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The Relationship between Renaissance and Medieval Period

The medieval period is known as a period of time between the fifth and fifteenth century. It was the lapse of time that lasted since the fall of Roman Empire till Renaissance. People described this period as a stage in which life was very hard. The medieval period was preceded by Greek and Roman drama and then followed by Elizabethan drama. Greek drama in line with its being the fountain head of modern drama was buoyant, full of ideas, and was essentially theatrical. The beginning of medieval is therefore, traceable to the medieval church sermon and mass which had some dramatic characteristics. The human impulse to indulge in mimesis, which received impetus from the religious tropes, gave birth to the new form of drama during the medieval era.

The medieval stage at the time when drama was with the church was no means crude, but it was a stage that was wholly devoted to expounding religious philosophy and nothing else. The medieval stage was replete with thrones, scaffolds, trolleys and other contrivances used in staging plays having to do with the Annunciation and the Ascension. The major focus of the medieval drama was the sermonizing focus. The stage contraptions of medieval drama seemed wholly geared towards the peculiarities of certain church celebrations. The secular qualities of medieval drama overthrew its religious qualities and thus paved the way to the development of Renaissance drama.

The Renaissance is a French word which means rebirth. The Renaissance period therefore means the period of cultural rebirth. It was a period that marked the discovery of past heritage, an age which epitomized in the rediscovery of Greek and Roman civilizations. It is a period of time between the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries. As a cultural movement, it brought new ways to perceive the world. It innovated techniques in art, literature, politics, and science among others. It changed society's point of view towards women role, fashion, church impact and many others.

The Renaissance age is marked with a number of inventions. The invention of printing, establishment of universities and literature spread all over Europe, invention of printing press made it possible for classical literature to be printed and taken to Western Europe. The age was explosive, diverse, created a host of outrageously different individuals each straining for effect. It was this state of affairs that gave rise to the spirit of humanism which is usually associated with the Renaissance age.

After analyzing this two periods (Medieval and Renaissance), we infer that the Renaissance took culture to another dimension. This means that it changed the way people perceived the world. Using different criteria such as women's role in society, gender equality, the church's role among others. We deduce that by the time of the fifteenth century (beginning of renaissance), people started to think into another way, education was very important. The relationship between the two periods is that they both centered on religious doctrines. Medieval was centered on religious themes. Drama was eventually

declined as a result of a number of factors. First the Catholic Church withdrew support for them because it felt that it weakened the church. In 1548, religious drama was outlawed in Paris. Second, Protestants regarded them as a tool for the propagation of the catholic doctrine. Elizabeth I was the most successful monarchs in history. She rejected the pope's authority and reestablished the Church of England. She was characterized by being intelligent and dependent.

Another relationship between the two periods is that, they both adopted the English style. Medieval literature was written in old English and Middle English, while Renaissance was written in early modern English. Scholars of classical literature spread all over Europe because of the Use of English. In the Medieval era, English literature began with the epic poem Beowulf. Medieval literature was centered on concepts such as religion, chivalry and courtly love. Renaissance also involved religion, historical and societal issues. For instance, on their legs women sometimes wore woven socks. Noblewomen often wore fancy tall hats, sometimes with streamers coming off them. Sometimes they plucked the hair from their foreheads to give themselves. They curled their hair, perfumed their gloves and sometimes men wore makeup. They liked pearls in jewelry made of gold. Colors at that time had their meaning for instance green meant love.

Having talked about Medieval and Renaissance era, we find out that the similarity between the two periods are common language, that is English, they both centered on religious doctrines.