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Topic :- "The Sunne Rising"

Critical appreciation of the poem 'The Sunne Rising' written by John Donne.

John Donne was born in 1572. He was a famous Metaphysical poet. If we use metaphysical as a term to define a specific style not a philosophy, Donne is certainly the leader of the metaphysical school of poets. Donne introduced a highly intellectual imagery into his poem to illustrate feelings. Donne did it with a deliberate audacity bringing opposed objects and providing them likeness in a surprising way.

The Sunne Rising is a dramatic lyric in the form of a dialogue between the poet & the Sun. However the poet's beloved is the silent listener present in the background throughout.

In the very first line we find that contrary to the tradition, which is generally considered as the source of power and respect, is addressed a

old fool by the poet. He said that the Sun is an interfering old fool which does not care for any rule and regulation. He is angry with the Sun because it has disturbed him in his love making by peeping through the windows and curtains of his bedroom. He warns it that the lovers are not bound by the change which are caused by its movement. He called it an old wretch and orders it to leave his room. He suggested ~~him~~ to wake up the school boys who are getting late for school and prentices for being unwilling to work. It should tell the courtiers to get ready to join the king for hunting and also tell the hard working farmers to collect their harvest from the field. He again warns it that it should not disturb the lovers because they are not bound with the sub-division of time for example seasons, climates, hours, days and months.

Again he challenges the Sun that why does it suppose that its rays are so effective and so worthy of respect. He further says that he can eclipse its rays by closing its eyes but he does not want to do so because he is not ready to loose his beloved sight for a single moment. He even challenges

the Sun that if it is not blinded by the brightness of his beloved eyes than tomorrow he should inform him whether all the species and gold mines are at its place. If it will not find them there then it can find them here in his bedroom. He again asks it to find those king whom he had seen yesterday in different parts of the world, It will find that all of them came together in his bedroom. Here we find Donne's wit, he has shown how the world of the lover is said to be a microcosm of the outside world. Donne's wit is seen in the way in which the East and the West Indies and the kings of the world are all yoked together to illustrate the all-sufficient nature of true love.

The third stanza, however, brings forth the traditional antithesis. The riches and glory of the outside world are nothing as contrasted with the glory and wealth of love. For the poet his beloved is equal to all states and princes and by possessing her, he himself is equally rich as king and princes. He even ~~exaggerated~~ exaggerated his great love by saying that all the princes only imitate them to show themselves happy but they are not

able to half happy as they are. He further adds that in comparison to the glory of their love, all other glory is mere mockery and other wealth is false and deceptive.

At the ~~to~~ end again the poet addresses the Sun that ~~it~~ is also not as happy as he is because it is alone and does not have a beloved like his own. He comments once again about his old age. He says that it is his duty to keep the world warm and as it's age need rest, which is urgently needed in his old age. So the Sun need no longer wander round the world, for the world has contracted into the bedroom of the lovers, and its duty will be completed by warming their little room because by shining here ~~it's~~ light will be spread everywhere. Their bed will be its centre and the four walls of their room will mark the limit of its orbit.

On the whole 'The Sunne Rising' is a love poem. The poem is characteristic of Donne's Colloquial manner. Convention is broken. Conventionally the Sun has been glorified as God but to Donne, it is a 'busy old fool'. This is another fine example of Donne's metaphysical wit - an essential emotional perception is carried to its logical conclusion.