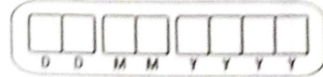


Section - III

"An Essay of Dramatic Poesy"



"An Essay of Dramatic Poesy" is written by John Dryden, who born in 9th August 1631. He is also known As "Father of English Criticism". He was a playwright poet, and Translator. Samuel Johnson called him Glorious "the father of English Criticism" because of this essay. Sir Walter Scott called "Glorious John".

This essay ~~wrote~~ ^{published} in 1669 by John Dryden. The essay begin with the battle between The England and Netherland. So Four people travell in a boat. and start a discussion on the Modern literature.

That four people travellers:

1. Crites - Sir Robert Howard
 2. Eugenius - Charles Sackville.
 3. Lisideius - Sir Charles Sedly
 4. Neander - Dryden himself
- ← Ancients
→ Modernists

The main theme of the essay:

The essay talks about five important areas emerged from the Discussions.

They are...

- ① What are the distinct merits of the ancient and modern poets?
- ② Can the French School of Drama be called superior to that of the English?
- ③ Can the Elizabethan dramatists be considered superior to Dryden's contemporaries of the seventeenth century?

4. Do plays acquire more literary worth by strictly adhering to the rules laid down by the ancient writers and critics?
5. What are the comparative merits of rhyming verse and blank verse?

The Form of the Essay....

Dryden has introduced Four persons engaged in a dialogue for the justification of the essay. The important Four persons are...

1. Crites : who defends the Ancients. It is evident that Dryden meant his own brother in law - Sir Robert Howard.
2. Eugenius : This is Charles Sackville, Lord Buckhurst to whom Dryden dedicated his essay. He is the Spokesman for the moderns.
3. Lisideius : He stands for Sir Charles Sedley. He defends the French Drama and is inclined to believe in the Superiority of the French over the English.
4. Neander : This is Dryden himself. He advocates the Superiority of the English over the French and the moderns over the Ancients. No one person states the whole truth. Every speaker makes his own Contributions to the discussion.

View of Crites :

He told for Ancients poet and speak that, They faithful and observe the Natural things. And also told that but in Modern period poets ignore the natural things. He says Ancients are best and next French according to Him.

View of Eugenius :

He told for the English literature of last age, which is Modern period and told about the fault of old-age. He criticise and blame the ancients for not establishing a fixed number of acts in a play as They wrote by the entrances of each character or chorus and not by acts.

View of Lisideius :

He support the French Drama. According to him in a Drama, Comedy, Emotion, Tragedy become separate to each other. French plays follow all the unities properly. Their plots are simple and not complicated like English plays. French plays are more Authentic.

View of Neander :

Neander the represent of English presents himself as a young English man and a scholarly gentleman with high regard to his nation. He speaks for England and liberty. Then Neander oneself to Lisideius And told that an essay of Drama in Comedy, Emotion and Tragedy should be together in Drama.

Then finally They debate one question and asking to each other. In Drama want rhymes, then after some time Crites say that Drama never want rhymes. Then Neander told that to Crites "you are right" but some Drama was very serious and characters were also various, So in the here rhymes more affective to the Blank words. So rhymes more important in Drama. then finally they reach, where the battle being and essay end.

Neander :-

- * He supports English plays.
- * Mixing of tragedy and comedy relieves our audience from the heaviness of the tragedy.
- * Lucius criticized English plays for showing violence or death over stage but Neander defends and says that death is the ultimate reality and English playwrights are only presenting lively image of nature.
- * Neander criticizes French dialogues saying that they are too cold and long and they would never suit the taste of the English audience.
- * He defends the violation of unities by English playwrights by saying that there is no harm in violating unities if the drama is fulfilling its purpose.

Critics —

- * He supports ancients
- * Moderns are dependent upon ancients
- * Moderns do not follow three unities as well
- * Ancients are law-givers and they should be the model for other writers to follow.

Eugenius —

- * Though Moderns have been profited by Ancients but through their own labour, they now excel the ancients.
- * Even ancients have not followed all the unities.
- * Ancients did not have any sense of division of the plays.
- * Ancients plays lack originality.
- * Ancients have not included emotions like love in their plays.

Lisideius —

- * He favours French plays.
- * Acc to him, French plays follow all the unities properly.
- * Their plots are simple and complicated like English plays.
- * Lisideius then criticizes English plays for mixing two different genres (Tragedy and Comedy)
- * French plays are more authentic
- * They prefer emotions over actions/plots (violence)
- * They write their dialogues in rhyming verse.