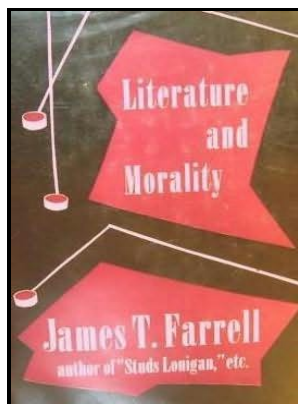


Literature and morality.

Kraus Reprint - Literature and Moral Purposes by Robertson Davies



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Mystery and Morality Plays

Moral purpose, if it asserts itself as it has done in much of the finest literature we possess, will come unbidden from the place where literature of the serious kind has its origin, and it will be part of the fabric of the whole work, and not something that can be abstracted and discussed as an element in itself. Even Henry James, the high priest of the finely crafted novel, showed flaws, at points where outraged artistic instinct refused to be bullied in the name of academic excellence. Céline, Ezra Pound, Chesterton and T.

Mystery and Morality Plays

Pickwick, he is an almost buffoon-like character, but when he is unjustly imprisoned, his character deepens and he becomes aware of the misery and injustice that is part of the society in which he lives. They are well aware of the sunlight, but they are driven also to examine the shadow that it inevitably creates.

Mystery and Morality Plays

The elephant dies in pain as it takes a very long time for it to actually lose its life after it has been shot. During the sixteenth century there was a ban on Miracle Plays by King Henry VIII, some were destroyed, and after they soon began to fade away in popularity. When, for example, one speaks of great works of imaginative literature that have an avowed moral purpose, one thinks at once of Paradise Lost, in which Milton the artist so overreached Milton the theologian that Satan emerges as by far the most interesting character in the poem, and we are all drawn to admire him; in Paradise Regained, where Satan is reduced from the proud rebel to a much lesser tempter and schemer, the genius of Milton seems to be less happy.

Stanford scholars debate the moral merits of reading fiction

In a very short time, I knew who all the people in the fantasy were, and what the outcome of the incident was. Its important champion was Gautier who believed that Art is not merely amoral, but anti-moral. Thomas Hardy, where life was complicated by opposed moralities and the uncontrollable workings of Destiny, and where God was decidedly not a loving Father.

Mystery and Morality Plays

There is some reason to believe that Valentine Vox had its effect in provoking investigation, but who reads it now? The deeper truths about human nature which form the foundations of great drama and fiction are of more enduring stuff. She was not wholly without kinks herself. But there is another kind of intuition, which is the slumbrous, slow-moving kind, and it is not so widely recognized.

Mystery and Morality Plays

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Literature & Morality

It was easy, I thought, to be a democrat if everybody toadied to you, and I wished that the Little Lord could spend a few days at the school I went to, where to be known as a tireless reader for I could not conceal it was to be an outcast.

Stanford scholars debate the moral merits of reading fiction

But now the Christian and Judaic world, or a considerable part of it, has done a moral U-turn and what was condemned is tolerated, if not countenanced, even among members of the clergy, who are expected to be moral exemplars. Also you should remember, that this work was already submitted once by a student who originally wrote it. When you do it, it's called rhetoric.

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