

# **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

The Medieval period of drama started between 1066 to 1500. Some call it the 'the middle Ages'. The period took over Roman empire when they fall. The Christian church that were found in the Medieval era abolished drama and other undesirable elements in the society. There was no record of play writing from the Seneca to the beginning of the Medieval era. The only theatre that exists within this period is the Jugglers, Mimes and wandering ministerial which their art is regarded as pagan practice and it is a sacrilege as far as the church is concerned.

Drama in the Renaissance period is a drama of cultural rebirth. It is a drama that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilizations. It is a period of drama that marked 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 drama was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effect.

First and foremost, both Medieval and Renaissance drama are staged in conscious of being watched. In the construction of the pageant, all the little that was possible was done to meet

needs of the presentation. Below the main floor or stage, was the curtained dressing-room of the actors. A small raised platform or pyramid might represent heaven, where God the Father was seated, and from which the action required the angels to come down, a single tree might indicate the Garden of Eden and the doorway entry house.

The most important feature of Elizabethan drama which is also Renaissance was the appearance of new stage forms, with the result of an action style completely different from anything before or after it. The so called Apron stage in renaissance is surrounded by the audience on three sides. From the explanations above, we can see that both Medieval and Renaissance drama have stage.

Another relationship between the Medieval and the Renaissance drama is that Renaissance drama grew out of the established Medieval. Although, the Renaissance neglect the spiritual compliance of the church, their playwrights imitated the Greek satiric play which they renamed pastoral and this was made popular by Torquatto Tasso`s Aminta (1573) Giovanni Battista Guarini`s The Faithful Shepherd (1590).

## **References**

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