

A Valediction Forbidding Mourning
by : John donne

the early 17th century :

it started with king James the first and he used to be known as a harsh man .he was against some of the rule of Queen Elizabeth so he undo what she did before .one of the outstanding that's happened at this time the short peace settlement between Perlman and the Catholic broke out and the war started again .also the Perlman get stronger now and they started to oppose what the king will say.

there was a gap between the middle class and the upper class raised again there were a bad communication between then similarly to what happened in the early 16th century and the tudor time also the gap appears between the middle class and upper class as a result the hate between the people who were Catholic preventing from entering University and not accepted social gathering as a result a lot of writers start to express their anger at the treatment.

at that time anyone who are Catholic and or against the king will be killed or hanged . John Donne start to questions and solve being a Catholic is it a good thing or bad wars .

started the science and the discovery of other countries were expanding at that time the discoverer of algebra and math the discovery of geography and the earth moving around and the planets and it was all translated from Islamic books.

one of the Queen Elizabeth significance that her people were proud to be an Englishwoman and Englishmen at her time but at the James the first start to vanish and the seasons change from love as the Queen Elizabeth time to revenge at James the first period the theaters were closed and some critics said that it's become the dark age again.

John Donne

he lived in a Catholic family with his three brother as a result his father died early and his mother raised him up then she remarried and spends his life depending on Inheritance.

John Donne time any Catholic was forbidden to take a degree but he entered the Cambridge University , and he spent three years of college without taking a degree and at the time when he was at college brothers was hanged who was killed by the King james I because he was a priest and he said something against the government , as a result after his death of his brother he started questioning himself being a Catholic is this was a good sign or a bad thing, is it being a Catholic a bad thing?.

he gets married secretly with Anna who was running away for a while and she was pregnant and give the breath to 12 children and then she died after the last one. John Donne was not excellence with keeping a job he'd been on the wealth of his friends the woman he gets married with Anna her father forbidding her from Inheritance but after she died her father gives money for her children after all this did not help to support all the huge family so he started to write a masterpiece but was not printed at that time because is was limited during the role of the King James the first was Forbidden. and this did not stop the writers from writing after his death his works were published.

most of his works were satire he wrote about the life of Catholic at that time and his religious themes he started writing about religion themes after the death of his brother and starts rising strongly after the death of his wife about religious themes.

translation was a great role at that time many an interest of science was raised at that time many theaters were closed because they were opening a lot of countries the Catholic and Protagonist makes great problem there was a clash between the upper class and the middle.

Samuel Johnson saw through John Donne works that he can made his own school of poetry And called it the metaphysical schools by looking at the works of the writers at that time the emotion has disappeared below from the writing t and attached to the scientific and the pictures they used to use from nature were no more appearing farfetch metaphor is a object and compare it with another thing that is not related first on and he succeeds by using it and another conceptual metaphor and and themes of religion and revenge .

john donne applied the Neo-Platonic it's the study of the universe the position of the earth the Sun the Moon and other planets and that's who show that his love for his beloved as strong as the circle of the earth and the Sun and this appears in the early 17th century.

the language they used to use simple verb and a complicated rhyme to be easier and understanding their writing this structure is easy and erect and short stanzas it's might be a long one but and it'll be each stanza in one sentence.

Metaphysical Poems:

The poem "A Valediction: Forbidding mourning" is a typical metaphysical poem.

The word "metaphysical" means using words with their ordinary meaning, but are describing something by means of an image or symbol. This word is first used by the critic Samuel Johnson(1709-1784) and he used it as a despise term. It applied to a group of seventeen-century poets which he complained that their poetry has too much far-fetched meaning. That means they often use vocabularies from science or law that common people will not understand. For example, the word "spheres". He thinks that they are too proud of their wit.

There are several qualities the metaphysical poems have:

1. Use of ordinary speech mixed with puns, paradoxes, and conceits (a paradoxical metaphor causing a shock to the reader by the strangeness of the objects compared: some examples: lovers and a compass, the soul and timber, the body and mind).
2. Often poems are presented in the form of an argument.
3. In love poetry, the metaphysical poets often draw on ideas from Renaissance Neo-Platonism to show the relationship between the soul and body and the union of lovers' souls. For example, in stanza three: " moving of the earth" implies for earthling people's physical love and the trepidation of the spheres means their holy and noble love which based on spiritual contact.
4. Abstruse terminology often drawn from science or law. For example, the word " spheres" he used in this poem is a word used especially in science.

The Title:

“ A valediction “ is a Latin verb it is used by John Donne to show us that although, he did not take a degree, he well-educated man exposes to others cultures. When he saying the word “Forbidding Mourning” he want to say that he is writing a poem about farewell.

Explanation of the poem:

*As virtuous men pass mildly away,
And whisper to their souls to go,
Whilst some of their sad friends do say
The breath goes now, and some say, No:*

In the first part "stanza" he started his poem with simile which is good men and their soul passed away . He makes a comparison between the departure of him from his home and leaving his wife. This departure should be similar to the virtuous man whose soul passed away without a noise and pain to the extent the people around him and sitting beside him and they believe that he still asleep .

So the opening lines set beautifully by john donne starting a simple comparison and beautiful picture of these virtuous men and how their souls passed widely and smoothly without causing pain . He chose the word virtuous men because his wife a very virtuous lady. He gives us a sweet image although it about die .His wife in his eyes like these men and he want make their separation quietly and peacefully and that show clearly in second stanza.

*So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move;
'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.*

He express their love , he saying let us melt and make our departure so quietly like the soul when it departure the body of great man . He talk about the religious love and it is religious love because your love to god you don't show it to anyone. He doesn't want to show his love in the country at the 16th century when william shakespeare express his love in his poem and he want everyone know that he love his beloved .

In the religious love of the second stanza he use visual oral image because he didn't want anyone to know that he just left for a journey. he doesnt want to show the great affection that

he had to his beloved , he want keep it secret . maybe because he was a catholic and maybe because he lived in early 17th century and they were hidden their feeling and being a catholic not to express what they believe as a religious guy . this is what was effect him when he wrote about his own love .this is one of the major difference between the early of 17th century and late 16th century .

Moving of th' earth brings harms and fears,

Men reckon what it did, and meant;

But trepidation of the spheres,

Though greater far, is innocent.

He gives us a simple direct image from our daily life .He tend us to capture closely to scientific fact when he say “ moving of the earth “ he referring to geography science , to the earthquake . He compared the earthquake if it happen in the any country it will cause a damage and pain with the bigger one if it happened in the universe we don't even feel it . but yet without such movement things will not continue in the normal way .the earthquake here means the earthly love . He wants make their love above that which is spiritual love .

Dull sublunary lovers' love

(Whose soul is sense) cannot admit

Absence, because it doth remove

Those things which elemented it.

He moved from spiritual love to the bad physical love . He dont wants their love based only on physical love because they will feel a pain if they separated .

But we by a love so much refined,

That our selves know not what it is,

Inter-assured of the mind,

Care less, eyes, lips, and hands to miss.

he talk about the physical love that is not important as much as spiritual love .

*Our two souls therefore, which are one,
 Though I must go, endure not yet
 A breach, but an expansion,
 Like gold to airy thinness beat.*

He goes deeper in scientific fact and he referring to it when he say that our souls therefore are one . He goes on to encourage their love , they are two people becoming one soul and when they are one soul they will be like gold .he use beautiful image which is show us that although,he believed that everyone even physical lovers they were say we are one soul but actually when the separated they feeling pain .He said to his wife they are one soul because the strong religious love and if he go and far away will be expanding like the mental gold.

Some critic says that John Donne choose the gold to show the value of their love .Some historian says at John Donne time the gold started to rise higher and very much of value . Other critic says that he might referring to the wedding ring.

*If they be two, they are two so
 As stiff twin compasses are two;
 Thy soul, the fixed foot, makes no show
 To move, but doth, if the other do.*

He say that if his beloved still believed that they are can not be one soul .he compared their love to the compass in which the setting foot is his beloved and he is the moving one.

*And though it in the center sit,
 Yet when the other far doth roam,
 It leans and hearkens after it,
 And grows erect, as that comes home.*

he goes on and said they will make a perfect circle and his beloved is the one will helps to make this great circle. She makes him strong and she the one who guided him and push him to go .

*Such wilt thou be to me, who must,
Like th' other foot, obliquely run;
Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end where I begun.*

the circle refers to the circle of universe and the circle of life . some critics say he was linked it to the idea of gold . he ending the poem referring to the wedding ring again .

the general prospect of the whole poem and link it with the age :

- when he said "virtuous men " it might be referring to the religious catholic people at that time and being avoided from the king james I .
- *So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move;*

he is celebrating the earthly love and refer to it as a religious love to end later on in the physical part .

- *'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.*

this is addressed one of the characteristic of john donne , he want their love to be hidden. this will show us also he is against the renaissance movement , of showing their love to everyone.

- *Moving of th' earth brings harms and fears,
Men reckon what it did, and meant;
But trepidation of the spheres,
Though greater far, is innocent.*

here he referring to metaphysical idea in which he comparing the earthly movement with heavenly movement .

- *Our two souls therefore, which are one,
Though I must go, endure not yet
A breach, but an expansion,
Like gold to airy thinness beat.*

very important prospect presented by john donne . this is what we call the far-fetched metaphor

when he use gold and when he use the compass in which he drew the conclusion that their love can be regarded as a compass . one that he introduced that he will be moving foot in the one of stanza and in the other stanza his beloved the setting foot

the structure and the theme of (A Valediction Forbidding Mourning) :

lyric poem consist of nine stanzas each stanza has 4 line with rhyme scheme abab .the language is direct, simple and he use a new technique of writing . he use a lot of metaphor

the language :

the poem as whole is full of complex ideas at the same time it is a fundamentally love poem. disturbance appear in the calm serves of his language re feeling that his own true emotions are suppressed only with difficulty that there is a strong undercurrent of physical learning for the women .

the theme :

1- the theme of the death : the death is the one of the themes john donne addressed in his poem. in the first stanza when which he talk about the virtuous men. he show his departure from his wife it is like a death for him but it only for a short time .

2- the Spiritual love: one of the john donne addressed is the Spiritual love .when he refer to it when he talk about ordinary physical love and it is not important as a Spiritual love.

3-the science: which he elaborate the technique of science in his feeling or emotions. referring to the universal earthquake and it is not harmful as the earthquake, using the science image like the compass and the gold .