

Write a critical note on Metaphysical poetry or Metaphysical Poets.

Introduction - John Donne is popularly known as the founder and father of the Metaphysical school of poetry. The term Metaphysical has been applied to John Donne and his followers. It is true that Donne guided a new way of composing poetry as a severe and sharp reaction against the Elizabethan conventional poetry. The credit goes to Dr. Samuel Johnson who called Donne and his followers. "The metaphysical poets a famous literary critic and father of the English criticism John Dryden said, "John Donne affects the metaphysical, not only in his satires, but in his amorous verses where nature should reign."

Use Of Fantastic Conceits :- Dr. Johnson the metaphysical poet says for their fantastic conceits and far fetched images which they displayed in their poetry. The metaphysical poet is lyrical having religious theme its poetic style is wonderful because of the mingling of beautiful phrases and the melody.

Complicated poetry :- It is a fact that metaphysical poets were great men of letters. Their main composing poetry was to demonstrate their learning. Their terrific learning has been trusted in such a way that it has become quite complex for the readers to comprehend what they like to convey.

Religious poetry - The metaphysical poetry is pure, religious and entirely intellectual. It displays the glimpses of the divine insight conceit as an instrument by which every metaphysical poet display his wit. Donne's the sun rising has many metaphysical conceits. In it, the poet expresses his contempt for the sun. Most of the metaphysical poets wrote on religion.

An appeal to the Heart - In the metaphysical poetry, there is very little that makes an appeal to the heart in its emotion and sentiment are expressed by logical reasoning. Several

individualistic styles of composing poems were flourished by the metaphysical poetry is the language of scientific men.

Mysticism in the Metaphysical poetry — Most of the metaphysical poets are called mystical. In the poetry of Donne, Herbert, Crashaw, Vaughan, Traherne, and Marvel. There is the description of an association with God. It is their creed that the spiritual world is the only real world and the things of the world are merely shadows.

Contribution of the Metaphysical poet :-

John Donne :- Donne composed several poems, lyrics, elegies and religious poems. Really, Ben Jonson was his great admirer who opined, "John Donne is esteemed the first and foremost poet in the world for something but he is most likely to be remembered for not becoming understandable. He is also called 'the Monarch of wit'. We find passions and feelings, conceits and sensuousness in his rhetorical poetry. His Divine Comedy deals with a philosophical conception of the universe and the role assigned to the human spirit in the great drama of existence.

George Herbert — George Herbert was the hermit of the metaphysical school of poetry. In fact, he was an extremely religious poet. He is known for his lyrical collection 'The Temple'. He himself describes 'the temple'. He himself describes 'the temple is a picture of many spiritual conflicts that have passed between God and soul. His poems appear to be honest, sincere and modest. His every religious poem is mingled with a sonorous note of simplicity and devotion. Herbert's achievement is remarkable because he uses a very wide variety of metrical poetry forms.

Herbert's poetry expresses the combination of intellect and sensibility. Like Donne, he astonishes the readers

into a new understanding. Despite the intellectual vigour and the subtle of Herbert's poem. They are always graceful and usually lucid. In his two poems Easter's wings and the Altar. The rules of prosody and verification have not been followed, Samuel Taylor Coleridge quotes, about Herbert's language of purity, "Nothing can be more fine thanly and unaffected."

(c) Richard Crashaw — Crashaw's poetry is highly educational rather than thoughtful. His main poetical works are Steps to the temple and the Delight of the Muses.

His poetry is not read for its fire and fervour (fragrance). He lacks the intellectual range and power of Donne. His religious and secular poetry are chiefly remarkable for its outbursts of passionate and lyrical intensity.

(d) Henry Vaughan — Vaughan was a great music poet at heart. His greatest works are silax scintillans and Thalia Rediviva. His popular poem The Retreat motivated Wordsworth in the composition of his famous poem 'ode on immortality'.

His silax scintillans is a nice collection of religious poems which displays his faith in God and also in religion.

(e) Abraham Cowley — Cowley is a great metaphysical poet. His famous collection of poems is The Mistress as a poet he is the harbinger (messenger) of Dryden and Pope. In reading his work, a reader becomes aware of the attitudes and the tone of the age of prose and Reason.

(f) Thomas Traherne — Traherne was a famous mystic poet like Vaughan. His best poem is 'The wonder' which portrays the picture of the child's surprise at the body in which his soul lives and the world into which he has been born.

(g) Andrew Marvell — Marvell was the only puritan among the metaphysical poet. His poetry is perfectly based on the adoration of nature. He was the first poet to sing the beauty and glory

of the gardens and orchards. His famous love poems are 'the definition of love, The Gallary, and To a Co Mistress.' His 'The Garden' is full of sensuous delight in which grass comes to life and thinks.

Conclusions — The metaphysical poets were appreciated in their own way. Some critics made several derogatory remarks against their poetry.