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Drift and Propensity of Writers of Elizabethan Era

Abstract: The age of Queen Elizabeth was one of the prime time age of English Literature. The age witnessed a lot many endeavors in the varied Fields. Specifically this age is much known for its Excavations, Discoveries as well as Literary World.. This age in its literary fervor is being talked at length here in this paper. This scholarly work talks about Different Famous writers of the period as well as their literary works and styles.

(key words: Literature, Endeavors, Excavations, Literary Fervor, Scholarly)

Elizabethan literature: refers to cadaver of work produced during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603), and is one of the most splendid ages of English literature. Elizabeth I presided over a vigorous culture that saw notable accomplishments in the arts, voyages of discovery, the "Elizabethan Settlement" that created the Church of England, and the defeat of military threats from Spain. The epithet Elizabethan is merely a chronological reference and does not describe any special characteristic of the writing. The Elizabethan age saw the flowering of poetry (the sonnet, the Spenserian stanza, dramatic blank verse), was a golden age of drama (especially for the plays of Shakespeare), and inspired a wide variety of splendid prose (from historical chronicles, versions of the Holy Scriptures, pamphlets, and literary criticism to the first English novels). From about the beginning of the 17th century a sudden darkening of tone became noticeable in most forms of literary expression, especially in drama, and the change more or less coincided with the death of Elizabeth. This age is characterized by

vigorous intellectual thinking, an age of adventure and discovery, a time in which new ideas and new experiences were sought after. The period revolutionized many aspects of English life, most significantly literature. This new approach to things found its genesis in the Italian Renaissance and was also much influenced by the development of intellectual thought in France.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ELIZABETHAN AGE LITERARY WORKS

* REVIVAL OF INTEREST IN GREEK LITERATURE

The ardent revival in the study of Greek literature brought a dazzling light into many dark places of interest. The new classical influences were a great benefit. They tempered & polished the earlier rudeness of English Literature.

* ABUNDANCE OF OUTPUT

The Elizabethan age was rich in literary productions of all kinds. Singing is impossible when one's hearts undeclared & at any moment one may be laid prostrate. Not till the accession of Queen Elizabeth, did a better state of things began to be. In the Elizabethan age, pamphlets & treatises were freely written. Sometimes writers indulged in scurrilous abuses which were of personal character. But on the whole, the output of the literature was very wide, & after the lean years of the preceding epoch, the prodigal issue of the Elizabethan age is almost embarrassing.

* THE NEW ROMANTICISM

The romanticism is quest for the remote, the wonderful & the beautiful. All these desires were abundantly fed during the Elizabethan age, which are the first & the greatest romantic epoch. According to a famous critic Albert, “there was a daring & resolute spirit of adventure in literary as well as the other regions, & most important of these was an un-mistakable buoyant & freshness in the strong wind of the spirit. It was the ardent youth of English Literature & the achievement was worthy of it.”

* TRANSLATIONS

The Elizabethan age witnessed translation into English of several important foreign books. Many translations were as popular as the original works. Sir Thomas North translated Plutarch’s “lives” & John Florio translated Montaigne’s “Essais”. No less popular were the translations in poetry. e.g. Metamorphoses by Arthur Golding, Aristotle’s “Orlando Furioso” by Sir John Harrington, Tasso’s “Terusalom Liberata” by Richard Carew. Jane Lumley (1537–1578) was the first person to translate Euripides into English. Her translation of Iphigenia at Aulis is the first known dramatic work by a woman in English.

* SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE

In spite of borrowings from abroad, the authors of this age showed a spirit of independence & creativeness. Shakespeare borrowed freely, but by the alembic of his creative imaginations, he transformed the dross into gold. Spenser introduced the ‘Spenserian Stanza’, & from his works, we got the impression of inventiveness & intrepidity. On the whole, the outlook of the writers during the age was broad & independent.

* DEVELOPMENT OF DRAMA

During the Elizabethan Age, drama made a swift & wonderful leap into maturity. The drama reached the splendid perfection in the hands of Shakespeare & Ben Jonson, though in the concluding part of the age, particularly in Jacobean Age, there was a decline of drama standards.

* POPULARITY OF POETRY

Poetry enjoyed its hey-day during the Elizabethan age. The whole of the age lived in a state of poetic fervor. Songs, lyrics & sonnets were produced in plenty, & England became nest of the singing birds. In versification, there was a marked improvement. Melody & pictorials' were introduced in poetry by Spenser.

* PROSE & NOVEL & POETRY

For the first time, prose rose to the position of first rate importance. "Even the development of poetical drama between 1579 A.D. -1629 A.D., is hardly more extraordinary than the sudden expansion of English prose & its adaptation to every kind of literary requirement." The dead weight of the Latin & English prose acquired a tradition & universal application.

English Novel made its first proper appearance during this age. This era witnessed notable writers to name a few are William Shakespeare (1564–1616) stands out in this period both as a poet and playwright. Shakespeare wrote plays in a variety of genres, including histories, tragedies, comedies and the late romances, or tragicomedies some of them are as

follows A Comedy of Errors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, Twelfth Night, Richard II, Henry IV, parts 1 and 2, and Henry V, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, based on Sir Thomas North's 1579 translation of Plutarch Parallel Lives, which introduced a new kind of drama. Along with this he has composed 154 sonnets.

Edmund Spenser has written one of the wonderful epic poems **The Faerie Queen**. Christopher Marlowe wrote Dr Faustus, subject matter is different from Shakespeare's as it focuses more on the moral drama of the Renaissance man than any other thing. Drawing on German folklore, Marlowe introduced the story of Faust to England in his play Doctor Faustus (c. 1592), about a scientist and magician who, obsessed by the thirst of knowledge and the desire to push man's technological power to its limits, sells his soul to the Devil. Faustus makes use of "the dramatic framework of the morality plays in its presentation of a story of temptation, fall, and damnation, and its free use of morality figures such as the good angel and the bad angel and the seven deadly sins, along with the devils Lucifer and Mephistopheles Sir Philip Sidney: Astrophel and Stella, The Defense of Poetry, and The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia, John Lyly (1553 or 1554 – 1606)- Euphues: The Anatomy of Wit (1578) and Euphues and His England (1580). Lyly's mannered literary style, originating in his first books, is known as Euphuism. Love's Metamorphosis is his work. Thomas Nashe (November 1567 – c. 1601) Elizabethan pamphleteers, playwright, poet, and satirist, The Unfortunate Traveler, George Puttenham (1529–1590) The Arte of English Poesie (1589). Ben Jonson wrote Ben Jonson's comedies are his best dramatic work. From all his plays we may select three that will best repay reading: Volpone, The Alchemist, and The Silent Woman. Volpone is the story of an old, childless, Venetian nobleman whose ruling passion is avarice. Everything else in the play is made tributary to this passion.

Writing Styles during this Time was very varied like different flowers in a bunch. Sonnets were written with three quatrains and a couplet, and this structure was later recognized as a Shakespearean sonnet. Another literary term of the time was the Spenserian stanza, which featured a nine-line stanza. Petrarch's sonnets consist of an "octave", rhyming abba abba, followed, after a turn (volta) in the sense, by a sestet with various rhyme schemes but the most common sestet scheme is cddc ee. This marks the beginnings of English sonnet with 3 quatrains and a closing couplet.

Plays were also predominanting the earliest Elizabethan plays include Gorboduc (1561), by Sackville and Norton, and Thomas Kyd's (1558–94) revenge tragedy The Spanish Tragedy (1592). Highly popular and influential in its time, The Spanish Tragedy established a new genre in English literature theatre, the revenge play or revenge tragedy Marlowe is known for composing "Tamburlaine," one of the first English plays to use blank verse. English playwrights combined the influence of the Medieval theatre with the Renaissance's rediscovery of the Roman dramatists, Seneca, for tragedy, and Plautus and Terence, for comedy. The English playwrights were intrigued by Italian model: a conspicuous community of Italian actors had settled in London. The linguist and lexicographer John Florio (1553–1625), whose father was Italian, was a royal language tutor at the Court of James I, and a possible friend and influence on William Shakespeare, had brought much of the Italian language and culture to England. He was also the translator of Montaigne into English. Thomas Dekker (c.1570–1632) was, between 1598 and 1602, involved in about forty plays, usually in collaboration. He is particularly remembered for The Shoemaker's Holiday (1599), a work where he appears to be the sole author. Dekker is noted for his "realistic portrayal of daily London life and for "his sympathy for the poor and oppressed. Robert Greene (c.1558 – 1592) was another popular dramatist but he is now best known for a posthumous pamphlet attributed to him, Groats-worth of

Witte, bought with a million of Repentance, widely believed to contain an attack on writings of William Shakespeare.

Metaphysical Poetry: The word 'meta' means 'after,' so the literal translation of 'metaphysical' is 'after the physical.' Basically, metaphysics deals with questions that can't be explained by science. It questions the nature of reality in a philosophical way. Metaphysics can cover a broad range of topics from religion to self-consciousness; however, all the questions about metaphysics ponder the nature of reality. And of course, there is no one correct answers to any of these questions. Metaphysics is about exploration and philosophy, not about science and maths.

Hence we see that Elizabethan phrase is an epoch which we can regard as golden period of English literature. This marks the beginning of new saga of literature the entire literature up till now owns a lot to this period. Whether it is Drama or Sonnets or Lyrical ballads the innovation was done during Elizabethan period only. In the other interludes it was merely extension of Elizabethan literature. We as student of Literature should obeisance our gratitude to this eternal Saga of English Literature.

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