

About Metaphysical Poetry :-

Metaphysical Poetry has come to mean a specific type of poetry with certain characteristic features, common to the group of poets, following John Donne. It is very often loosely defined as something fantastic, abstruse or vague. But this is no true account, and this poetry does not denote any queer or vague trend, but bears a number of special features which give it a distinctive merit and becomes the source of its originality. In Metaphysical love poetry as well as religious verses, such characteristic features are sufficiently indicated.

The term 'Metaphysical' is loosely applied to a group of 17th century poets such as John Donne, Andrew Marvell, Henry Vaughan, George Herbert and Richard Crashaw. The Poetry of these poets were marked with wit, inventiveness and intellectual complexity.

Analysis of John Donne's poem *The Good Morrow* :-

Stanza 1 (Line 1 – 7): The poet's fanciful interrogation of what his ladylove and he himself did before their meeting

The poet wonders to ascertain what his ladylove and he himself did before their union in love. He fancies the ways in which they might have passed the time till their meeting. They might have grown pale in love-sickness, engaged themselves in the childish pursuits of country life, or slept away their time, like the legendary seven sleepers. The poet, however, is aware of all these speculations are purely the diverting play of fancy. But he is assured of one thing that the beauty of his ladylove was all in all with him. It was all that he desired and dreamt and has won.

Stanza-2 (Line 8 – 14): The self-complacent, trustful love of the poet and his ladylove

The poet and his lady live in exclusive love, free from fear or suspicion. Their love rules their ways of living and makes their little accommodation their universe. They care not for whatever advancement is achieved or discoveries made. All that they know and need to know is the oneness of their love., the unification of their selves in love.

Stanza – 3 (Line 15 – 21): The inalienable, indestructible love of the poet and his lady

The poet and his ladylove have become one in their mutual, trustful love. They are just like perfect hemispheres, without the least distortion anywhere. Their love is imperishable because the merge of their individuality is absolute. Their love has unified them so strongly and deeply that they seem to live above earthly decay and death.

Analysis of John Donne's poem *The Anniversarie* :-

Stanza 1 (Line 1 – 10):- The timelessness of love

The poem opens with the poet's splendid affirmation of the Immortality of love in a world of time. All things, including the sun itself that makes time, have advanced by a year since the first meeting of the poet and his ladylove. All things other than their love, are subjected to destruction. But their love has no decay and is not affected by the flow of time. It is free from the effects of tomorrow as well as yesterday. It, no doubt, runs, but it never runs away from them. It retains its steadfast continuity all through.

Stanza 2(Line 11-20):- The celestial blessing of true love

The poet, of course, remembers that they must part in death. They will be buried separately in two graves. Their physical faculties will be dead but their souls, animated with the passion of true love, will pass into heaven and become united there.

Stanza 3(Line 21-30):- The continuity of the anniversary of love

The poet and his ladylove will, no doubt, be blessed then in heaven. But everyone there will be equally blessed. The poet's mind turns back to earth again and finds their monarchy of love that is fully safe and secure. None but one of them can do wrong to them or betray them. The poet, therefore, proposes to refrain from true and false fear, to love nobly and live for many years to come. The celebration of their first anniversary of love will be continued till they record their sixtieth anniversary.