

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL DRAMA AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA

Drama can be defined as a composition in prose or verse presenting in dialogue or pantomime a story involving conflict or contrast of character, especially one intended to be action on the stage; a play.

With the decline of Rome, drama also declined for a long time.

The medieval period is also called the middle ages. It lasted from 5th to 15th century. Medieval drama was therefore preceded by Greek and Roman drama and followed by Elizabethan drama. Medieval drama arose from the ashes of Roman drama just before it evolved into Medieval drama. There was that level of infamy (evil) which entered it and which was vehemently opposed by the church.

Trope saw similarities between drama itself and some of the ritual performances of the priest at the altar. Around 13th century, they got it into full dramatic group "Quem Queritis" ("whom do you seek"), especially the one that revolves around the birth and death of Jesus. It was mainly religious. At a point it, many people got involved and it was moved outside the church service. Then, they got three (3) types of play

1. Mystery play: Based on biblical history. It is also called spiritual play by some people. It originated from the Liturgy of the church and revolved around three segments.

_ The Old testament stories

_ The New testament stories

_ The death and resurrection plays.

2. Morality play: It is an allegorical story. It represents the Christian life and humanity, in quest for salvation. Example; Everyman.

3. Miracle play: It is based on either story or legend of a saint or miracle performed by a saint or a sacramental object.

Renaissance Drama is in the time of rebirth. Drama became the truly national literary manifestation of the time. The theatres were open to everyone, as there was no distinction between the taste of the court and

that of the general public, and admission were relatively low. Theatre going habit which can be traced back to medieval performance, was widespread. It centers on love. Example of the play; "Doctor Faustus" by Christopher Marlow and "Macbeth" by Shakespear.

A new interest in classical drama had been introduced by Humanism. The theatre was , both inwardly and outwardly, the true mirror of society. It hosted a wide variety of people. Each class played a part strictly connected with its individual social status. This role, according to medieval notion, had been allotted to everyone at birth and it was sinful to rebel against it.

THE RELATIONSHIPS.

Renaissance drama was followed by Medieval. They have some related characteristics.

- A. The two plays are religious.
- B. They depict life and humanity.
- C. The both showed good and evil
- D. Different social classes were assigned different roles play.
- E. They both used language, though medieval used Latin, while renaissance used a more alive and direct one.