

## Comment on Andrew Marvell's use of wit and conceits in his poems.

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Andrew Marvell (1621–1678) is famous as a metaphysical poet. One of the most important features of metaphysical poetry is wit and conceit. Wit means clever thinking and sharp intelligence. Conceit means a surprising and clever comparison between two very different things. Marvell uses wit and conceits in a very intelligent but simple way in his poems. His wit makes love poetry thoughtful, and his conceits make abstract ideas clear and memorable.

**Marvell's Wit and Conceit:** Marvell's wit lies in his ability to mix emotion with logic. He does not only express feelings of love. He also uses arguments and clever ideas to explain love. His conceits help him compare love with time, geometry, fate, and the universe. These comparisons may look strange at first, but they make the meaning deeper and clearer.

**Wit and Conceits in To His Coy Mistress:** In *"To His Coy Mistress,"* Marvell uses wit to persuade his shy beloved to enjoy love before time runs out. The poem is based on the *"carpe diem"* idea, which means *"enjoy the present moment."* At the beginning, Marvell uses wit. He says that if they had enough time, he would love her slowly for thousands of years. He would praise her beauty part by part:

*"An hundred years should go to praise*

*Thine eyes..."*

This is a clever exaggeration. It shows his wit. He knows such time does not exist. But he uses this idea to flatter her. Then comes one of the most famous conceits in English poetry:

*"Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near."*

Here, Marvell compares time to a fast-moving chariot. This conceit is very effective. It gives the idea that death is always coming closer. He warns her that after death, her beauty will be gone. So, Marvell proposes to her to enjoy love now, while they are still young and fresh.

Again, we find a witty and shocking remark about the grave:

***"The grave's a fine and private place,  
But none, I think, do there embrace."***

Here, he calls the grave "private," but then reminds us that love is impossible after death. This witty line strengthens his argument that love should be enjoyed in life. At the end, Marvell uses another strong wit. He says lovers cannot stop time, but they can make it "run" by living fully:

***"Though we cannot make our sun  
Stand still, yet we will make him run."***

This shows Marvell's clever wit. He turns a sad truth into a powerful and hopeful idea.

**Wit and Conceits in The Definition of Love:** In *"The Definition of Love,"* Marvell's wit is quieter and more intellectual. This poem talks about pure but impossible love. The conceits here are serious and philosophical. At the beginning, Marvell uses a striking conceit. He says his love was born from:

***"Despair  
Upon Impossibility."***

This is a very clever idea. Normally, love is born from hope. But here it is born from despair. It immediately gives us an idea that the poet's love can never be fulfilled. The lovers can never meet.

One of the best conceits in the poem is the comparison of lovers to parallel lines:

***"Though infinite, can never meet."***

Parallel lines go on forever but never touch. This is a perfect conceit to explain two people who love each other deeply but can never unite. It is simple, logical, and powerful. Marvell also uses the image of distant poles to show separation:

*"Us as the distant poles have plac'd."*

This conceit makes love feel grand but tragic. Fate becomes a cruel power that keeps lovers apart.

**Simplicity and Effect:** What makes Marvell special is that his wit is not confusing. His conceits may be clever, but the ideas behind them are clear. He uses everyday things, such as time, lines, and space, to explain deep emotions. His wit helps the reader understand love, time, and fate more easily.

To sum up, Marvell's use of wit and conceits is one of the greatest strengths of his poetry. His conceits turn abstract ideas into clear images. Marvell's wit and conceits make his love poems deep, memorable, and truly metaphysical.