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**TOPIC:
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL DRAMA AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA

Medieval drama held sway at the Dark Age when drama nearly went into extinction and its survival was dependent on the hand of the church that saw it as a propaganda tool to champion their faith and belief. The view of the playwrights of this period about drama captured its moral purpose than its certisticity. There existed morality plays like every man. Renaissance drama served more artistic purpose and individualistic than the communal and utilitarian nature of the medieval. However drama in these two periods relate in the following ways:

Firstly impersonation, characteristics served the very purpose of the imitation of actions. Though we see ideas allegorically used in every man to represent characters. The quem queritis trope are persons who played the roles of angel and the three Mary's that saw Jesus' tomb empty at his resurrection.

Medieval drama and renaissance are both stage able. The church first served as the setting for the quem queritis trope just like the court of the queen Elizabeth at the time of Shakespeare in the English renaissance was sometimes the acting place (theatre).

Secondly, the dramas at the two periods present thought. This is achievable through the use of language. Though the medieval drama is more utilitarian than artistic it presents human experiences which are captured in

language and they provoke the thought of the readers. However it cannot be denied that it is not literature hence the experience allegorically represented in language yields itself to “multiplicity of meaning which is the strength of literature” as Ebere Eko would say.

Finally, medieval and renaissance drama are both archetypal. They echoed standard models in literature. The myth of quest and fall which can be traced to the Bible that the medieval drama is drawn are also seen in such renaissance plays as Dr. Faustus, Mackbeth etc.

In conclusion: resides the differences that exist between medieval and renaissance drama, it is attempted here to show that they still relate to each others in the area of thought impersonation and archetypal quality which make them literature.