

The Tribute

A philosophical drama in 3 Acts



Rajeshwar Prasad

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Act 1

Lights up.

Off stage: An announcement is heard. "Participants, attention please! Chief Guest WELL will arrive at 12:30 p.m., but we will start at 9:30 a.m. as planned. Participants who have not yet registered are requested to do so as soon as possible."

HARRY: Are you a member of staff here?

FRANK: No!

HARRY: No?

FRANK: No! Not in any way.

HARRY: Why are you here, then?

FRANK: To participate in the seminar.

HARRY: *[Long pause]* In the seminar?

FRANK: Yes.

HARRY: Are you a trader?

FRANK: Yes. And you?

HARRY: *[Nodding his head]* Me, too.

FRANK: Okay, my friend.

HARRY: Where have you come from?

FRANK: I have come from Profitshire.

HARRY: From the *Pro...fit...shire?*

FRANK: Yes.

HARRY: In which state is that?

FRANK: It's in the northern part of the state of Desirewell.

HARRY: Desire...well? Well...desire?

FRANK: Yes, the northern part of Desirewell.

HARRY: I have never heard the name Profitshire. It's entirely new to me.