wilson household, they conclude that it is an ideal one.

Having rested, the trio resume their journey. A pack of hounds attack them and they beat them off with sticks. A squire, the owner of the pack, arrives and demands that they should not be beaten. He then invites them for dinner to his house, but once they arrive, Joseph and Fanny are sent to eat in the kitchen, while Adams eats with his host. The servants are told to make Joseph and Fanny drunk as the squire intends to rape Fanny. But Adams and Joseph leave the house using their sticks to protect Fanny whom the servants attempt to detain. They reach an inn and in the morning, the squire's servants come and fight with them. Fanny is carried off and Adams and Joseph are beaten up and tied to the bed-posts. Some men, armed with pistols rescue her, and one of them is Peter Pounce, Lady Booby's steward. The chariot, with Fanny and Peter, proceeds to the inn where Adams and Joseph are bound. They find Adams's horse and go to Booby Hall.

In Book IV, Fielding tells us that Lady Booby still dreams of Joseph and makes various excuses for his not loving her. She decides to retire into the country. On her way to Booby Hall, she is surprised to see Joseph. Parson Adams takes Fanny and Joseph to his house. On Sunday Lady Booby is at church when Parson Adams announces the coming marriage of Joseph Andrews and Fanny Goodwill. When Lady Booby returns home, she summons Parson Adams. Lady Booby threatens Parson Adams for befriending Joseph when she has dismissed him from her employment. She commands Adams not to publish the banns again, and thus not allow Joseph and Fanny to have a church marriage. Adams refuses to obey her so Lady Booby sends for Lawyer Scout and tells him to have both Joseph and Fanny removed from the parish. He says that he will have Justice Frolick commit them to prison in London. Two days later Lady Booby hears Parson Adams publish the banns again at church. Returning home she meets Slipslop who informs her that Joseph and Fanny have been taken as criminals before Justice Frolick. Slipslop is upset and cries that Joseph will be hanged! Lady Booby wants Fanny removed from the parish but Joseph to remain. While she puzzles on what to do next, a servant announces that her nephew, Mr. Booby, and his wife have arrived in a coach. This is the first Lady Booby has heard of her nephew's marriage. She is introduced to his wife, Pamela, who is the sister of Joseph. As soon as Mr. Booby learns from his servants that Joseph is committed to trial he visits the judge so that his wife's

brother may be freed and Pamela and Joseph reunited. When he arrives the judge is in the process of sending Joseph and Fanny to prison in London. He goes to Lady Booby's house and tells her that Joseph is now his brother-in-law and requests that he admitted to their circle and treated as a gentleman. Lady Booby, secretly still in love with Joseph, immediately agrees but as soon as her nephew mentions Fanny, she becomes angry. The squire returns to Joseph and tells him that he must stay with his sister Pamela, while Fanny returns to Parson Adam's house. Parson Adams agrees that Joseph and Fanny can marry on Monday. Mrs. Adams attempts to persuade her husband not to publish the marriage banns as it would make Lady Booby angry. Joseph and Fanny enter. Adams tells Joseph that he should have patience and wait to marry Fanny in church. He then lectures him concerning the need to accept the ways of Divine Providence. Someone enters and tells the parson that his youngest son has drowned. Adams acts with all the passion and lack of resignation of which he accused Joseph. The son, however, is alive; he fell into a river and was saved by a pedlar.

Lady Booby decides to bring Fanny and Beau Didapper together in the hope that his fine appearance will win the girl's love and make her abandon Joseph. Lady Booby and Beau Didapper visit Parson Adams. He is short, misshapen, effeminate and self-satisfied. Beau Didapper makes advances toward Fanny. Joseph, angered, hits him. Mr. and Mrs. Booby disapprove of Joseph's defending Fanny and of his wish to marry a girl of her class. Haughty Pamela also scolds him for this. A pedlar tells Fanny that he knows of her parents. A woman he once lived with confessed before she died that years ago she traveled with some gypsies who kidnapped a young girl from the Andrews family and sold her to a Sir Thomas Booby as servant. Fanny, hearing the story, faints. It appears that Joseph is her brother and Pamela is her sister! Parson Adams gives thanks that the secret has been discovered before incest is committed by Joseph and Fanny. Slipslop tells Lady Booby that a strange pedlar claims that Fanny and Joseph are sister and brother. Everyone then gathers at Booby Hall to hear the pedlar's story. Mr. Booby says that Mr. Andrews and his wife will arrive the next morning and will confirm or disprove the story.

Beau Didapper plans to slip into Fanny's bed at night by pretending to be Joseph. He mistakenly enters into Slipslop's room.

Her cries of alarm bring a naked Parson Adams to the rescue. In the dark he mistakes Slipslop for a man and they fight while Beau Didapper escapes. Lady Booby finds them and assumes the naked person is attacking Slipslop. She sees the fine clothes the Beau has left, and the situation is explained. Adams starts back to his bedroom, but takes the wrong turn, enters Fanny's room and, naked, falls asleep unknowingly alongside her. When Joseph enters, the parson awakens believing that witchcraft has taken place. At first angry, Joseph knows the parson's eccentricities and understands there has been a mistake. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews arrive. Mrs. Andrews claims Fanny as her daughter. Mr. Andrews went abroad while his wife was pregnant. She gave birth to a daughter who was stolen by gypsies, who left behind a boy. The boy is Joseph, whom Mrs. Andrews raised as her own child. The pedlar claims that Joseph was the child of a gentleman, Mr. Wilson. Joseph was stolen by gypsies who later, when he was ill, left him with Mrs. Andrews when they stole Fanny. Mr. Wilson arrives and hearing the story identifies Joseph from a strawberry mark on his breast. Joseph obtains his father's permission to marry Fanny. They are wedded by Parson Adams in church. Mr. Booby gives Fanny two thousand pounds which she and Joseph use to purchase an estate. Mr. Booby offers Mr. Adams a position with a better income. Adams refuses to quit his parishioners, but then decides to accept the offer because with the additional money he can hire another curate to help him to look after both parishes.

2.0	Objectives
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2.2	Characterization in Joseph Andrews
2.2.1	parson Adams
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2.2.3	Women characters
2.2.4	Other minor characters
2.3	The structure of Joseph Andrews
2.4	Joseph Andrews as a picaresque novel
2.5	Conclusion
2.6	Summary
	- Check Your Progress - Answers
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2.0 Objectives

The detailed study of this chapter and the text would enable you to

- a) discuss Joseph Andrews as a typical 18th century novel.
- b) analyse the characters in Joseph Andrews.
- c) analyse the structure of Joseph Andrews.
- d) discuss Joseph Andrews as a picaresque novel.

2.1 Introduction

Joseph Andrews was originally written to ridicule Richardson's Pamela. Fielding contrived this satire by reversing the situation in Richardson's novel. Instead of the virtuous serving-maid Pamela, Fielding presents Joseph, the chaste servant, whom Lady Booby tries to tempt from the path of virtue, and who runs away to save his chastity. The series of adventures in which Joseph is accompanied by Parson Adams that Fielding describes, are admirably depicted, and make an absorbing narrative.

2.2 Characterisation in Joseph Andrews

2.2.1 Parson Adams

Joseph Andrews is a panoramic novel, and the reader is introduced to the world of the eighteenth century, from the highest to the lowest social planes. Every new page introduces a new character as the novel moves from the Booby parish to London and back again. All the characters, no matter how small their appearance, are vital, and serve to complement the progress of the main action and the principal characters. Fielding's experience in the field of drama helped him to delineate the characters as also to dramatize the action. The novel essentially revolves around five characters: Parson Adams, Joseph Andrews, Fanny Goodwill, Mrs. Slipslop, and Lady Booby.

Parson Abraham Adams is undoubtedly the character whose fortunes the reader follows with the most interest. He is a bundle of contradictions, a delightful mixture of scholarship and simplicity, and pedantry and credulity. He is a scholar with a perfect knowledge of Greek and Latin and of such modern and European languages as French and Italian. He often uses Latin expressions, and during the novel he journeys with a manuscript of Aeschylus's plays in Greek. He gives irreproachable advice to Joseph about fortitude and resignation, but he is overwhelmed with grief when his child is reported to be drowned. When he speaks on discipline, marriage, or faith, he is very sensible, but he is deceived by every rogue he meets, and believes in the principles of Peter Pounce and the humanity of Parson Trulliber. Brave, friendly and without malice or envy, he is a man of good sense and good nature, but ignorant of the ways of this world. He is about fifty years old and has a wife and six children whom he can barely support on his very small income as a curate. Adams enjoys drinking beer. He considers all his parishioners, especially Joseph and Fanny, as his children. He is eccentric and forgetful; he often leaves his hat and his sermons (which he intends to sell) behind, and has to return for them. Adams at first appears to be a stock character - the typical absent-minded scholar familiar in literature. But Fielding takes this stock figure and gives it individuality. He lands into misadventure after misadventure - he wanders from inn to inn without the means to pay his bills, he is beaten, swindled and mocked at, he is involved in

hilarious nightly adventures -but he never loses his innate dignity and goodness.

2.2.2 Joseph

Joseph Andrews is supposedly the only son of Gaffar and Gammer Andrews and the brother of Pamela. In fact he is the son of Mr. Wilson. Joseph was stolen by gypsies as a child and left with Mrs. Andrews who brought him up as her own son. Mr. Andrews recognises him by a strawberry mark on his breast. At the early age of ten he is made an apprentice to Sir Thomas Booby and at seventeen becomes Lady Booby's footman. He has a very musical voice, and instead of scaring the birds, his cries attract them, and the hounds turn from the huntsman and his horn to follow the boy's tuneful notes. He is virtuous and handsome, and being well read in the Bible and influenced by Parson Adams, he preserves his purity in the midst of temptations. At the time of the novel he is twenty-one years old. He has nut-brown, curly hair and dark eyes. When in danger, he is ready to fight courageously, and never hesitates his to risk his life for Adams or Fanny. Though for the most part, he is nothing more than the amusing figure of a young lover, simple and frank, both morally and physically vigorous, a few weeks of life on the roads develops the boy into a man - the boy who wrote timid letters to his sister changes into the young man who defends his beloved Fanny when she is chided by Adams.

2.2.3 The Women Characters

Fanny Goodwill is the child of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews and the sister of Pamela. She was stolen by gypsies in her infancy. At the age of three she was sold to Sir Thomas Booby and raised as a servant in Lady Booby's family. She is nineteen years old, beautiful and plump, and very modest. She is also poor, and can neither read nor write.

Mrs. Slipslop, Lady Booby's companion, is one of the most delightful characters in the novel. She is forty-five years old, short, heavy-set, red-faced, large-nosed and pimpled, and not at all attractive. She is of gentle birth, the daughter of a curate. She believes herself to be learned and argues on theology with Adams. She often mispronounces what she intends to say or uses the wrong words (malapropisms), and her dignity, servility, insolence and her

sensuality, all give her a life-like reality.

Lady Booby, the wife of Sir Thomas Booby, takes Joseph with her to London as her servant, attempts to seduce him & when unsuccessful dismisses him from service. Later, still desiring him, she tries to prevent his marriage to Fanny. She is very conscious of her social superiority, and is torn between her passion for Joseph and her humiliation at loving her servant. Lady Booby reveals herself almost completely through her actions e.g. in her attempted seduction of Joseph, and her attempts to thwart his proposed marriage. She is portrayed as a proud, ruthless, vain, selfish, hypocritical and immoral woman.

2.2.4 Other Minor Characters

Pamela Andrews is based on the heroine of Richardson's Pamela, who, as a servant, protects her chastity from her rich employer, Mr. B - who fails to seduce her, and marries her. In Joseph Andrews, she is the supposed sister of Joseph and, unknown to her, the sister of Fanny. Joseph looks upon her as a model of chastity. Fielding amuses himself by showing her as a young wife who preaches and moralizes without end and does not want to have any connection with Fanny as she regards her as socially inferior.

Fielding's minor characters are also vividly portrayed and have a distinct identity of their own. Peter Pounce who holds back the salaries of servants and charges high interest on loans, Parson Trulliber with his greediness, shrewish Mrs. Tow-wouse who scolds her erring husband, Beau Didapper the typical 18th century dandy, all serve to make a colourful gallery of characters. All these individual types are clearly characterized e.g. a traveller in a coach, a post-boy, an inn-keeper, appear for one instant, yet they remain firmly engraved upon the mind.

2.2 Check Your Progress.

Choose the correct alternative:

1. At the end of the novel, the reader comes to know that Joseph is the son of
 - a. Mr. Andrews
 - b. Mr. Wilson
 - c. Parson Adams
 - d. Sir Thomas Booby.



2. The main characteristic of Parson Adams is
- a. selfishness b. greed
 - c. simplicity d. arrogance

2.3 The Structure of Joseph Andrews

2.3.1 Joseph Andrews and drama

Many critics have commented that Joseph Andrews resembles a play perhaps because Fielding was an experienced dramatist). The four books are said to resemble four acts, in which the first book presents the problem, the second and the third present the complications and the fourth book presents the unfolding of the action. At the same time, the first part of every chapter, the preface, is an informal essay -obviously the work of a man who wrote in 18th century periodicals. Conditioned by his experiences as a playwright, he has broken his action into scenes, which enable him to juxtapose incidents and characters so that they comment on each other. When Fielding wants to retard the action, he does so by using the simplest means e.g. rain or storm force the characters to stop at an inn, they cannot leave because they do not have money to pay the bill, thieves rob them, or a judge arrests them. But although the devices are so simple, nothing remains unexplained. The novel is thus subjected to the discipline of drama, which give it life even though it is a novel of character.

2.3.2 The careful organisation of the novel

The careful organization of the novel is seen in its structure. The story begins with the supposed history of Joseph's parentage and the last chapter reveals his true father. The story also begins in the country house of the Boobys which is also Adam's parish. Joseph, Adams, Lady Booby and Mrs. Slipslop, four of the five principal characters, are introduced. Fanny's late appearance is meant as a surprise. The action shifts to London for a short while. Then the narrative moves through the countryside as Joseph and later others return towards the parish from which the story began. So the novel begins with a group of characters who are dispersed and come

together again while other significant characters are added. Finally the original group, enlarged by Pamela and her husband, Mr. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, and the pedlar, reassemble for the wedding of Joseph and Fanny. Fielding took surprising care to provide symmetries within the narrative, e.g. Lady Booby expresses similar passions and conflicting emotions in Book I and Book IV, Pamela is mentioned early in Book I and late in Book IV, Joseph and Fanny are reunited at inns in Book II, Chapter 12 and Book III, Chapter 12, and the attempted rape and abduction of Fanny occurs in Book II, Chapter 9, and Book III, Chapter 9. Besides symmetry there are many contrasts, e.g. Lady Booby is unfaithful to her husband while Joseph is faithful to Fanny, Adams's conduct contrasts the behaviour of Trulliber.

2.3.3 The ending of the novel

It has often been observed that Joseph Andrews has a weak ending because it appears to be a contrived one. Joseph is found to be the son of a gentleman, Mr. Wilson, while Fanny, far from being a foundling, is the daughter of Gaffar and Gammar Andrews. Bourgeois proprieties are satisfied, and no one opposes the marriage, which brings the book to a happy ending. Yet this denouement is not brought about clumsily, because Fielding is at pains to lead on to the surprise gradually. Fanny is found to be the daughter of the Andrews, so that for some time everyone believes her to be Joseph's sister, which allows the novelist to show us the different reactions of the chief characters to the situation. E.g. grief of Fanny and Joseph, Pamela's moralizing, the advice of Adams, and hope blossoming in the heart of Lady Booby, Finally Mr. Wilson arrives and recognizes Joseph as his long-lost son by the strawberry mark on his chest. But it should be noted that the arrival of Mr. Wilson, which takes place in Chapter XV, is announced as early as Chapter V.

2.3 Check Your Progress.

Fill in the blanks with the correct answer :

1. Joseph Andrews resembles a _____.
a. tragedy b. opera
c. play d. travelogue



2. The novel begins with the history of _____.
a. Fanny b. Joseph
c. Lady Booby d. Parson Adams

2.4 Joseph Andrews as a Picaresque Novel

Joseph Andrews is often called "a novel of adventure", but adventure plays only a minor part because the characters are seen to be far more important than the action in the novel. The picaresque novel (which narrated the adventures of the picaresque - a vagabond who journeyed for some time before he was rewarded with happiness) was popular during this time and Joseph Andrews is said to belong to this tradition. This kind of a novel had a very loose plot, while Fielding's novel, as we have seen, has a well-constructed plot. One can conclude by saying that Fielding's novel began in the picaresque tradition, but developed into a novel of character. The narrator of Joseph Andrews is the omniscient narrator, who holds opinions, comments upon events, and guides the reader through the novel by means of common sense and universally held opinions. But he is often ironic, satirically meaning the opposite of what he explicitly says, and the reader has to be alert for the narrator's irony and sense of humour.

2.4 Check Your Progress.

Answer in one sentence :

1. What kind of plot did the picaresque novel have ?

2. What did the picaresque novel narrate ?

2.5 Conclusion

Fielding's Joseph Andrews is regarded as a landmark in the history of the novel because with Fielding, the novel had come of age.

In it, he introduced middle-class realism, which was to be a very important aspect of this literary form. Though novelists like Tobias Smollett, Oliver Goldsmith and others developed it further, it was Jane Austen who succeeded in combining realism with a precision of structure. This is seen in her *Pride and Prejudice*, which we are going to study in the next chapter.

2.6 Summary

We have studied the major aspects of *Joseph Andrews*. Before proceeding to the next chapter, let us recall what we have read earlier. In *Joseph Andrews*, Fielding presents Joseph, the chaste servant whom Lady Booby tries to tempt from the path of virtue. To save his chastity, Joseph runs away, and meets Parson Adams, who accompanies him for the rest of the journey. They have a series of adventures, in which Fielding introduces a gallery of characters including Joseph's sweetheart Fanny, Lady Booby, Mrs. Slipslop, Betty the maid, Mr. and Mrs. Tow-woose, the postillion, the pedlar, Parson Trulliber etc. Along with the hilarious incidents, Fielding introduces an element of suspense which involves the birth of Joseph and Fanny, who appear to be brother and sister, and thus cannot marry. But a happy ending is contrived when they can marry because Fanny is discovered to be the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, and Joseph the son of Mr. Wilson.

Though there are numerous characters in the novel, Parson Adams, Joseph, Fanny, Mrs. Slipslop and Lady Booby are the main ones in the story. The most interesting of these is Parson Adams, the eccentric cleric, who is a mixture of scholarship, simplicity, courage and absent-mindedness. Joseph is the typical hero, young, handsome, virtuous and loyal to his lady love Fanny, who is also beautiful, modest and virtuous. Mrs. Slipslop, the middle-aged malaprop, the arrogant and immoral Lady Booby, Pamela, Joseph's vain sister, are some interesting characters. Fielding's novel shows careful organisation in the arrangement of the incidents, division into books and chapters and the depiction of characters. It is often regarded as an example of the picaresque novel (which narrates the adventures of the picaresque hero in a very loosely constructed plot), but has a more compact plot.

Check Your Progress - Answers

2.2

1. b. Mr. Wilson.
2. c. simplicity.

2.3

1. c. play.
2. b. Joseph.

2.4

1. The picaresque novel has a loose plot.
2. The picaresque novel narrated the adventures of the picaro-a vagabond who journeyed for sometime before he was rewarded with happiness.

Field Work :

Read the novel Tom Jones by Henry Fielding.



[illegible]