

# On Superstition

classmate

Date 29/07/20

Page 1

- A. G. Gardiner

Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Manjhi  
Dept. of English  
J. N. College, Madhubani

Degree - II (English Honr)  
Paper - IV

## Explanation - Technique of the Essay.

These lines have been composed/taken from a delightful essay, "On Superstitions" by A. G. Gardiner. Gardiner popularly known as "Alpha of the Plough". He ranks with the best essayists of the modern age. He is the model of a modern writer who is able to elevate journalistic writings to the level of literature. His sentences are usually short and figures are homely. His style is lucid, straight and natural.

These lines of the essay centre around auspicious and inauspicious. The number 13 which is an inauspicious digit as per superstitious beliefs. Some of these superstitious may have commonplace and sensible origins which can be traced back through cross-examination. Before the examination advent of science, there was some justification also being superstitious. In the words of the author, it was no discredit to be superstitious when all the functions of nature were explored, and man seemed the plaything of beneficent or sinister forces that he could neither control nor understand, but

which held him in the hollow of their hand. History is replete with examples of great men being superstitious - Romans, for instance would never transact business after it had thundered.

These lines are entertaining as well as enlightening. It also deals with the various types of superstitions people generally believe in and their dangerous effects. Superstitions, according to Gardner, is a common human weakness. People are, by nature, superstitious. These lines also show the art and technique of the author.