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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA

Medieval drama was preceded by Greek and Roman drama and followed by Elizabeth drama.

It was furnished by the great tradition of the Dionysian and the phallic songs.

Medieval drama arose from the ashes of Roman drama before it evolved into medieval drama, there was element of infancy which entered it and which was why some cities opposed by the church, that was cities described it as degenerate theatre and its disappearance during the barbaric invasions of the sixth century was the immediate aftermath of that degeneration.

Moreover, the beginning of medieval is therefore, traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which has some dramatic characteristics.

The human impulse to indulge in mimesis which received impetus from the religious tropes, gave birth to the new form of drama prevalent during the medieval era.

However, Religious rituals of the church had dramatic elements that advanced the birth of drama. The elements which includes the symbolic events during Good Friday and other things as the garb of the priest, the church space and the celebration of the mass

Also in the 9th century, musical passages, called tropes were added to the celebration of the mass which includes the Quem Quaeritis tropes, which means in Latin “whom do you seek?” With the introduction of the Quem quaeritis trope, the essential element of impersonation, a necessity for drama appeared in medieval drama

The morality plays were also introduced to teach important moral lessons through allegorical characters as exemplified in the play Every Man which is an example of a typical play.

The medieval stage at the time when drama was with the church was by no means crude, but it was a stage that wholly devoted to expanding religious philosophy and nothing else. The medieval stage was replete with thrones, scaffolds, trolleys and other contrivances used in staging plays having to do with the Annunciation and the Ascension

The major focus on the medieval drama has one focus which is the sermonizing focus

Furthermore, the stage contraptions of medieval drama seemed wholly geared towards the peculiarities of certain church celebrations. Obviously, with the drama leaving the church, the curve towards the Renaissance started.

Religious drama eventually declined as a result of a number of factors first, the catholic church withdrew its supports for them because it felt that it weakened the church; second, protestants regarded them as a tool for the propagation of the catholic doctrine. It is because of that queen Elizabeth I banned it in England in 1569, which paved the way to the development of Renaissance drama.

Moreover, the term Renaissance is used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievement. It is from a French word which means rebirth". The renaissance period there means, the period of cultural rebirth, a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilizations.

The renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions, the invention of printing the establishment of universities and the fall of Constantinople which caused scholars of classical literature to spread all over the Europe. The renaissance age was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individual search straining for effect.

Finally, renaissance period was period of the re-examination of life. It was this stage of affairs that gave rise to spirit of humanism which is usually associated with the Renaissance Age.

In conclusion, one of the criteria in describing the relationship between the medieval and Renaissance drama is life after death. Medieval drama died and gave life to Renaissance drama.