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## **The Relationship between Medieval drama and Renaissance drama.**

Medieval drama :

The Medieval drama lasted from 5th to 15th century. Medieval drama is also known as the "Middle Age". The medieval drama begins with the fall of Roman Empire and the eventual ascension of the Christian church into power. Medieval drama precedes from Greek and Roman drama follow by Elizabethan drama. Medieval drama arose from the ashes of Roman drama.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Catholic Church took over. Drama was banned and theater were closed. The church felt theatre as they knew it during the Roman Empire was barbaric and evil. They categorised actors with prostitutes, thieves and other undesirable elements in the society. Hence, this period signifies the fall of the theatre. The only people that keeps theatre alive during this period were wandering minstrels, mimes and jugglers.

During this period church service were held in Latin, which majority of the congregation don't understand. By the ninth century trope, the celebration of mass was added. One of this tropes is the Quem quantities trope which was introduced to the Ester Sunday mass. This addiction is made in 925 AD. Quem is a Latin word for "whom do you seek?". By 975 AD,this trope becomes a tiny play. This transition was fostered by Ethelwood, the Bishop of Winchester England, who wrote stage direction for tiny play.

Medieval drama continued to grow with the addition of many scenes to the church service. Sometimes, it becomes necessary for the Medieval church to look for what will be regarded as setting. The church facade became converted as setting. Also Medieval drama was forced to leave the church and seek existence outside it.

Again, in Medieval drama the power of the church is at the peak. The church has a strong influence on the lives of the individuals.The only people that keeps theatre alive during this period were wandering minstrels,mimes and jugglers. The period also arose from the ashes of Roman drama and the beginning of Medieval drama is traceable to the Medieval church sermon and mass which has some dramatic characteristics. Also Medieval drama has two most popular vernacular drama that springs up during this period, this were the Mystery play, which dramatizes Biblical events and Miracle plays,

which were based on the lives of saints. For example, "Everyman" which is a typical morality play.

In conclusion, Medieval drama is very religious and moral. It is mostly controlled by the church. Medieval drama also has the most popular vernacular drama that springs up during this period which is Mystery play and Miracle plays.

Renaissance drama :

After Medieval drama, the Renaissance drama is introduced.

The Renaissance drama is the period between 14th to 17th century, considered the between Middle Ages and Modern History. It started as a culture movement in Italy in the late Medieval period and later spread to the rest of Europe.

Renaissance is also used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievement. Renaissance is a French word which means "**rebirth**". The period therefore, means the period of **cultural rebirth**. Renaissance period is also seen as a period of re-examination of life. It also a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilization.

Renaissance drama can be referred to as European drama which began from about the 15th to the 17th centuries. During this period the rediscovery and imitation of classical work established the foundation of the modern theatre.

Renaissance drama begins in Italy with scholars initially attempting to recreate the original stagings of Greek and Roman play. Renaissance drama is divided into **Italian English and French Renaissance**. Italian Renaissance dates back to 14th century. During this period people began to shed themselves of the belief that characterized the Medieval society. They began to look around for new ways of thought that would be appropriate to the thinking of the age. Also we have **English Renaissance** which started with Christopher Marlow's Tamburlaine(1587)and terminated with the of William Shakespeare in 1616. It is divided into Elizabethan, Jacobean and Caroline drama.

Renaissance did not dominate until the 16th century. A number of things brought about the Renaissance. Firstly, the lessening influence of the church over learning and life. Secondly, the invention of the movable type printing press, the increase in growth of cities, the decline in feudalism and finally the increase of princes/ruler.

Finally, the connection between Renaissance drama to Medieval drama is that Renaissance seems much more abrupt. The theatre's transition from the Medieval to the Renaissance is more readily apparent in English than Italy or France.....in those countries, the shift from Medievalism to Neoclassical. Also as time goes on the Medieval drama is seen as amateur actor and the new professional actor which stimulates interest in the act of acting. In the 16th century, the Renaissance

stage become almost wholly professional and public. Secondary, Renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions, the invention of printing, the establishment of universities and the fall of constantinople which causes scholars in classical literature to spread all over Europe. Seeing that Renaissance drama has more invention than Medieval drama, the Renaissance is now acquired (adapted) into Medieval age.

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