



كلية: الآداب

القسم او الفرع: قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

أستاذ المادة: م.م. شمم إسماعيل عطوي

اسم المادة باللغة العربية: المسرحية

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: Drama

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة العربية: أهمية أسماء الشخصيات في مسرحية فولبون

اسم المحاضرة الأولى باللغة الإنكليزية: The Significance of name characters in Volpone

Significance of the Names of the Characters in *Volpone*

At the center of this beastly satire is **Volpone**, whose name means "fox" in Italian. Like the cunning fox of fable, Volpone is deceitful, sly, and opportunistic. He pretends to be on his deathbed to lure his victims—rich men hoping to inherit his fortune—into giving him extravagant gifts in exchange for being named his heir. Volpone's entire scheme revolves around manipulating others through deception, a trait often associated with foxes in folklore, who are known for their craftiness and trickery.

Mosca, Volpone's servant and accomplice, derives his name from the Italian word for "fly," specifically a flesh fly. Just as the fly feeds on decay and thrives in filth, Mosca is a parasite who survives by feeding off the schemes of his master. He exploits the legacy hunters and feeds on Volpone's wealth, opportunistically manipulating situations to his advantage. His parasitic nature perfectly aligns with his name, as he flits from one scheme to another, always ready to exploit the vulnerabilities of others for his own gain.

The three legacy hunters—**Voltore**, **Corbaccio**, and **Corvino**—are all named after predatory birds, emphasizing their greed and ruthless pursuit of Volpone's wealth. **Voltore**, whose name means "vulture," is a lawyer with sharp, predatory instincts. Like a vulture circling its prey, Voltore waits patiently for Volpone's death, hoping to inherit his fortune. His profession as a lawyer, often associated with opportunism, complements his vulturous nature.

Corbaccio, whose name translates to "raven," represents another bird with a notorious reputation. In folklore, ravens are often associated with death and misfortune, and Corbaccio embodies these traits through his cold, selfish behavior. He is willing to disinherit his own son, Bonario, in hopes of securing Volpone's wealth for himself, a move that echoes the raven's reputation for hostility towards its offspring if they do not resemble it.

Corvino, whose name means "crow," is another predatory figure. Crows are known for their greed, particularly during harvest, and Corvino reflects this trait through his obsessive desire for wealth. He is willing to prostitute his wife, Celia, to Volpone in the hope of gaining favor and securing his place as Volpone's heir. Corvino's greed drives him to moral degradation, highlighting the corrupting power of wealth and ambition.

In the sub-plot, the characters **Sir Politic Would-be** and **Lady Politic Would-be** derive their names from parrots. Like a parrot, **Sir Politic** is characterized by his lack of original thought, merely mimicking the ideas of others without any personal insight or creativity. He spends much of the play concocting absurd, paranoid schemes, reflecting his superficial understanding of the world. His wife, **Lady Would-be**, is similarly characterized by her chatter and imitation. She exhausts those around her with her constant, meaningless talk, much like a parrot that endlessly repeats what it hears without understanding.

Jonson's use of animal symbolism extends beyond merely naming his characters. Their behaviors and actions are also deeply rooted in their animalistic natures, emphasizing their moral corruption. The

punishment that each character receives is fittingly aligned with their beast-like qualities. **Volpone**, the fox, is crippled by iron chains in prison, symbolizing the confinement of his cunning, predatory instincts. **Voltore**, the vulture, is exiled from the society of learned men, cast out from the intellectual community he once preyed upon. **Corbaccio**, the raven, is confined to a monastery, an ironic punishment for a man who sought to betray his own son. **Corvino**, the greedy crow, is sentenced to be rowed around Venice, publicly shamed and ridiculed for his greed and moral corruption.

Even **Sir Politic Would-be**, who hides himself in a tortoise shell in an attempt to avoid confrontation, receives a punishment rooted in his animal symbolism. **Peregrine**, whose name means "falcon," metaphorically takes the tortoise (Sir Politic) high into the sky and drops him to the ground, symbolically breaking the tortoise shell that represents Sir Politic's futile attempts to protect himself through imitation and cowardice.

In conclusion, Ben Jonson's use of the beast fable technique in *Volpone* serves as a powerful satirical tool, allowing him to magnify and attack human vices such as greed, hypocrisy, flattery, and treachery. Through the lens of animal symbolism, Jonson exposes the baser instincts of his characters, highlighting their moral failings in a manner that is both humorous and scathing. His laughter is not born from sympathy but from a desire to correct societal flaws, using satire as a means of reform. The beast fable structure enables Jonson to critique the human condition by revealing the animalistic behaviors lurking beneath the surface of civilized society.