

Shakespeare and Ben Johnson

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Shakespeare and Johnson are two great dramatic luminaries contributing significantly in their respective domain to enrich English drama and elevated it to a new height Whereas Shakespeare gave an added charm and grandeur to romantic drama the foundation stone of which was led by the humanists under the leadership of the humanists which include the university wits, Johnson revived classical drama gasping it's last breath during the Jacob an period in the aftermath of the onslaught led by the humanists advocating strongly in favour of popular drama intended to cater to the interest of the masses. The basic difference between the two was that whereas the former gave more credence to the interest of the commands people while giving a the final shape to his dramatic composition with the intention to amuse them and thus brought about necessary changes in the structural and thematic pattern of his dramas. Besides this he realized that majority of his spectators were illiterate therefore he preferred the language of the common masses avoiding the rough, rugged and uncouth language fearing that it might go overhead of the spectators spoiling the very purpose of drama to provide a commitment relief to the people thronging to the theatre. Ben Johnson on the contrary was a scholarly genius. He wrote dramas to display his scholarship. He hardly take notice that it might be a tough nut to crack apprehending his tough vocabularies. It is often said that people had to keep the dictionary before them while watching his dramatic composition. After all the tough and high-sounding words used by Johnson did not suit the temperament of the people who were looking different ,something hilarious which they did not notice in the writings of Johnson for which they shown strong opposition reposting faith in the humanists who gave top priority to the interest of the masses in their agenda Actually Johnson was fed up with the existing socio-political -political condition of English society. He realized that corruption was rampant in society . Fundamental human values were receded to the lowest ebb. No body was talking in terms of the welfare of others. Every was indulged in making money by be fooling others. Therefore he decided to satirise human follies through his drama in a language which is more aggressive language fearing that his purpose might not serve using mild vocabulary. Besides this ,he was a classicist craving for Polish, refinement and cohesion in the structure of his dramas which were knitly packed. He feared that that the organic unity of the drama might be hampered once he made compromise with the language of his drama. Thus he forced the interest of the masses to the background and gave more credence to reviving organic unity and structural cohesion which he noticed was badly wanting in his predecessors.