

# Pre-Raphaelite poetry

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Pre-Raphaelite poetry is a kind of poetry practised by a group of poets in the 2nd half of the 19th century who were inspired by 15th century Italian painter Raphael and tried to mould poetry on the pattern of painting. Their poetry is marked by scenes and situations, precise delineation, lavish imagery and metaphor. It focuses on the glorification of art, escape from darkness and the ugliness of contemporary society. It was not a literary but an artistic movement which was initiated by D. G. Rossetti who was a painter and a poet as well. He wanted to restore Realism, sensuousness and devotion to details in poetry painting which has lost sight of.

Led by Rossetti some painters formed a group in 1848 which finally culminated into pre-Raphaelite poetry. Besides Rossetti other important practitioners of the group were W. H. Hunt, Thomas Wallner, and James Collinson. They

broke the shackles of stereotyped tradition and effected a return to nature by giving up the bulk of traditionalised sophistication. They inherited the sensibility of art. Ruskin rightly said that 'The pre-Raphaelites imitate no pictures, they paint from nature only.'

In poetry this movement came into the shape of a revolt against contemporary poetry of the kind of Tennyson's which adhered to tradition and restricted chiefly on resolving the problem of society. They published a periodical *The Germ*. The important poets of the group were Rossetti, Swinburne and Morris.