


ELIZABETHAN DRAMA





- 1)The most **memorable achievement** in literature of the Elizabethan Age was **drama**.
 - 2)The humanist teaching in Schools and Universities was the development of Latin drama and **acting** Latin plays.
 - 3)Acting in Latin plays by **Terence,Plautis,Seneca** and also of plays in English.
 - 4)These plays were enacted in the **honour** of the **visiting ambassador**.
 - 5)These performances were the work of amateur actors and students of Schools and Universities.
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6)The significance lay in the fact that they brought the educated classes in touch with the more highly developed kind of drama.

7)About the middle of the 16th century some **academic** writers made an attempt to write **English Plays** on Latin Models.

8)The three important plays were namely

a)**Nicholas Udall's Ralph Roister Doister,**

b)**John Still's Gramma Gurton's Needle** and ,

c)**Thomas Sackville's Gorboduc or Ferrex and Porrex**

9) Ralph Roster Doister & Gramma Gurton's needle were comedies and Gorboduc was a tragedy.

10) But these plays could not achieve the literary merit.

11) The **second period** of the Elizabethan Drama

a) was dominated by **University Wits**.

b) We shall deal with it later.



Christopher Marlowe



12) CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE

a) Marlowe's contribution to the English Drama was great. He raised the subject matter of drama to a higher level. Marlowe was considered to be the **central sun** of the **constellation** of the **stars** of **University Wits**.

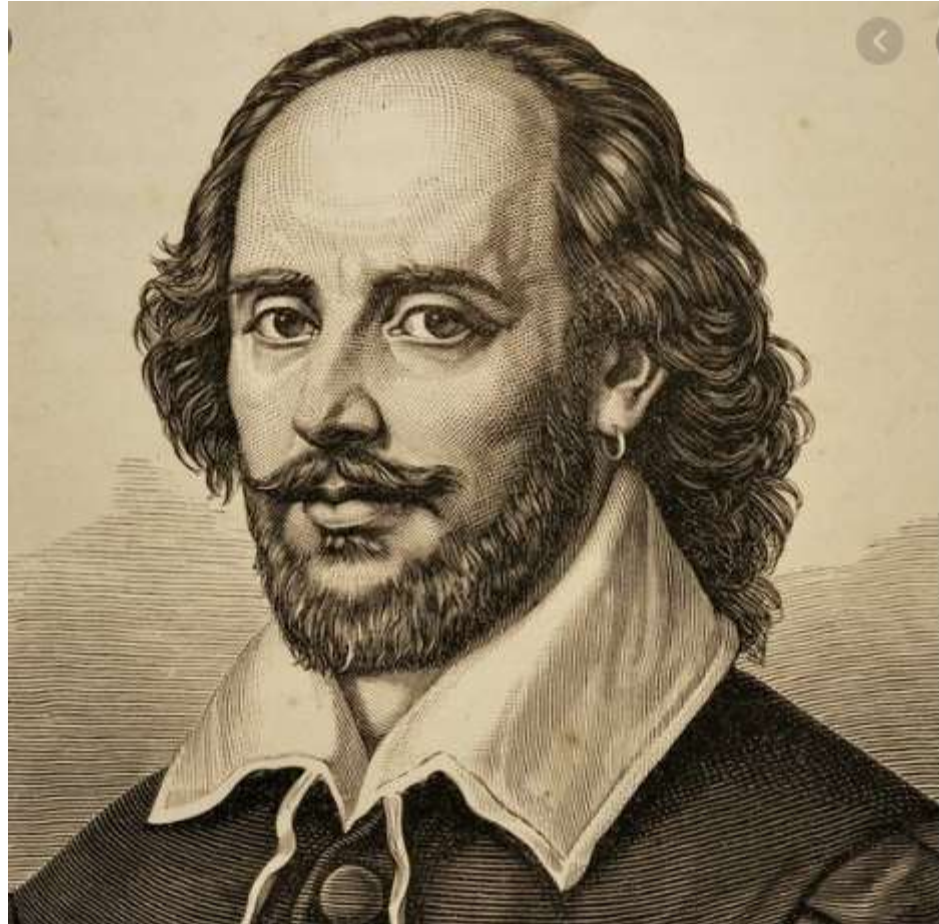
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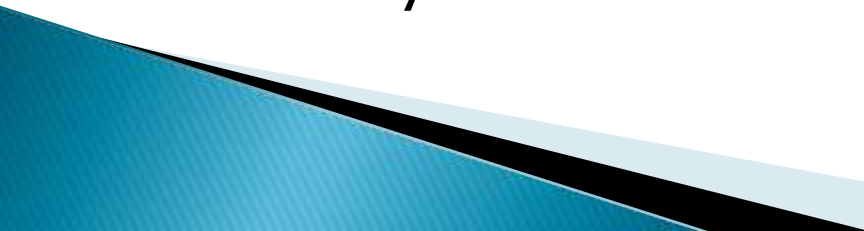
13) SHAKESPEARE (1504–1616)

a) Shakespeare was not only the greatest dramatist of the Elizabethan Age but the greatest dramatist till today.

b) It was in the hand of Shakespeare that Romantic drama reached its climax.

William Shakespeare



- c) Shakespeare, like the other dramatists did not have proper training and education.
 - d) But the height in literature that Shakespeare is unsurpassable to the present day.
 - e) He was endowed with marvellous imaginative and creative mind.
 - f) With these creativity Shakespeare could not put new life into old stories and make them glow with deepest thought and tenderst feelings.
 - g) Though it is a mystry as to how Shakespeare could reach such a height but undoubtedly we can say that he was a highly gifted person.
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h) It may be assumed that Shakespeare must have taken

1) A proper training as an actor.

2) Then secondly as a reviser of plays and

3) As an independent dramatist.

i) He worked with other dramatists and learnt a lot from them.

j) He minutely observed the people he came in contact with and studied them very deeply perhaps.

k) All we can say that his dramatic output was the result of his natural genius and hard work.

l)Shakespeare wrote non dramatic poetry

1)**Venice and Adonis**

2)**The Rape of Lucrece**

m)Shakespeare was one of the greatest sonneters to the present day.He wrote almost 154 sonnets.

n)1)Shakespeare works as a dramatist extended to almost 24 years,beginning from about 1588 to 1612.

2)His works may be divided in four periods.

- o) 1) **The first period (1577–1593)** was said to be **experimental work**.
- 2) It was a revision of old plays. We put here his play, the comedies
- A) **Love's Labour Lost**
 - B) **A Midsummer Night Dream**
 - C) **First chronical–Richard–3**
- 3) **The Second Period (1594–1600)** belongs Shakespeare great **comedies** and **chronicle** plays.
Richard–2, The Merchant of Venice, Henry–4, As you Like it, Twelfth Night.

These plays Show Shakespeare great development as thinker and technique. It reflects his art and genius.

4) **The third part (1601–1608)** belongs to the

A) The greatest tragedies

B) Here Shakespeare is more concerned with the **darker side of the human experiences** and its **destructive passions**.

C) No expressions could be better than what the dramatist presents here.

D) The plays in short are –**Julius Ceasar, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth** etc.

5) **The Fourth Period (1608–1612)** brings Shakespeare in changed mood.

A) The **tragic passions** are still seen.

B)But now the **evil is conquered and controlled by good.**

C)The tone of the plays is **gracious and tender.**

D)The plays to name a few are –

The Tempest,The Winter's Tale,Henry-8 etc.

p)A)We can not formulate any particular philosophy From the work of this genius.

B)From the king to the clown,intellectual to simpleton,From their own views of life—and-surprisingly it is found appropriate.

C)His plays are full large number of songs with its own style and versification of highest order.

D)His **sonnets** glow with **passion**,and **sensitiveness to beauty** reach the high mark of the **poetic excellence in English Literature**.

E)**Words and images** flow **spontaneously** which makes the **style perfect**.

F)Because of his **Universality** he becomes the poet of all ages.

G)The appeal for Shakespeare is **perennial**.

H)It is like the great river of **life and beauty**

BEN JOHNSON



14) BEN JOHNSON (1573–1637)

- a) Johnson a contemporary of Shakespeare was just the opposite of him.
- b) Johnson was a classist, a novelist and a reformer.
- c) In his comedies he tried to bring the true picture of the society.
- d) Johnson tried to impose himself in his works. Shakespeare was hidden never personal.
- e) Johnson was the writer of comedies –
Volpone, The Alchemist, Every Man in his Humour
- f) Johnson also wrote tragedies but they were not successful.
- g) Johnson was satirical in his writings the limited himself in the bounds of reasons and sause

**HOPE YOU
UNDERSTOOD AND
ENJOYED**

THANK YOU