

### Shakespeare the Artist

That Shakespeare is an artist hardly needs asserting in the present day. It is true that his art was probably far less self-conscious than that of Milton or of Tennyson, that it was probably more intuitive than aforethought. The distinction, however, is probably not so important as it seems. A great artist does not need rules or conscious analysis to tell him what is good and what is evil. Any analysis that may be necessary may be done sub-consciously.

As an artist Shakespeare is concerned almost wholly with the artistic worth of humanity. He is never preoccupied with that beauty of 'nature' which haunts so insistently the minds of modern poets. He uses it sometimes with the hand of a master, but his thought is centred on humanity and he passes on he rarely takes pains to emphasize the picturesque aspect

every distortion of constructions, the foreign idiom, the use of a word in a foreign way or with the meaning of the foreign word from which it is derived rather than the accepted meaning in English every idiosyncrasy is a particular act of violence which Milton has been first to commit. Milton's poetry is poetry at the furthest remove from prose." And F. R. Leavis has complained that Milton exhibits a feeling for words rather than a capacity for feeling through words. Thus the main charges against Milton are (i) Milton uses foreign idiom, words and syntax (ii) his poetry is at the furthest remove from prose, and (iii) Milton shows a feeling for words rather than a capacity for feeling through words. But at the same time there are critics like Mervel, Dryden, Pope, Wordsworth, Coleridge

light "

His best-known poem is the  
song from Aglaure, "Why  
so pale and wan fond lover?  
Which expressed a somewhat  
Donnean sentiment.

The end.

Munee Bhushan Sinha  
Deptt. of English  
S.S. College, Jehanabad