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### **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEDIEVAL DRAMA AND RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

Medieval drama is also known as middle age drama; it came as a result of the fall of the roman empire in the fifth century due to the corrupt roman drama which the church classify them as prostitutes, thieves, the actors in this medieval drama includes jugglers and inferior minstrels who wandered over all Christendom, their immoral and crude performance continued for centuries unsuppressed because they responded to dramatic spectacle. The church considered their activities as being pagan and fetish, in the medieval drama, there are other quasi-theatrical activities known as interlude and street-pageant. Medieval drama preceded by Greek and roman, it arose from the ashes of roman drama, in the roman drama infamy was discovered in it and it was opposed by the church.

The medieval drama is therefore based on moral, it teaches about morality during its era, the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic characteristics, the medieval period still gave birth to the new form of drama known as *Quem quaeritis*, this concept helped to advance drama, this concept

found its way into the introduction of the Easter Sunday mass, *Quem quaeritis* is a Latin word which means *whom do you seek?* It was fostered by Ethel wood the middle age drama continued to grow with addition of many scene and actions to church activities. The middle age drama could be view from the aspect of morality play, miracle play and mystery plays. The morality play teaches about important moral lesson through allegorical characters, the miracle plays talks about the lives of saint, while the mystery play talks about dramatized biblical events. The medieval drama is concerned with the morals of the society, it celebrate specific doctrinal traditions within the Christian church, it focused on *sermon*.

Finally, it is important to note that medieval drama did not die completely. The truth is that the secular qualities of medieval drama overthrew it religious qualities and thus paved way to the development of renaissance drama.

## **THE RENAISSANCE DRAMA**

Renaissance drama is a period of intellectual and artistic achievements, it is a French word which means *rebirth*, so it

further means the period of cultural rebirth. It marked and paved way for the rediscovery of past heritage, it brought about the rediscovery of Greek and roman civilizations,

The renaissance is known with a number of inventions which includes the inventions of printing, the establishment of universities and the fall of Constantinople which made scholars of classical of literature to spread all over Europe, the renaissance age was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effects. Renaissance period was the era of re-examination of life and gave rise to the spirit of humanism which is associated with the medieval age.

The English renaissance erupted from the renaissance itself and was spearheaded by Christopher Marlowe in[1587] and was terminated when Williams Shakespeare died in [1616], the English renaissance started with the dramatic entertainment called interlude, which the medieval had and it was a popular dramatic entertainment in the middle age, the interlude provided the link between moral religious medieval drama of the Elizabethans.

The relationship between the two drama era is the involvement and activities of interlude in the two drama i.e the renaissance and medieval drama encountered interlude, and again it was the medieval period that gave rise or birth to renaissance, due to the weakness of medieval drama it transformed and gave rise to renaissance period from there it begot many other drama.