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Sub :- English (M.A, Sem-1, CC-1, Unit-4)

Topic :- Metaphysical Poetry - The Good Morrow
by John Donne.

Q) A critical appreciation of the poem "The Good Morrow" written by John Donne.

Ans) John Donne is well known as a metaphysical poet but as a poet of love he is superb. In range and poignancy he is the greatest of love poets. His love is based on his experiences. There are three strains in his love poetry - the cynical showing contempt for women and their inconstancy; the platenic expressing the union of souls and making it a spiritual realization and the conjugal emphasizing the physical and sensual pleasure. The present poem "The Good-Morrow" is one of the best example of platenic love.

In the very first line of the poem, the poet ~~is~~ wonders that what he and his beloved did before they fall in love with each other. He regards their former pleasures as childish and rustic and their earlier life as a long sleep in which

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They were similar to the seven sleepers, seven young men of Ephesus who took refuge in a cave during persecution and were entombed there. They were found alive over two centuries later." Here the poet wants to point out that their earlier life was unsubstantial and unreal. He declares that those beautiful women whom he loved and whose love he could get, now seems to him as mere visions or reflections of the beauty of his present beloved.

The Second Stanza of the poem begins with a common salutation, which is usually exchanged when we awaken in the morning. Here it refers to spiritual awakening when the poet awakens to the all-absorbing nature of his love. It is an awakening to a new life and this constitutes the central metaphor of the poem. So love, not fear restricts their attention to each other and make their little room a world. No voyage or map-reader can find a world more wonderful than they find in each other.

In the last stanza the poet and his lover are no more two physical bodies, but they are united, he can see his own face reflected in his beloved eyes, she her own in his. Their hearts are reflected in their faces, their faces reflect their love. He ~~very~~ further compares their world with the

globe. In their globes - their faces - there is no sharp northern or Southern declinations, and there is no polarity and differentiation. This comparison we find in *The Sun Rising* also where he proves that the entire world is in the room where the lovers are laying.

At last the poet claims that whatever dies is made up of unequal compounds. If their love for each other is equally intense, neither of the two can die, for it is only the mixture of unequal element which is subject to decay.

The poem provides a fine example of Donne's wit, "This wit consists in the contrast between the two worlds; the world of lovers and the geographical world. In the subsequent stanzas it is pointed out that the world of love is as spacious and as good as the physical world. The poet has proved that dissolution is impossible if the two souls are one, mutuality can make love immortal.