

Degree 1 English (Sub)

Unit 1 Drama

Lecture 1

A Brief Outline of the Drama Loyalties by John Galsworthy

Loyalties is a wonderful three act drama by a very prominent and versatile writer John Galsworthy. The Play *Loyalties* opens in Meldon Court the house of Mr. Charles Winsor. The house is situated near New market, a racing centre. Winsor's friends namely Lord St. Erth, General canynge, Major Colford, Captain Ronald Dancy (retired), Ferdinard De Levis and Miss. Margaret Orme stay with him.

Winsor is a tall, handsome man of about thirty-eight. His wife Lady Adela is a beautiful lady about thirty-five years old. Lord St. Erth is a peer of the realm and a typical English man. General Canyge is a slim man of about sixty. He has preserved his health well. He is keenly interested in racing. In fact, he is called as a racing oracle. Ferdinand De Levis is a dark, good looking, rather Eastern young man. He is a Jew. He won two races that day. The Christians do not like him but Lady Adela has invited him because she has got some Jewish blood herself and she sympathised with De Levis. Dancy gave him a mare named Rosemary because he did not think highly of her and could not afford the expenses of keeping her.

De Levis, however had sold her for \$1000 that very day. He lost a bet of \$10 that evening to captain Dancy who took a standing jump to a bookcase for feet high.

But De Levis made fun of Dancy for his parlour tricks. Captain Ronald Dancy did very well during the war and has recently retired from the army life to live peacefully. He loves adventure. His wife Mabel is a pretty young woman. They were recently married.

Dancy and Colford are great friends. They shared many adventures together. Margaret Orme is a society girl. She has a lot of common sense and is sincere at heart. The first scene takes place in Winsor's room. It is about eleven thirty at night. Winsor has just come back and is getting ready to go to bed. He calls his wife from the adjacent bedroom and asks whether she had won in the bridge game. Lady Adela replies that she had no luck and the persons who won were Lord St. Erth and De Levis. Winsor replies that De Levis is very lucky. He wants to be in a high position and wants to mingle with high society. He wants to become a member of the jockey club which controls all horse racing in England. That is why he is trying to win the favour of Lord st. Erth and General Canynge. Winsor says that Dancy is in financial difficulties. It is strange that in these situations he thought of getting married. Mabel, his wife is a very nice girl and they love each other very much. But Winsor thinks that she loves him much more than he loves her. Winsor says that he likes Dancy very much but he is unable to understand him.

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Lady Adela returns to her bed room. There is a knock at the door and De Levis comes in, is wearing pyjamas and flowered dressing gown. Winsor is surprised at his visit. De Levis is in a disturbed state and he tells Winsor that \$1000 in notes have just disappeared from under his pillow. He says that he had gone to bath room after locking up the door of his room which opened into the gallery. He must have been away only for about fifteen minutes. He tells Winsor that he got this money from Kentman, a bookie as the sale price of his mare. Winsor is shocked to hear all this. He is very unhappy that the theft took place in his house.

Winsor doesn't want any fuss to be made in his house. He feels that it is a private house and not a hotel. If there is a house search and a regular investigation it would bring a bad name to Meldon Court. He trusts his servants and doesn't want them to be suspected. The question of suspecting any guest doesn't arise. When De Levis asks the names of the persons staying in the room adjacent to his, Winsor gets annoyed. Lady Adela comes into the room and both of them examine the loss of De Levis.

Winsor thinks that the thief must have come into the room through the balcony and the open window during the fifteen minutes while De Levis was in the bath room and he must have gone out the same way. De Levis quite naturally wants to get his money back as it is not a small amount. De Levis wants the police to be

informed. This is the last thing that Winsor wanted. A police investigation would create a big scandal.

But De Levis insists on the police being informed. Winsor accepts it and asks his wife to ring up the police station at New market. But Winsor wants them to believe that De Levis lost the money at the race course and not in his house. He feels that such a thing does not happen in a decent hour.