

Chapter 5 – *The Happy Prince*

Author: Oscar Wilde

◆ Summary (Easy Language)

“The Happy Prince” is a touching story about kindness and sacrifice. The Happy Prince was a statue covered with gold, sapphires, and a ruby. While alive, he never knew sorrow, but as a statue placed high above the city, he could see the suffering of poor people.

A Swallow, while resting at the statue during his journey to Egypt, becomes the Prince’s helper. The Prince asks the Swallow to give his precious jewels and gold to the poor—a seamstress, a playwright, and a match-girl. The Swallow delays his journey and stays back to help others, even in harsh winter.

In the end, the Prince loses all his beauty and the Swallow dies due to cold. The statue is removed as it looks ugly, but God declares the Prince’s lead heart and the Swallow as the most precious things in the city. The story teaches love, compassion, and selflessness.

◆ Characters

1 The Happy Prince

- A statue with a kind heart
- Feels pain for others’ suffering
- Symbol of sacrifice and compassion

2 The Swallow

- Kind, loyal, and selfless
- Helps the poor on Prince’s request
- Sacrifices his life for friendship

3 The Mayor & Councillors

- Proud and selfish
 - Judge by appearance, not values
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◆ Theme / Central Idea

- Love and compassion
- Sacrifice for others
- True beauty lies in kindness
- Social inequality

◆ Important Incidents

- Swallow meets the Happy Prince
- Prince gives ruby, sapphires, and gold
- Swallow stays despite cold
- Death of the Swallow
- Statue pulled down
- God's judgement

◆ Symbols Used

- **Gold & jewels:** Wealth meant to help others
- **Lead heart:** True love and compassion
- **Swallow:** Loyalty and self-sacrifice

◆ Literary Devices

- **Personification:** Statue and bird have emotions
- **Irony:** Happy Prince is unhappy
- **Imagery:** Vivid picture of poverty

◆ Message / Moral

True happiness comes from helping others. Kindness and sacrifice are more valuable than wealth and beauty.