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English Literature

Paper – 2 II Volume - 2



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BRITISH LITERATURE

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Caroline Poets

The Caroline poets are called the Caroline poets because they were followers of King Charles I (1625). Charles I was called Carol in French language. They are also called Cavalier poets.

Why the word Cavalry has been used with the poets?

The word cavalry which has been used with the poets it is a derogatory remark. It's an insult to these poets because they were the warriors, courtiers. It became a humorous way of making fun of these warriors by calling them poets with swords.

The cavalier poets are also called the sons of Johnson.

Ben Johnson in Elizabethan Age was not only famous for comedy of humours, he was also a lyric writer. So, these writers were following Ben Johnson where they maintain the lyrical standard of writing poetry. But they still were following classical pattern of rhymings and pattern. So these are called classical writers.

Cavalier Writers -

His poetry deals with nature, court love, idealism.

Inspired Wordsworth

1 Robert Herrick (1591-1633) only poet who talked about nature

He is the most gifted poet to this group. It is believed that Robert Herrick is the link between the metaphysicals and cavaliers. His famous work is "Hesperides." Hesperides has 1200 plus poems and the whole book has a theme of Carpe diem.

The famous collections -

1633 i "To the Virgins to Make the Best of Time"

line - "gather ^{ye} rose buds while in May
Old time is still flying

And this same flower that smells today
tomorrow will be dying"

ii "Two Daffodils" - It may inspire Wordsworth to write Daffodils

iii Corinna's going

2 Richard Lovelace (1618-58)

He was a warrior and he fought in civil war to defend the King Charles I.

His famous works are

There are two long lyrics -

i To Lucasta - published in 1640
when he addresses his beloved to Lucasta
he says -

"I could not love thee, dear, so much
Loved I not honour more"

Complete title - To Lucasta, on going to the wars

ii To Althea, from Prison, 1642

When the protagonist of poetry is imprisoned he writes a love letter to his beloved Althea.

* "Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage.
Minds unmount^{and} quite take
that far in hermitage"

3. John Suckling (1609-42)

His work - "The Ballad upon wedding" which is written on the marriage of Roger Boyle and his wife Lady Edward.

John Suckling has famously invented a card game "Ombage".

Then he wrote a play which became the one of the worst plays is 'Aglaura' (1638)

Aglaura was criticised by Richard Flecknoe. He paid his actors in silver and gold.

4. Edmund Waller (1606-87)

He is simply known for Heroic Couplets. Alexander Pope imitated him. His famous works are - go, lovely Rose, The Bud and on a spindle.

John Dryden celebrated Edmund Waller by calling him the father of our English numbers. He invented Closed Couplet, used by Pope.

5. Richard Flecknoe

"A short Discourse of English stage" he did a commentary on English drama. He criticised Elizabethan drama because they are not following the classical content.

Henry Reynolds - 'Mythomystes' 1632. It has Neo-Platonic poetries. It is the eq. of 'Tropical forest' also called 'A Tropical Forest of Strange Fancies'.

5. William D'Avonant (1606-68)

He is famously called the Bastard Son of Shakespeare. He has famously written a work "Jonidivert" It is epical prose romance and preface of this work is written by Thomas Idols.

It is believed that Shakespeare was his biological father and other critics simply said that he is bastard of Shakespeare because his poetic style and writing style was same like Shakespeare. But the research scholars they have studied this that whenever Shakespeare was out of London he would stay at his place and he might be the biological father. Because William D'Avonant when he was totally drunk with his best friend he would reveal this that he is the biological son of Shakespeare. The research scholars also say that at the age of 11 William celebrated death of so called father William Shakespeare by writing a long poem "In Remembrance of Master Shakespeare".

Puritans

Puritans uprising.

How they changed the scenario

How England had its first democracy.

* Gun Powder Plot 1605 or
Guy Fawkes Plot

It was against the kingship, royal class. Guy Fawkes he planted the 39 barrels of gun powder beneath the stage and wanted to blast it. But this plan was leaked and Guy Fawkes was killed. He was indirectly connected to the puritans.

What is Puritan?

'Puritan' comes out from the word 'Puritas' means pure. Puritans they strongly believed in the philosophy of John Calvin. John Calvin he propounded a theory of 'Born Sinners'. They believe the birth has given to us is only for repent.

Charles I was very lavish king and hated by the people and puritans. Puritans started protesting against him and people supported Puritans. Although Puritans were hated by people because of their 'Born Sinner' views but the people knew that the Puritans are very religious and they told everyone that this King is not the Son of God.

When Puritans started getting support it resulted in civil war 1642, fought between the Puritans and the King Charles-I army.

1642 - theatres were closed.

Civil war goes on for seven years

1642 - 1649. 1649 Charles-I got killed and Puritans established their empire.

When Charles I became the king, he was supported by Arc bishop Laud. He was the mouthpiece of Charles I.

During 1622-1625 English throne was occupied by a protestant leader. But in 1625 when Charles-I became the king, he dissolved the parliament and started ruling 1630-1640. In 1642 Parliament was recalled but again Charles-I appointed his people. This action became the tug of war and civil war started in 1642. When his loyalty was questioned for the English people. He said that the English church is the most authentic church and proclaim that if Martyrdom was needed he would seal the prophecy of faith with his own blood. Then he started occupying all the rights on the name of divine rights. Then civil war started for seven years and it ended with the execution of Charles-I, Arc Bishop Laud, King's wife they all were killed but King's son Charles-II ran away to France.

Then the government was formed by the puritans. Oliver Cromwell supported puritans because they were right. So he was from royal class and had ten thousand soldiers he supported puritans. Then Cromwell said that there should be no king, only democracy is needed. When the democratic govt. was formed mostly was puritans, Oliver Cromwell said I will protect this govt. and this govt is known as 'Protectorate' and Cromwell was given an honourable position of Lord Protector.

Q Puritan age with the different names

- Protectorate
- The Parliament of the Saints
- Iron Government
- Commonwealth Regime
- Interregnum

Q What kind of the Protectorate govt.?

It was 'Presbyterian govt.' where the religious authority controlled the rule also known as Papacy.

When this govt started ruling they made many changes being religious they made people follow law, religion, culture and banned wine, public function, procession all sorts of pleasure. Because puritans think 'Pleasure is sin'. From 1649-1660 people had to face lots of trouble and they got fed up. Then public invited Charles-II.

Charles-II came with a very big army in 1660, he defeated puritans and established monarchy in England. Oliver Cromwell was died in 1658, so Charles-II defeated puritans easily.

This is also known as the Restoration Age.

Puritan Writer

John Milton (1608-1674)

He was born in London, studied in Christ College.

Who is called Lady of the Christ?

Milton was excessively fair, his delicate features his feminine personality made him to be called Lady of the Christ.

at that time women were not allowed to be the students. So Most of the students they just say that he has been called the Lady of the Christ but they don't know what is the actual meaning. Meaning is that Milton's friend would make fun of Milton by calling him that you are the Lady of the Christ college.

Milton initially wanted to be a clergy but after he completed his college in 1632 he moved to his relative place called Horton. He lived there for six years all alone and studied all the types of literature and languages. These six years of Milton are called Lost Years of Milton 1632-1638.

There were fashion to go highlands to understand or ^{learn about} society this were related to 'Yaelic Romances'. It was a fashion from Anglo-saxons Age where scholars would go for travel.

Scholars who travelled

were called 'Yaliards'

These years are also called Idorton Years. When he completed his studies he went out for tour Italy, France and England's highland tour in 1638-39. Idle was travelling Italy, France and England he cancelled his trip and returned when he got to know there is a civil war going on between the common man and Charles I. When he cancelled the tour he wrote a letter to his friend where he said "How I can be so mean to travel for intellectual gaining while my countrymen are fighting for freedom".

Idle came back he started writing pamphlets against Charles I. This resulted in execution of Charles I in 1649.

Idle married a lady Mary Powel. But because of Milton's stern puritan behaviour troubled Mary Powel. She was the girl of 17 years and Milton was 34. She left the house and ran away. This became an insult Milton was humiliated

Because he was the minister at that time Milton presented this matter into the parliament. Parliament scolded him for bringing the family issue in parliament. But Milton spoke and presented a pamphlet which is called the first ever pamphlet written on divorce. Milton defend it and said that woman they have been considered obstacle in the way of salvation. I am a puritan and my way of salvation is hindered by my own wife. Then the parliament agreed on topic they passed a verdict that a woman can't take divorce without the consult of her husband and if she does so it will be called adultery. Then Mary Powell came back she started living with him but after few years she died. Then Milton married again and the second wife was Katherine Woodcock she was the last wife but she couldn't survive.

Milton wrote an epithalamion to

welcome his new wife and the title ^{was} of wedding song is "Me thought I saw My late Espoused saint."

And Milton married for the third time but this third wife troubled Milton's life. Third lady was Elizabeth Mynshull but this time Milton died.

Milton's own work "Samson Agonistes" here the female villainous character is based on his third wife.

* He was famously called 'The greatest English author' by his own biographer William Gougeon.

John Milton's works

- * Ode On The Christ Nativity
Ode On The Morning of Christ Nativity
Nativity Ode 1629. First famous work of Milton
It is a religious hymn and totally dedicated to Jesus Christ. Milton is a devotee he praises Christ and thanks Christ for giving him the power of writing.

- * On Solis 2nd Birthday.
In 1631 Milton wrote a famous sonnet On Arriving at the Age of 23.
Here Milton says that I have completed 23 years of my life. It is a Petrarchan sonnet and whole theme is that the poet is not happy. Because he has completed his 23 years of life and have not yet achieved something great. As I am a poet and god has blessed me with the poetic powers but I could not utilize it. I ^{would} supposed to write about the god, to praise the god, talk about heaven and hell. But I could not