**SIDE 3 Chasuble and Miss Prism**

**Chasuble.**  And how are we this morning?  Miss Prism, you are, I trust, well?

**Cecily.**  Miss Prism has just been complaining of a slight headache.  I think it would do her so much good to have a short stroll with you in the park, Dr. Chasuble.

**Miss Prism.**  Cecily, I have not mentioned anything about a headache.

**Cecily.**  No, dear Miss Prism, I know that, but I felt instinctively that you had a headache.  Indeed I was thinking about that, and not about my German lesson, when the Rector came in.

**Chasuble.**  I hope, Cecily, you are not inattentive.

**Cecily.**  Oh, I am afraid I am.

**Chasuble.**  That is strange.  Were I fortunate enough to be Miss Prism’s pupil, I would hang upon her lips.  [**Miss Prism** glares.]  I spoke metaphorically.—My metaphor was drawn from bees.  Ahem!  Mr. Worthing, I suppose, has not returned from town yet?

**Miss Prism.**  We do not expect him till Monday afternoon.

**Chasuble.**  Ah yes, he usually likes to spend his Sunday in London.  He is not one of those whose sole aim is enjoyment, as, by all accounts, that unfortunate young man his brother seems to be.  But I must not disturb Egeria and her pupil any longer.

**Miss Prism.**  Egeria?  My name is Lætitia, Doctor.

**Chasuble.**  [Bowing.]  A classical allusion merely, drawn from the Pagan authors.  I shall see you both no doubt at Evensong?

**Miss Prism.**  I think, dear Doctor, I will have a stroll with you.  I find I have a headache after all, and a walk might do it good.

**Chasuble.**  With pleasure, Miss Prism, with pleasure.  We might go as far as the schools and back.

**Miss Prism.**  That would be delightful.  Cecily, you will read your Political Economy in my absence.  The chapter on the Fall of the Rupee you may omit.  It is somewhat too sensational.  Even these metallic problems have their melodramatic side.

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**Miss Prism** and **Dr. Chasuble** return

**Miss Prism.**  You are too much alone, dear Dr. Chasuble.  You should get married.  A misanthrope\*\*\* I can understand—a womanthrope\*\*\*\*, never!

**Chasuble.**  [With a scholar’s shudder.]  Believe me, I do not deserve so neologistic\*\* a phrase.  The precept as well as the practice of the Primitive Church was distinctly against matrimony.

**Miss Prism.**  [Sententiously\*] That is obviously the reason why the Primitive Church has not lasted up to the present day.  And you do not seem to realize, dear Doctor, that by persistently remaining single, a man converts himself into a permanent public temptation.  Men should be more careful; this very celibacy leads weaker vessels astray.

**Chasuble.**  But is a man not equally attractive when married?

**Miss Prism.**  No married man is ever attractive except to his wife.

**Chasuble.**  And often, I’ve been told, not even to her.

**Miss Prism.**  That depends on the intellectual sympathies of the woman.  Maturity can always be depended on.  Ripeness can be trusted.  Young women are green.  [**Dr. Chasuble** starts.]  I spoke horticulturally.  My metaphor was drawn from fruits.  But where is Cecily?

**Chasuble.**  Perhaps she followed us to the schools.

[Enter **Jack** slowly from the back of the garden.  He is dressed in the deepest mourning, with a crepe hatband and black gloves.]

**Miss Prism.**  Mr. Worthing!

**Chasuble.**  Mr. Worthing?

**Miss Prism.**  This is indeed a surprise.  We did not look for you till Monday afternoon.

\*Sententiously means in a way that is formal, disapproving, and attempts to sound important or intelligent. It can also mean in a way that is self-righteous or excessively moralizing.

\*\*Neologism is a noun that means a new word, phrase, or an existing word used in a new sense.

\*\*\* Misanthrope a person who [dislikes](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=bb3cec438e37b9d9&rlz=1C1VDKB_enUS1075US1076&q=dislikes&si=APYL9bto9KfN6HH0KMpfhyCmyq0bXKU-33WtT_5DthrRuga4EiaAQ2B3ibbHek479P5xSwsq0kAbdCFfYVPQlstdk2pV0FFwaybvPceq2pKT0hqfQ2UNuHI%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjG-vapw_GLAxXOOjQIHfngLd4QyecJegQIPRAP) [humankind](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=bb3cec438e37b9d9&rlz=1C1VDKB_enUS1075US1076&q=humankind&si=APYL9bsF-Mq-fXaAyJcIV7GbwI1q_ZKARX7rb2fuytlL5zaXRg6gVxw2lC8SlTwCdJMDZhOU5mhhYPnaaezNzPu8hv5296vDXUDZBALEl44Pky_DyzcIe08%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjG-vapw_GLAxXOOjQIHfngLd4QyecJegQIPRAQ) and [avoids](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=bb3cec438e37b9d9&rlz=1C1VDKB_enUS1075US1076&q=avoids&si=APYL9bv6NZfDtNd4vqOHf1pb5ALyS3ze8vdT-K2d-D0FHrDRnszaOmx-Dj6EreuSuDcdDn53ud8J5KGYmgM3IoPVjbpuUZ54cA%3D%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjG-vapw_GLAxXOOjQIHfngLd4QyecJegQIPRAR) human society

\*\*\*\*Womanthrope Someone who hates women; a misogynist