

RENAISSANCE

The Renaissance was a complex intellectual movement which changed the face of entire Europe in the 16th century by marking a swing from the middle ages to the modern times. It literally means 'revival' or 'rebirth'. The capture of **Constantinople** by the Turks in **1453** caused the flight of Greek scholars to the West European countries with their important manuscripts. With this event interest in ancient Greek and Latin classics, neglected in the middle ages, was revived, and it led to an avid interest in man and his affairs. This revival of learning is known as **Renaissance**. The 'revival of learning' encouraged the study of ancient Greek and Latin classics, the rich store house of ancient wisdom. Greek and Latin writers, historians, philosophers became popular. This phenomenon gave birth to the **Hellenism**(love of Greek literature and mythology) and **Humanism**.

In the Middle Ages universe was **theo-centric**, but now it became **geo-centric**. Belief in here and now and encouraged secular attitude. Humanism, therefore, the recognition of the central position of man in the universe. It encouraged individualism and immense potentialities of human mind.

Many ideas of Renaissance were moulded by **Machiavelli**, an Italian political thinker and philosopher. He advocated his philosophy in **The Prince**. **Bacon** and

Marlowe were the disciple and exponent of his ideas. Renaissance was marked by the following features:

Study of Classical Texts

The advancement of Learning

Geographical Discoveries

Scientific Outlook

Humanism

Individualism

Quest for Knowledge

Love of wealth and Success

Love of beauty and nudity

A new sense of awe and wonder

The 16th century saw the flowering of the Renaissance. This Movement had profound influence on life ,religion , and literature. The spirit of Renaissance is captured in the literature of the age. **Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser ,Bacon and Marlowe** were the literary exponents of Renaissance. **Bacon** was the most complete representative of Renaissance in England. His essays present him as a Machiavellian in his personal outlook and an opportunist in politics. His Essays are the handbook of the practical wisdom. Another great writer was Shakespeare. His plays express many Renaissance Ideas through dramatic characters. In **Hamlet** “

What a piece of work is man” In **Tempest, Miranda** express a new sense of wonder “ **How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world**”. The most vigorous and eloquent expression of the Renaissance is found in the plays of **Christopher Marlowe**. His plays reflect the Renaissance spirit in toto. His Characters like **Tamburlaine** and **Dr. Faustus** sums up the essence of Renaissance. He is a rapturous lyricist of limitless renaissance ambition.

Representative Authors

Representative works

Elizabeth Carey

The Tragedy of Mariam

Miguel de Cervantes

Don Quixote

Desiderius Erasmus

The Praise of Folly

Niccolo Machiavelli

The Prince

Christopher Marlowe

Dr Faustus

Michel de Montaigne

The Essays

Sir Thomas More

Utopia

William Shakespeare

Hamlet

Dr Shashi Kant Mishra

Dept. of English, I T College.