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DEPT. ARTS EDUCATION (EDUCATION/ENGLISH)
COURSE: INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA (ELS 140)

The relationship between medieval drama and Renaissance drama

The fifth century witnessed the collapse of Roman Empire and eventual ascension of Christian Church into power. The development of Renaissance drama started with the brief dramatic entertainment called interlude. The interlude was the popular drama of the late medieval age, and was not merely doctrinal but mixed comic scenes with serious ones. It provided the link between moral religious medieval drama and the secular drama of the Elizabethan.

With the discovery of the classics, plays were performed in universities by Tudor school of drama. The author combined the techniques of Greeks and Roman drama with the dramaturgical techniques of medieval age. The Renaissance period, therefore, means the period of cultural rebirth. It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilization. The audience that watched the medieval play could also be found in Elizabethan theatre. The secular qualities of medieval drama overthrew its religious qualities and thus Renaissance drama.

Medieval drama had one major focus which is the sermonizing focus. Dialogue for example, had nothing of the liveliness and richness of Elizabethan drama. Renaissance drama is a period of intellectual and artistic achievement, it is a French word which means rebirth or cultural rebirth. The relationship between the two drama eras is the involvement and activities of interlude in the two drama eras: the Renaissance and medieval drama encountered interludes and again it was the medieval period that gave rise or birth to Renaissance, due to the weakness of medieval drama, it transformed and gave rise to Renaissance period and begone many other drama.