

COMPARE AND CONTRAST JOHN WEBSTER'S "THE DUCHESS OF MALFI" AND APHRA BEHN'S "THE ROVERS" AS A JACOBAN REVENGE TRAGEDY AND A RESTORATION COMEDY RESPECTIVELY.

Jacobean drama is a drama written and performed during the reign of Elizabeth's successor James I. Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, the plays were becoming more edgy and human situations were being more exaggerated. Extreme violence was being portrayed on the stage. The playwright was focusing on the human being's capacity for selfishness and exaggerating such renaissance forces as human ambition and its effects. They were exploring the nature of evil, pushing things to the extreme of human behaviour. The stories were full of sex and violence. We find highly intelligent characteristics perpetrating crimes and acts of violence in the pursuit of their ambitions.

In comparing "The Duchess of Malfi" and "The Rovers" as a revenge tragedy and restoration comedy, we find "The Duchess of Malfi" portraying the features of revenge tragedy. The play contains the depth of extreme violence, plotting and mostly revenge on the best part which are the chief elements of

revenge tragedy. This drama contains so many elements of horrors, the Duke in order to horrify the duchess gives a dead man's hand to her and she kisses it, taking it to be the Duke's hand. The spectacle of waxen images of the dead bodies of Antonio and children presented before the duchess is another horrid scene. The next horror is mentioned in the series of murder committed by Bosola and when he is poisoned in a cold-blooded manner. Antonio is killed, and Ferdinand and Cardinal all meet their death at the end.

In revenge tragedy, taking revenge and murdering people are the integral parts. In this drama, we found people taking revenge and murdering others. In this text, the revenge and murder are committed in different manner from the traditional manner. The revengeful brothers, Ferdinand and Cardinal are both villains. There are the victims of an insensate fury that blinds the eyes maddens the dreams, and poisons the spring of pity. The piteous suffering of their victim from the hard heart of Bosola who says:

You may discern the share of loveliness, more

Perfect in her tears than in the smile.

In an attempt to revenge the Duchess death, Bosola uses Julia, Cardinal's Mistress to get Cardinal to admit is

involvement in the Duchess' murder. And after agreeing to the bribe by Antonio when he kills his mistress he still seeks to find Antonio and to protect him but Bosola accidentally kills Antonio, who has come to make peace with the Cardinal. Distraught, he goes into the Cardinal's room and attacks him. Ferdinand joins the fray and stabs both the Cardinal and Bosola and Bosola killed Ferdinand.

Comedy of manner, otherwise, known as restoration comedy, ridicules the pretension of those who consider themselves socially superior deflating them with satire and witty dialogue and cleverly constructed scenario. Comedy of manner is that kind of comedy that focuses on the manners, attitudes, conventions, social behaviours of the artificial yet sophisticated Aristotle work. They are often represented by stock character and have a stock plot

Cynicism is their true nature in the work. Selfish desire, money and material things seems to motivate these characters. Florinda's father want her to marry Don Vincentio, a rich old man because of his affluence and wealth meanwhile Florinda, as a character who is free from this cynicism detest Don Vincentio. Florinda tells her siblings that she hates Vincentio and that she has

confidence in her brother's ability to divert their father's will to marry such a man. Even Pedro implore her to consider the wealth of Vincentio, Hellena is free from this cynicism, she argues against Florinda marrying Vincentio for his money she is rebuked by Pedro who considers her opinion as a uniform nun who is, "not design for the conversation of lovers".

In comparing "the Duchess of malfi" and "the Rovers" as a restoration comedy and revenge tragedy, both feature metabelian principle but handle it differently. In metabelian principle, we get what we want by anymeans. In resoration they attain their ends and go scort free. In the Rovers, Hellena gets to marry her choice man, and the drama ends happily despite the initial controversy. While in revenge tragedy, there is secret murder and the greater part of the play is spent planning the execution of evil. Ferdinard murders the Duchess secretly with the help of Bosola. And the rest of the play encompasses the plotting of evil and taking revenge. In the end, all characters are murdered except the child of the Duchess. The Duchess on her part gets what she wants even though it leads to her death.

Conclusively, the characters here are usually of noble birth or characterised as high class citizens yet

they happen to be engrossed and have affection for the lower-class citizens. The Duchess falls in love with Antonio and secretly have babies for him even though she was the ruling Duchess and is asked not to marry. Florida happen not to love the wealthy man her father wants her to marry, she is entagled in the thought web of Belvile and ends up marrying him.