

John Donne

classmate

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John Donne was a love poet.

Ans. John Donne's love poems are intense and subtle analysis of all moods of a lover expressed in vivid and startling language which is collected rather than conventional. The greatness of Donne's love poetry is largely due to the fact his experience of the passion ranged from its lowest depths to its highest reaches. There is hardly any respect of love between man and woman which he has not described in his numerous poems. He is a great love poet, because his poetry records and communicates the diverse experience of love. His biography tells us that he has enough experiences of love's many moods from the most cynical to the most idealistic one. It is true that his personal experiences of love must have been at the root of most of his love poetry but it does not seem proper to associate all his poems to the events or episodes of his own changing moods. Joan Bennett has rightly discussed his love poems in these words, "That he scorned, hated, lusted after, loved, worshipped, there can be little doubt for anyone who has read his poetry and his biography confirms it".

Donne wrote his love poems in reaction against the Petrarchan and the Elizabethan tradition of love poetry. Donne used Petrarchan conceits and the dramatic form in his love poems but for a different purpose. He used them to satirise the exaggerations and to mock at them.

Donne's descriptions of the joys of union are as delightful as his handling of the phenomenon of separation is original while many of his poems describe tortures, agonies and torments of unreciprocated love. In other poems he celebrates the reciprocated