

D. B. College Jaynagar Madhubani 03  
L. N. Mithila University Darbhanga  
Dept. of English Class - B.A. I  
Dr. Anand Kumar Paper - I  
Mob. No. - 9199895259 Topic - Elizabethan Poetry  
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2. The spirit of independence: The poetry of this period is remarkable for the spirit of independence. The poets refused to follow set rules of poetic composition. They did not observe set rules of grammar and prosody. Consequently, new poetic devices and new linguistic modes of expression developed. Flexibility and pliability in prosody resulted in good artistic results. Phonetic value of words in lyrics was recognised. New stanza forms were introduced.

3. Varied Poetical Forms: All varieties of poetic forms - lyric, elegy, eclogue, ode, sonnet, madrigal etc. were successfully attempted.

4. Main Divisions of Poetry: - The following main divisions of poetry existed during the Elizabethan period:

(a) Love Poetry: - The love poetry is characterised by romance, imagination and youthful vigour. Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella*, Spenser's *Amoretti*, Daniel's *Delia*, Marlowe's *Hero and Leander* and Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis* are some memorable love poems of this period.

(b) Patriotic Poems: The ardent note of patriotism is the distinctive characteristic of Elizabethan poetry. Warner's *Abbot's England*, Daniel's *Civil Wars of York and Lancaster*, Drayton's *The Baron's War* and the *Ballad of Agincourt* are some remarkable patriotic poems.

(c) philosophical poetry:- The fire and strength of people, becoming inward, resulted in a graver and more thoughtful national life. The tragedies of Shakespeare represent this aspect of national life. Brooke's poems on Human Learning, on wars, on Monarchy and on Religion have philosophical leanings.

(d) Satirical poems: It came into existence after the decline of imaginative vigour towards the end of Elizabeth's reign. Donne's Satires and Drummond's Sonnets are some fine examples of this type of Poetry.

5. Originality: The poetical production was not equal to the dramatic literature but it was of great and original beauty. The passion for poetry was absorbing, and the outcome of it was equal to expectation. The early Italian and classical influences were completely absorbed and the poetry of this period depicts the typical British character and temperament. Edward Albert writes: "The native English genius, having absorbed the lessons of foreign writers, adds to them the youth and ardour of its own spirit. The result is a fullness, freshness and grandeur of style unequalled in any other period of our literature. There are the lyrics and allegories of Spenser; the poems, dramas and lyrics of Shakespeare; and the innumerable miscellanies, poems and plays of other writers. The style is as varied as the poems, but the universal note is the sonantic one of power and wonder."

Dr. Anand Kumar  
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