

# CHAPTER VIII -Frivolous Cupid

Frivolous Cupid's Chapter VIII, "All's Well That Ends Well," takes us into a whimsical narrative centered on Ashimullah, a Grand Vizier under a Sultan, who navigates the complexities of his position, his faith, and the edicts of his ruler, amidst the dynamics of marital obligations within Islamic and Christian contexts. Born or bred a Christian and later converted to Islam for practical reasons, Ashimullah finds his fidelity to his religion challenged by the Sultan's insistence on expanding his marital relations, as per Islamic allowance for multiple wives, which conflicts with his personal and religious beliefs that honor monogamy.

The Sultan's command for Ashimullah to take additional wives leads to a clever subterfuge orchestrated by Ashimullah and his sole wife, Lallakalla. They craft an elaborate facade to comply with the Sultan's orders without truly breaching their one-wife principle. This ruse involves Lallakalla disguising herself as multiple women, to represent the ideal of varied beauty within the Vizier's supposed harem, thus deceiving not only the Sultan but the entire court. Their plan unfolds against the backdrop of court politics, religious expectations, and personal integrity, climaxing when the Sultan, enticed by tales of the Vizier's diverse and beautiful wives, demands one as his own.

Facing the impossible decision of which wife to present to the Sultan, Ashimullah's scheme culminates in a daring revelation to the Sultan, facilitated by Lallakalla's wit, wherein she presents herself as the embodiment of all the desired beauties through the use of wigs and makeup, only to reveal a shaved head—a symbolic renunciation of her identity and personal desires for the Sultan's expectations. Their clever manipulation reveals the absurdity of the Sultan's demands and the superficiality of his prerogatives, encapsulating the narrative's critique of authority and the arbitrariness of societal expectations.

The tale resolves with the Sultan recognizing his folly and the depth of Ashimullah's loyalty and cleverness, sparing their lives and their marriage. It portrays the triumph of wit and love over dogma and desire, encapsulating the story's moral of personal integrity and the power of clever subterfuge against oppressive demands. The chapter, while light-hearted and comedic, offers a poignant critique on the conflicts between personal faith, societal expectations, and the complexities of navigating authority, ultimately affirming the resilience of humanity and the ingenuity of those bound by love and moral conviction.



Summaryer