**“HOW THE CURE OF MALARIA ACCIDENTALLY RESULTED INTO PURPLE DYE”**

**-Veda Raman**

**Just for a second stop whatever you’re doing and wherever you are and think… think about your life without color. How will your life be without colors? Boring, colorless, dull and unhappy right? Have you ever wondered what a color is? Where it comes from? Why some colors fade away while others don’t? Who discovered the first color and how did he discover it? The questions go on and on. I’m sure all of you know that most of the colors you find around you are nothing but chemical. And now if I say the person who invented one of the first dyes actually wanted to invent medicine for malaria! Will you believe me? Dear friends this is the truth the story goes like this. Talk about strange connections - 18-year-old chemist William Perkin wanted to cure malaria; instead his scientific endeavors changed the face of fashion forever and then a purple dye inspired immunology and chemotherapy. All the credit of discovering purple dye or mauveine , in the modern world goes to William Perkin. But as rare as it was, the first “dye” was discovered in 1900 BC. Archeological evidence shows that purple dyes were used in Crete around nineteen hundred B.C.  Legend credits the discovery not to William but to Heraklos' dog, whose mouth was stained with purple after chewing on snails.  Heraklo’s gave a purple robe to the king, who decreed that rulers of Phoenicia should henceforth wear this color as a royal symbol?  It took twelve thousand shellfish to extract one and a half grams of pure dye. Emperor Aurelian refused to let his wife buy a purple silk garment because it cost its weight in gold. The birth of the synthetic dye industry didn't occur until 1856 when William Perkin, a British chemist, discovered mauveine by accident.  This purple dye made the royal color available to the masses.  The glamour to wear mauve clothes made Mr. Perkin a very wealthy man. So next time you choose a fashionable color, thank chemistry for making it available at a reasonable price for we are not kings and queens.**

**Thank chemistry as well as Perkin for the colors that light up your life today.**