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Poetry

Major forms of Literature are Poetry, Prose and Drama. Poetry has ever been at the top level due to its musical element and that is way it is close to human heart. The term Poetry is derived from a variant of the Greek term 'Poises' means 'making'. Poetry is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed in meaning, sound and rhythmic language. Choices such as to evoke emotional response. Poetry is lofty thought or impassioned feeling expressed in imaginative words. Poets have given different definitions.

According to Carlyle - Poetry is musical thought

Wordsworth - "Poetry is a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings and it takes its origin from emotions recollected in tranquility Johnson "Poetry is musical composition"

Mr. Arnold " Poetry is a criticism of life by the Laws of poetic truth and Beauty"

It is of two kinds : Subjective and Objective

Subjective Poetry is personal and objective is impersonal - In the former the focus is something that is external or outward - a praise worthy act, a thrilling happening, a beautiful sight; in the latter it is the poet himself what ever the subject may be, his mind is centered on his own thoughts and feelings. Objective Poetry is older than Subjective Poetry. Though Subjective and Objective Poetry belong to two special categories, in real practice it is almost impossible to separate them from each other. Something Shakespeare's personality can be gathered from his dramas and much of Milton's 'Paradise Lost' and still drama and epic are objective kinds of poetry.

The Lyric :

It originally was a composition to be sung with a lyre or harp. It forms a part of personal poetry. It is a personal poem that throws light on the poet's own longings and feelings. It concentrates on a single emotion such as hope, despair, love, grief, devotion,

friendship or patriotism. There is a kind of unit of impression along with its musical nature. Musicality, subjectivity, unity, naturalness and brevity are its main qualities. 'To Blossoms' by Herrick is the best example.

The Ode :

An ode is a lyric in the form of an address, dignified in theme, feeling, style and tone. In ancient Greece, it was sung by a number of people in public on some important occasion. It expresses the feelings of a whole nation or tribe. It has got its three movements - strophe, anti-strophe and epode. The chorus move to one side during the strophe backward during anti-strophe and stands calm during epode. This is known as Pindaric ode (Dorian). Another kind is Horation Ode. We can say an Ode is a lyric with a high level of emotion and imagination, serious and even exalted or elevated in mood and language.

Gray's Progress of Poesy, The Bard, Shelley's Ode to West Wind Wordsworth's Ode to Immortality and Ode to Duty, Collins' Ode to Evening Keats's Five Great Odes are examples.

The Sonnet :

The term sonnet is derived from the Italian word 'Sonnetto' means little sound or song. It is a poem of 14 lines having a special rhyme scheme. Three basic forms of sonnet are : The Petrarchan, Spenserian and Shakespearean. The Petrarchan Sonnet is after the name of Petrarch who wrote the poems of 14 lines to express his love for his beloved Laura De Novi. It has two parts - Octave - 8 lines and sestet (6 lines). The rhyming of octave is abba, abba and sestet it may be either cde, cde or cdc, dcd or any other combination. The second type (Spenserian Sonnet) has three quatrains and a couplet

rhyiming abab, bcbc, cdcd and ee. The Shakespearean Sonnet has also three quatrains rhyiming abab, cdcd, efef and one couplet gg. It was introduced to England.

Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets and they were addressed to Dark Lady (Marry Fitton) or to his friend W.H. John Donne wrote sonnets on religious themes - grouped together under the title Holy Sonnets. G.M.Hopkins curtailed the form of Sonnet to 10½ lines and Pied Beauty is the example. Vikram Seth's *The Golden Gate* (1986) is a modern experiment in the sonnet form. The verse novel tells us a story in 13 chapters and 560 sonnets.

The Elegy :

It is poem of mourning and it offers a poet to express his sorrow on the death of his dear and near (personal / subjective) or the suffering of humanity in general (impersonal / Objective) S.T. Coleridge speaks of elegy as the form of poetry 'natural to a reflective mind'. It is written as a homage to something loved and purely lyric form (as in Tennyson's *Break, Break, Break*) and is often elaborate in style like the Ode. In this way in writing an Elegy, an English poet is not confined to any one form but Chooses whatever appears to him most suitable. Though some of the most touching poems of personal loss have been written in very simple language, the formal elegy generally aims at an effect of self-respect and solemnity without a strain of artificiality. In this regard Gray's *An Elegy written in the Country Churchyard* is the best example. The Pastoral Elegy is after the model set by the Greek Poet Theocritus. In it pastoral setting is created and the dead man is introduced as the shepherd. Nature is the active participant in the mourning. Milton's *Lycidas* (1637) Shelley's *Adonais* (1821) Arnold's *Thyrsis* (1861).

and *Rugby Chapel, In Memory W. H. Auden's In Memory of W.B. Yeats, Oliver Goldsmith's 'On the death of a mad dog' Tennyson's In Memoriam* are some noted examples.

The Epic

An epic is a long narrative poem with a heroic theme and dignified style. It throws light on the deeds of warriors and heroes. Its language is noble and sublime. It makes the use of supernatural machinery, gods and goddesses. The Iliad and Odyssey are Homeric Epics with Achilles and Odysseys as the heroes respectively. The Iliad recounts the story of the wars between the Greeks and the Trojans. The Odyssey relates the adventures of Odysseys during his return from the Trojan wars to his island home Ithaca. Secondary epic is known as legendary epic. The Maha Bharata and Ramayana are the examples of epics.

Examples

Dante's the Divine comedy, Spenser's The Faerie Queene, Byron's Don Juan though a satire, it has got many traits of epic. Keats's Hyperion, Browning's The Ring and The Book (1868) & Beowulf is Anglo Saxon epic.

The Ballod

It is a poem with a story, usually simple and varying in size. It deals with some patriotic or romantic theme. It is connected with folk convention. It was originally written to be sung for the bards or wandering singers who used to sing while wandering from village to village earning their livelihood. Conventionally it has a four-line stanza or quatrain having alternating four stress and three stress lines. The rhyme scheme is either abcb or abab. Coleridge's The Ancient Mariner, Keats's La Belle Dame Sans Merci, Sir Walter Scot's The Lay of The Last Ministrel, Cowper's John Gilpin are some well-known ballads.

Dramatic Monologue :

It is a kind of narrative poetry in which a single character speaks. It is dramatic as the poet expresses the character and situation through conflicts. It is addressed to someone. It found special favour with Robert Browning who may be called the chief

exponent though Lord Alfred Tennyson also used it with masterly skill as in Ulysses and Tithonus. It is cast in the form of a speech addressed to a silent listener. Its purpose is character-study or psycho-analysis. The person who speaks is made to reveal himself and the motives that impelled him at some crisis in his life or throughout its course. He may speak in self-justification contented, resigned, impatient or remorseful. What the author is intent on showing us is the inner man.

Allergory

A narrative poem or prose which carries a second meaning beneath the immediate surface account or any extended narrative which carries a II meaning along with its surface story. In other words a story, play, picture etc. in which each character or event is a symbol representing an idea or a quality such as truth, evil, death etc. Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress and Spenser's Faerie Queene are examples.

The Heoric Couplet

It is a rhyming complete in iambic pentameter. It is called 'heroic' because ten syllable iambic verse, whether it rhymes or not, is the usual form for epic verse in England celebrating heroic exploits. It was first used by Chaucer in England, who probably derived it from older French Verse. Many of his Canterbury Tales are related in heroic couplets. It was followed by spenser, Dryden and Pope imparted to it the easy vigour, strength and sweetness. They used it for various compositions drama, epic, satire and didactic verse.

The Blank Verse :

It is in iambic pentameter (Verse of five feet) in its unrhymed form. In other words poetry that has regular rhythm usually with the syllables of five stresses in each line but which does not rhyme.

The Spenserian Stanza :

For the Faerie Queene Spenser used a nine line stanza which has borne his name ever since. It consists of two linked quatrains in iambic pentameters rounded off with an Alexandrine rhyming with the eighth line : abab, bcbc, c The Augustans neglected it.

Byron adopted it for Childe Harold, Keats for The Eve of St. Agnes, Shelley for Adonais and the Revolt of Islam and Tennyson for the opening of The Lotos Eaters.

Terza Roma :

It is a Tercet - a stanza of three lines in which the first and third lines rhyme together and the middle one rhymes with the first of third of the succeeding tercet. It forms a unit in a running series of tercets, each of which sets the rhyme for the next. P.B.Shelley's Ode to West Wind' is a familiar example, Shelley's Thrimph of life, Byron's Prophecy of Dante and Browning's The Statue and the Bust are other examples.