

# Where Angels Fear To Tread

classmate

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- E.M. Forster

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Topic - Where Angels

Fear to Tread : Title.

Lecture - 01.

## Where Angels Fear to Tread : Title.

Forster, though a modern novelist, is traditional in his approach to the craft of fiction. He is very particular about plot-construction, art of characterization, above all, about the title. He is very selective about his titles, which truly reflect the theme of his novels. The title Where Angels Fear to Tread has been chosen with utmost care. The original title thought out by Forster was The Rescue. Although it referred to an important segment of the novel, it failed to carry the whole spirit and had only a physical connotation. Forster wanted to emphasize the theme of spiritual salvation, so he replaced the original title by a longer one. The present title is formed out of a verse of Pope in his long poem "An Essay on Criticism". The full verse is For Fools rush in Where Angels Fear to Tread. The basic sense is that fools try to do foolish

shly what even angels are afraid to do. The title reflects upon that theme of the novel.

The title also has been a comic implication. Fools and Angels, rush and bread have clear comical suggestions. Thus the title also reflects upon the nature of the novel that it is comic. The comic note is fully struck at the very opening of the novel, when we see a gay crowd at the railway station to see Lilia and Caroline off and Mr. Kingcraft running with foot-warmers along the train. This vein of comedy is to be kept clearly throughout the novel. But the message of the novel is quite serious. The comedy only helps to keep it as light-hearted as possible. The title is thus very significant and vital to the theme. The

The novel primarily deals with the conflict and reconciliation between culture and nature. But it also focuses on the interaction between two different cultures - one represented by England and the other by Italy. Swarton and Monteriano are the microcosms of England and Italy, respectively. Where as the English culture is marked by hypocrisy, narrowmindedness and stupidity, the Italian culture is full of warmth, beauty and love. It has courage, even some brutality and is full of the vigour and vitality of life.

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