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"Kinds of Poetry"

Lyric - It is a poem which can be sung, according to the Greeks, to the accompaniment of lyre, a musical instrument. Now-a-days it has come to mean a short poem which expresses ~~the~~ thoughts and feelings. Lyrics are emotional poems mostly personal. Some of the sonnets too possess lyrical qualities. Lyrics are rich in verbal melody. Lyric may be devotional, patriotic, amorous and so on depending on the nature of the theme.

Sonnet - It is a short poem of fourteen lines dealing with one emotion or thought. Sonnet is of two kinds (i) Petrarchan Sonnet and (ii) Shakespearean Sonnet. Petrarchan Sonnet consists of two parts. The first part of eight lines is known as "Octave" and the second part which consists of six lines is known as "Sestet". The rhyme scheme of ~~the~~ Octave is 'abba', 'abba', and that of

Sestet is 'cd', 'cd', 'cd' or 'cde', 'cde'. The great followers of this type of sonnet in England were Milton, Wordsworth, Keats and Tennyson.

Shakespeare evolved a different type of sonnet by dividing fourteen lines into three stanzas of four lines each and a couplet at the end. The rhyme scheme is 'abab', 'cdcd', 'efef', 'gg'. This type of sonnet is known as Shakespearean sonnet.

Elegy - It is a poem lamenting the death of some near and dear ones. The emotions and expression are sincere. Some of the memorable elegies are "Break, Break, Break" and "In Memoriam" by Tennyson written after the death of Arthur Hallam, "Adonais" by Shelley on the death of Keats, "Thyrsis" by Arnold after the death of Clough and Gray's Elegy on the death of West.

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Pastoral elegy - In this type of elegy the poet laments the death of his companion in the garb of a shepherd living amidst nature. Nature too is personified and it also joins in the mourning. This type of elegy dates back to ~~Theocritus~~ 'Theocritus'. In it we find an invocation to the muse, classical allusions and the flora and fauna of the pastoral scene and the poet's challenge to the divine justice and then ending with a final reconciliation with the realisation that death is another form of reunion with God. The best example of pastoral elegy is Milton's 'Lycidas'.

Ode - It was originally a long poem with elaborate descriptions in formal language. Now-a-days it has come to mean a lyrical piece of poetry in the form of an address with a serious subject and lofty style. The noble theme must be death.

in a dignified style. We can find numerous examples of odes in English poetry. Odes written in imitation of Pindar are known as Pindaric odes. Pindaric odes in English are written on people, nations or even abstraction. Gray's "The Progress of Poetry" can be cited as an example.

Odes written in imitation of Horace are known as Horatian odes. It is less formal than Pindar and also less impassioned. The famous of Horatian odes are those of Keats and Collins's "Ode to Evening."

Ballad - Ballads are short narrative poems often anonymous and often meant to be sung. The stanzas are short and tell a story. For example Swinburn's "A Ballad of Dreamland" and Campbell's "Lord Ullin's Daughter". Coleridge's "The Ancient Mariner" is the best example of artificial ballad written in imitation of

the genuine ballad.

epic - Epic is heroic poetry dealing with events of national and international importance and also of legendary importance in detail in lofty style and dignified manner with an invocation to the muse. The characters belong to a high social status. Supernatural elements also play an important part in this kind of poetry.

"Ramayana" and "Mahabharata" are religious epics. Like the ballads, the epics were also of communal origin. They came to be known as "epics of growth" and later epics written in imitation of the original one's are known as "epics of Art". The best example of this type of epic is Milton's "Paradise Lost".

A poem which employs the convention, style and the machinery of the epic poem but deals with trivial themes is

Known as 'mock-heroic' or 'mock-epic poem', for example Pope's "The Rape of the Lock" and Dryden's "Mac Flecknoe".

Satire - Satire is that kind of didactic poetry which, in a humorous manner, points out our defects and also the defects of a community. Verse satire flourished during eighteenth century. Dryden, Pope and Dr. Johnson are the best known satirist of the age. Dryden's "Absalom and Achitophel", Pope's "Dunciad", Dr. Johnson's "London" are examples of good satires. There have been prose satirists too. Jonathan Swift is the most powerful among them. His "Spider and the Bee" and "Gulliver's Travels" are examples of best satires.

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Mune Bhusan Sinda
Deptt. of English
S.S. College, Tehanabad