

Title : *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Author : A.J. Cronin

A.J. Cronin, a famous Scottish novelist and physician known for his deep human values and simple narrative style.

Theme

The story highlights **love, sacrifice, devotion, and responsibility**. It teaches us that true gentlemen are not those with wealth or status, but those who live with dignity, courage, and selfless service.

Paragraph

The story begins when the narrator meets two young boys, Nicola and Jacopo, on the outskirts of Verona. They look shabby, with “brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes,” but immediately attract the narrator by their sincerity. Though only 13 and 12 years old, the boys take up many small jobs—**selling strawberries, shining shoes, guiding tourists, and hawking newspapers**. Nicola explains politely, “**We do many things, sir,**” showing their determination to work hard without complaint. The narrator observes that they hardly spend on food or clothes, which makes him curious. When asked about their savings, Nicola replies vaguely, “**Just plans, sir,**” hiding the truth. The secret is revealed when the narrator follows them one Sunday to a village hospital. There he finds their sister, Lucia, **suffering from tuberculosis of the spine**. The nurse narrates their tragic past: their father, a well-known singer, was killed in the war, their home was bombed, and the three children were left to starve. Despite such hardships, Nicola and Jacopo worked tirelessly to pay for Lucia’s treatment. Week after week, they brought their earnings to the hospital with quiet dignity. The narrator realizes the greatness of their sacrifice and remarks, “**War had not broken their spirit. Their selfless action brought a new nobility to human life.**” The story beautifully conveys that true nobility lies not in wealth or high birth, but in character and sacrifice. Nicola and Jacopo never sought sympathy but carried their burden with courage and maturity beyond their years. Their actions deeply touched the narrator, who confesses, “Their devotion had touched me deeply.”

Conclusion

Two Gentlemen of Verona inspires us with the values of **sacrifice, sincerity, and love for family**. Nicola and Jacopo prove that even in suffering, humanity shines through. They teach us that greatness lies in selfless service and responsibility, making them true “gentlemen” in every sense.