

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA NSUKKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERARY STUDIES

TOPIC:
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE
PERIOD

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BY

OGBU ONYEKACHUKWU COLLINS
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LECTURER: MR ODOH ONYEKA

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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE PERIOD

The definition of the term medieval has its root in the Latin *medium aevum* (middle ages) and first came to use in the 19th century although the idea of a middle age has been around for several years. At that time scholars considered the medieval period to follow the fall of the Roman Empire and precede the Renaissance. This medieval was unimportant compared to the time period it bridged. The attitude scholars have taken toward medieval time have evolved over the centuries initially, the middle ages were disguised as a “dark age” of brutality and ignorance, but later scholars began to appreciate medieval philosophy and a particular brand of religious devotion that some 19th century scholars label the “age of faith”.

The Renaissance is the activity, spirit or time of great revival of art, literature, and learning in Europe beginning in the 14th century and extending to the 17th century, marking the transition from the medieval to modern world. Renaissance (Rebirth) period in European civilization immediately following the middle ages and conventionally held to have been characterized by surge of interest in classical scholarship and values. The renaissance also witnessed the discovery and exploration of new continent, the substitution of the Copernican for the Ptolemaic system of astronomy, the decline of the feudal system and the growth of commerce and the invention or application of such potentially powerful innovations as paper, printing, the mariner's compass and gunpowder. To the scholars and thinkers of the day however, it was primarily time of the revival of classical learning and wisdom after a long period of cultural decline and stagnation.

A comparison of the medieval and renaissance eras, between the period of the medieval era and the renaissance one can note numerous significant changes mainly those pertaining to art and religion. In general ideals and subject during the renaissance are more secular. In medieval times people seem to focus mainly on the church, God, and the afterlife where during the renaissance the focus was more secular human life on earth. Although these two eras differ in some

ways, the most concentrated differences deal with the realms of architecture, painting and philosophy. Architecture noticeably shifted from religious awe to classical reason between the medieval era and the renaissance.

Generally paintings became more secular and less focused on aspects of the church as renaissance approached medieval paintings seem to be focused almost entirely on religion and are given heavenly attributes while paintings of the renaissance consist mainly of secular subjects and contain much more realism especially noted in human subjects.

In Giotto's *Madonna with a Child* a medieval painting any observer.

RELATIONSHIP

Finally there is no clearer relationship between renaissance and medieval period other than saying that a notable amount of medieval literature is among those, this is as a result of lack of documentation but the renaissance era gave birth to authorship of a literary work. This is seen in the works of Aristotle, Plato and Socrates.

Theological works were the dominant form of literature typically found in libraries during the middle ages. Catholic churches were the intellectual centre of society in the middle ages and it is their literature that was produced in the greatest quality but the renaissance age gave birth to secular and classical literary works post renaissance societies and human experience as opposed to theological or Christian works in the medieval era.

It is true that in the medieval period, women were not accorded full recognition and equality with men but the renaissance period introduced recognition to female literatures.