

Topic - Character Analysis of "Sir Roger at Church"
By Joseph Addison

In the Courley Essays, Sir Roger has been characterized vividly by Joseph Addison and Richard Steele. Sir Roger is presented in these essays as kind, generous, lovable and sometimes as a peculiar person. But in the hand of Joseph Addison, Sir Roger's character is conveyed ironically. For that reason he sometimes seems odd.

Humanity:- Sir Roger is a man of humanity and has a large heart. Moreover, he is mild. He loves not only the servants of his house but also the people who live around him. In the Essay "Sir Roger at Church" we see that he is asking about the condition of the people who are absent in the church. It suggests that he is very kind hearted and generous for who he is very aware of other's.

Lover of Religion:- He is a true lover of religion. He is a regular church goer and encourages other to come to the church. His mind is set for religious purposes and he does a lot of jobs for religion. In the Essay "Sir Roger at Church", we see that he has decorated and beautified the church on his own accord and at his own expense so that the country people would be encouraged to come to the church enthusiastically. In this Essay he says;

"My friend Sir Roger, being a good churchman, has beautified the inside of his church with several texts of his own choosing"

His Hospitality:— After getting permission from Sir Roger, the author went to his (Sir Roger's) country house. Here his hospitality takes the attention of the readers. Here we see that he is very hospitable and did everything possible to make his friend happy. Even the people around his house were requested not to get closer to Addison because Addison would be disturbed. In his house Addison was requested to feel free for any kind of job.

His Responsibility:— Sir Roger being the landlord of all the congregations, felt personally responsible for their behaviour and exercised his authority to keep them disciplined. He allowed no one to sleep. If he felt asleep during the sermon, on waking up he would look around and if he found anyone dozing off, he would immediately wake him up. Addison says, "Sometimes stands up when everybody else is upon their knees, to count the congregation, or see if any of his tenants are missing."

Humorist:— Sir Roger is a humorist. In most of "de Louerley" essays, we find humorous expressions. His eccentricities can not but make us laugh. The ways that he adopts to do his daily work are sometimes humorous. Sometimes his follies and sometimes his eccentricities are expressed humoristically in de Louerley essays. In "Sir Roger at home", Addison says,

"I have observed in several of my papers, that my friend Sir Roger, amidst all his good qualities, is something of a humorist".

In summing up, it can be said that in spite of being a man of great honour, Sir Roger is regarded as a humorist and sometimes eccentric because of having some oddities and peculiarities in him. However, the ultimate aim of Addison was not to show his humorous expressions to make us laugh only rather to make us correct use of our follies and absurdities.