



COMMON THEMES BETWEEN THE WORKS OF JOHN DONNE AND JOHN MILTON

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Abstract. This article considers the work of Enlightenment poets who depicted the real life of people in seventeenth century England in their works. The author of the article presented about the creative heritage of the poets and their literary directions. Several poems of poets were also analyzed.

Keywords: Metaphysical poets, elegy, conceits, paradox, metaphor.

A shift from an age of faith to an age of reason happened in the seventeenth century. The turbulence in society, religion, and the monarchy of this period was represented in literature (Nancy Snyder. 2023). Life for the English people changed as religious controversy and civil war shook the nation. These issues reformulated the roles of individuals in society, perspectives of faith, and social structures in England. Writers of this period describe the real life of people through the events in their works. Specific examples of authors of this period who present English issues and perspectives in their works are John Donne and John Milton. Both of them create on the common themes which are love, religion, and political views.

John Donne was a man more nearly typical of the early seventeenth century in England. After Donne completed his academic work at Oxford, he went to live in London. In Donne's love poetry the rule was inconstancy and the practice was infidelity. Because the spirit, or the soul of man, was undergoing constant redefinition, men like Donne had come to question its reality (Walter Blair. 1940). As a result, he wrote more on the physical nature of death and love. John Donne is known as the founder of the Metaphysical Poets, a term created by Samuel Johnson, an eighteenth-century English essayist, poet, and philosopher. The Metaphysical Poets are known for their ability to startle the reader and coax new perspective through paradoxical images, subtle argument, imagery from art, and philosophy.

Among Donne's most famous works is "Holy Sonnets". Donne's poem, the "Holy Sonnets", has also been called the "Divine Sonnets". These sonnets are made up of 19 poems dealing with themes of love and religion. Most of the poems are highly personal, such as "Holy Sonnet 17", an elegy on Donne's wife, who died in 1617. They are examples of metaphysical poetry. Donne wrote about very largely conceits-concentrated images which involve an element of dramatic contrast, of stain, or of intellectual difficulty in his poetry (Robert M. Adams. 1975). Most of the traditional "flowers of rhetoric" disappear completely. For instance, in his love poetry one never encounters bleeding hearts, cheeks like roses, lips like cherries, teeth like pearls.

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And Death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Donne's lines are a reminder that paradox is not only an instrument of the poet. Christianity



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embodies several paradoxes: God became man; through the death on the cross, man can obtain eternal life; man does not live fully until he dies.

"The Sun Rising"

Busy old fool, unruly sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains call on us?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide
Late school boys and sour prentices,
Go tell court huntsmen that the king will ride,
Call country ants to harvest offices,
Love, all alike, no season knows nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time ...

John Donne

The most effective ways for secondary nominations to arise in linguistic world picture formation is through metaphors (M. D. Qodirova. 2023). Dr. Oliver said that Donne's metaphors are clever: observe the way he takes the idea of being blinded by staring at the sun and turns it on its head, saying that the sun itself may well be blinded by looking upon the eyes of his beloved – they're that dazzling and beautiful.

John Milton was a seventeenth century historian, journalist and poet. Milton first planned to become a priest. He studied at Cambridge University and afterwards decided to abandon this path in order to become a full time writer and poet. He was quite active in politics and favored the Parliamentarian movement in the English Civil War. Milton wrote many political pamphlets and his famous work "Paradise Lost" offers interpretations of Biblical works, religion, and political forces in England. Many of his works have religious, political, and personal themes. For example, instances of imagery of light and darkness and good and evil can be found in several works. Walter Blair wrote that in English literature the word sublime can be applied to the work of only two poets, the plays of Shakespeare and the poems of Milton. Indeed, it is exact to say that "Paradise Lost" is a sublime poem. No poem in English has ever achieved a language of such sustained grandeur.

"On His Blindness"

WHEN I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest He returning chide,
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"...

John Milton

John Milton became blind in mid-career. Milton's blindness is defining catastrophe of modern European art-catastrophe, because he did not complete "Paradise Lost" and many other works by means of dictation. This sonnet has beautiful measure, a simple and clear meaning, and manages to talk about the ferment of emotion (Peter G. Epps).

John Donne and John Milton each provide unique literary works that provide insight into life during the seventeenth century. Period changed individually, politically, socially, scientifically,



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and religiously. Milton presents his views of society, politics, and religion in his work "Paradise Lost". Donne offers more personal perspectives in his "Holy Sonnets". In spite of the difficulties, individuality and science blossomed.

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