

# Where Angels Fear to Tread

CLASSMATE

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Unit - 01

Topic - Where Angels

Fear to Tread: Title

Lecture - 02

## Where Angels Fear to Tread: Title

Mrs. Herriton, Harriet, Philip, Lilia and Caroline belong to Swaston and Gino represents belong to Swaston Monteriano society. The Herritons, fed up to with the pranks of their widowed daughter-in-law Lilia, plan to send her to Italy under the guardianship of Caroline Abbott, a neighbour much younger than Lilia. Going to Italy, Lilia socks the Herritons by marrying a dentist's son Gino Philip 'rushes' to Italy to present their marriage. He even tries to bribe Gino but fails miserably. The Herritons now decide to sever all ties with Lilia, though her daughter from Charles, Irma, stays with them. Lilia, a year later, dies in Monteriano giving birth to a son. Caroline Abbott wants the child to be brought up in Swaston, but the Herritons don't want to have anything with the child. Caroline decides to bring the baby on her own. Now the Herritons



Come into action, form a rescue party consisting of Philip and Harriet, despatch them to Monteciano. Caroline reaches there, too and contrary to her expectations, finds the baby in the loving care of Gino. She, therefore, gives up her plan but the Herritons are yet to learn the lesson. Harriet steals the baby, meets with an accident on the way back and the baby is killed.

Whereas Philip and Caroline realize the folly of their mission which means to tear the child from a long loving father and to pass on to a Callous, Contemptuous and completely uncaring grandmother, Harriet remains blind to the consequences. Foster ironically remarks, "Harriet had succeeded where Miss Abbott and Philip had failed. In fact, Harriet did not save the child, nor did she save herself, but killed the child as well as herself. She is a 'fool' who does not want to expose herself to the refining and ennobling influence of 'angels'.

Even angels, Foster seems to convey can't bring about a full reconciliation between the two cultures of Swarlow and Monteciano. The reconciliation is partial. But that is the best that is possible. Herritons and even Caroline may be fools but their foolish attempts at reconciliation were necessary even for a partial reconciliation. This is how the title is closely related with the theme. The title is thus apt and appropriate.