

The Relationship Between Medieval Drama and Renaissance Drama

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The medieval drama also known as the middle age drama succeeds the roman drama. The name medieval was given to it due to the fact that it came in between the first phase of drama and the second phase. The first phase, the classical period talks more on festival origins of drama while the second phase the renaissance and the modern drama talks more on the rebirth of drama. The medieval drama bases its attention on Christianity and plays on the Quem Quaeritis (whom do you seek). Its acting was based on the bible, presentation of the missions and death of Jesus Christ. It focused more in stories pertaining the saints. The church serves as the theatre at that age till the church couldn't contain the number of spectators and that led to the secession of drama from the church. Medieval drama evolved to be into three parts known as the mystery cycles: the mystery plays, the morality plays and the miracle plays. The playwrights of these plays are usually anonymous example of them are, Everyman and the last Shepherd play. The fall of medieval period led to the rise of the renaissance drama. Renaissance drama was a period of great intellectual and artistic achievement. The period gave rise to the establishment of many implements which helped to restrain the death of the medieval drama. The invention of printing press by Johann Gutenberg made it possible for the dramas of the medieval period to be written down. The word neoclassical was also used to depict the renaissance age in

France. The relationship between the two periods is that renaissance was concerned with reaffirmation and reconstruction of the past periods of drama. Renaissance aimed at modernisation of medieval and classical drama. The renaissance drama also gave rise to humanism also reaffirmed the claims of the medieval drama. The establishment of universities and fall of the Constantinople which caused scholars of the classical literature to spread all over Europe helped to an extent the popularity of the ancestral drama which medieval drama is among.