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TOPIC:
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RENAISSANCE DRAMA AND

MEDIEVAL DRAMA

AN ASSIGNMENT
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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REVAISSANCE DRAMA AND THE MEDIEVAL DRAMA

The Renaissance and the Medieval had great impact development of Drama. The word renaissance is used to describe a period of great inter-period of cultural rebirth. It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomised in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilisation.

The renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions the invention of printing, the establishment of universities, and the fall of constant pole which caused scholars of classical literature to spread all over Europe. The invention of the printing press made it possible for classical literature to be printed and taken to western Europe.

For dramatic literature, the year 1349 and the production of **Philogia by** petrarch indicate the beginning of the renaissance age. Preceding petrarch is the greatest medieval poet, Dante, whose Divine comedy championed an avalanche of advanced ideas on the physical aspects of earth, heaven, and hell. The renaissance age was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effect. The renaissance was a period of the re-examination of life.

The renaissance drama grew out of the established medieval tradition of the mystery and morality plays. These public spectacles focused on religious

subjects and were generally enacted by either choristers and monks, or a town's tradesmen.

Medieval Drama refers to the theatrical performance in the period between the fall of the western Roman Empire in the 5th century A.D. and the beginning of the Renaissance in approximately the 15th century A.D. medieval theatre covers all Drama produced in Europe over that thousand years period and refers to a variety of genres, including liturgical drama, mystery plays, morality, plays, farces and masques. Beginning with Hrosvitha of Gandersheim in the 10th century, medieval drama was for the most past very religious and moral in its themes, staging and traditions. The most famous examples of medieval plays are the English cycle dramas, the york, mystery plays, the chester mystery plays, the wake field mystery plays and the N-Town plays as well as the morality play.

Due to a lack of surviving records and texts, a low literacy rate of the general population, and the opposition of the clergy to some types of performance, there are few surviving sources on medieval drama of the early and High Medieval periods. However, drama and theatre began to become more secularised and a larger number of records survive documenting plays and performances. In the medieval drama, secular drama was also staged the earliest of which is the play of the greenwood by Adam de la Halle in 1276. It contains

satirical scenes and folk material such as faeries and other supernatural occurrences.

Therefore, Medieval Drama was preceded by Greek and Roman drama and followed by Elizabethan drama. Medieval Dram arose from the ashes of Roman Drama just before it evolved into medieval drama, there was that level of infamy which entered it and which was vehemently opposed by the church. Medieval Drama centered on concepts such as religion, chivalry and courtly love and renaissance involved religion and social issues, it explored religion in a different approach.

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