



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616)

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, England on April 23rd, 1564. He probably attended King Edward VI Grammar School in Stratford, where he learned Latin grammar and literature.

In 1582, at the age of 18, he married 26 year-old Anne Hathaway. In 1583, William's first child, Susanna was born. In 1585, he had twins, Hamlet and Judith. Probably William wrote his first play, *Henry VI* between 1589 and 1590.

By 1592, William began a career as a playwright in London. Two years later, he was an actor and a part-owner of Lord Chamberlain's Men Company. The company was successful and was adopted by King James I. It was then renamed The King's Men. By this time, William was well-known throughout the London theater world. In 1595, William wrote some of his most famous stories including *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

A Midsummer's Night Dream is a romantic comedy about four lovers and a group of actors who meet fairies in a moonlit forest. *Romeo and Juliet* is the most famous love story and tragedy of all time.

In 1599 he wrote *Hamlet*, his greatest masterpiece: it is Shakespeare's most quoted and reproduced tragedy. It is also Shakespeare's longest play. It tells the story of Prince Hamlet, and his attempts to avenge his father, the King of Denmark, who was poisoned by his brother Claudius.

After *Hamlet*, Shakespeare wrote other timeless classics such as *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and *The Tempest*. Many of his plays were performed at royal courts and at prestigious theaters. Shakespeare died in 1616 at the age of 52.

Today, William Shakespeare is considered as the greatest writer in the history of English language. He wrote both comedies and tragedies. You can find his plays translated and performed all over the world.