



Death Be Not Proud
By
John Donne
(1572-1631)

Programme:
B.A.

Class:
BA Part-I

Subject:
English

Paper – 'A'
Poem – IIInd



About the Poet

- Educated at Oxford, Cambridge and Lincoln's Inn.
- Donne wrote a new kind of poetry called "Metaphysical Poetry".
- Wit, conceits, satire are the main characteristics of his poetry.

About the Poem

Stanza Ist

- Death should not feel proud of itself.
- Death is neither powerful nor fearful.
- Death cannot kill anyone because the soul is immortal.

Stanza IInd

- Rest and sleep are the pictures of death which give us a lot of pleasure.
- Death itself should also give us much more pleasure.
- Best men also die very soon. Death gives rest to their bodies and make their souls immortal.

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Stanza IIIrd

- Death is a puppet in the hands of fate, chance, ruthless kings and bad persons.
- Live in the bad company of poison, war and disease.
- Death is a kind of sleep but opium and magic can also bring us sleep in a better way.
- Death is a kind of short sleep after which man's soul wakes up forever.

Style of the poem

- This poem is a sonnet, consisting of fourteen lines.
- Written in Italian-Petrarchan style with octave rhyming scheme – ABBA, ABBA and sestet CDDC ending with a couplet of two lines EE

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