# ART – LIGHT, SHADE AND SHADOW

The basic forms so far drawn are flat on the paper when seen, even though perspective has been applied to show the form and distance between the objects placed together. The illusion of bulk and volume has not, however, been effectively created. To effect this, chiaroscuro must be applied. Chiaroscuro is the treatment of light, shade and of course shadow in our drawings and paintings to create the illusion of a three dimensional effect.

When an object is placed on the ground or on a platform, one side of it will be exposed to light. That part of the object which directly faces the light is regarded as light in drawing, and may be indicated by leaving it white if the paper is white, or blank in the case of other paper.

The parts of the surface of the object which are away from the light are said to be shade. The degree of this shade will, however, depend on the amount of light that reaches it. Usually, the change from light to shade is not sudden or sharp. It is gradual and can easily be done with pencil, charcoal stick or ink wash. They can also be expressed in pen and ink in the form of hatching. The shade side should not be shaded dead-black. This is because from observation, the shade area is not devoid of light. There is usually a little amount of light on the area caused by reflected light from the ground or the platform on which the object is placed. This is not all. When the object is placed on the ground, a certain dark area is formed on the ground or on the platform on which it is placed, opposite the direction of light. The dark area is known as cast shadow. That shadow should be shown also in our drawings to enable it to stand on the ground.