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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE

DRAMA

To start with, the term Renaissance is used to describe a period of great intellectual and artistic achievement. The word Renaissance is a French word which means rebirth. Renaissance is however, the period of cultural rebirth. It was a period that marked the rediscovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilization. The Renaissance age is known with a number events and inventions. Some these events and inventions are: The establishment of universities, the invention of printing press, and fall of Constantinople which caused scholars of classical literature to spread all over Europe. The invention of printing press during his age marts the widespread of classical literature to be printed and taken to Western Europe. The production of philologia Petrarch indicates the beginning of the Renaissance age.

Medieval on the other hand is referred to as the middle age, the period from about 500 to about 1500 BC. The term medieval is a Latin word medium aevum which means middle. The Italian renaissance date back to the period during which the people began to shed themselves of the beliefs that characterized the medieval

society. In addition to the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the medieval universities were at loggerheads with classical scholarship and the need for alternative thinking was clearly established. The Italian renaissance drama was adopted from the classics which was the product of medieval mimes. The English Renaissance drama started with brief dramatic entertainments called interludes which was the popular drama of the late medieval age. It provided the link between moral religious medieval drama and the secular drama of the Elizabethan period during the English Renaissance. However, with the discovery of the classics during renaissance, plays were performed in universities by the “Tutor school of drama” which the authors combined the techniques of Greek and Roman drama with the dramaturgical techniques of the medieval age.

However, at this point it is worthy to note that the starting point of drama is religion. The root of the modern drama is based on the ritualistic resources of primitive religions. The analogues of traditions in medieval and Renaissance Europe, Japan, China, and India had roots in religion and ritual. For instance the origin of modern theatre date back as far as the Greek ritual plays centered on the altar of Dionysus, the wine god and the god of fertility and procreation around 12000bc.