

Date

02/06/2010

Time 11.30 a.m.

to 12.15 p.m.

On-line ENGLISH CLASS

B.A. Hons. Part I

By Dr. J. N. Singh
HOD.

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Done

The Jacobean Drama or, Early 17th century Drama.

Ans. After Shakespeare, decadence overtook English drama. No man of genius appeared on the literary horizon to take his place and carry on his work. Shakespeare's skillful use of the clown is no more discernible in his successors. The characters and situations also tend to be less true to nature. His successors don't display a deep knowledge of human psychology, nor do they show a keen insight into human nature. External began to replace reality and truth of characterization. Subjects no more were based on the national history of England, they were now being borrowed from the Italian, French and Spanish romances.

— George Chapman, Ben Jonson, John Marston, Thomas Dekker, Thomas Heywood, Middleton, Tourneur and Webster were the important dramatists.

was an ⁽²⁾ generally regarded as the
Post-Shakespearean or Jacobean
dramatists. Some of these dramatists
were both his contemporaries and
successors also.

George Chapman is known
mainly for his translations of Homer.
He wrote a number of tragedies on
the subjects of contemporary French
history and a number of comedies
based on English life. His best-
known tragedy is 'Bussy D'Amboise'.
It is a revenge tragedy with a
French theme. The characters
and events of the play are his-
torical. But they lack life
and reality. So, the play
degenerates into melodrama.

Ben Jonson is regarded
as a great contemporary of Shakespeare.
He was a classical scholar and artist
following the classical rules in art.
He raised his strong voice against
the shortcomings of contemporary English
Stage. His important comedies
are 'Everyman in His Humours'
and 'Everyman Out of
His Humours', 'Volpone'
or 'The Fox', 'Alchemist',
etc.

John Marston too was a remarkable dramatist of the time. The best of his tragedies are 'Antonio's Revenge' and 'Antonio and Mellida'. Both the tragedies bear the influence of the Spanish tragedy. He was pessimistic and cynical by temperament.

Thomas Dekker also is a well-known writer of the Jacobean period. He is optimistic and gay. His best plays are 'The Shoemaker's Holiday', 'The Gentle Craft' and 'The Honest Whore'. 'The Honest Whore' gives us a glimpse of the underworld of London and records the trials and experiences of a whore, or prostitute who is determined to lead an honest life.

Thomas Heywood is another famous dramatist of the group. His drama 'A Woman killed with Kindness' is a dramatic masterpiece.

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Middletown and Tourneur too are important dramatists of the time. Middletown is the most modern of the humorists of the Renaissance. 'Woman Beware Women' is the best of his tragedies. 'The Changeling' also is a dramatic masterpiece. Tourneur's dramatic masterpieces are 'The Revenger's Tragedy' and 'The Atheist's Tragedy'.

John Webster also has contributed two dramatic masterpieces. 'The White Devil' and 'The Duchess of Malbi'. 'The White Devil' is based on the life of the celebrated Italian courtesan ^(prostitute) Vittoria. 'The Duchess of Malbi' is a melodrama.

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