

Write a Short Note on “Unified Sensibility” in Metaphysical Poetry.

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"Unified Sensibility" in metaphysical poetry refers to the seamless blending of thought and feeling within a poem. T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) notably highlighted this concept. He admired how metaphysical poets, especially John Donne, combined these elements effectively.

John Donne's poetry is a prime example of unified sensibility. His poems often combine deep intellectual ideas (thoughts) with intense emotional experiences (feelings), creating complex emotions through vivid imagery and clever metaphors. For example, in the poem "The Sun Rising," Donne explains his striking thought that the lovers create a whole world for themselves in their bedroom. They are complete in themselves, and they need nothing else.

She's all states, and all princes, I,

Nothing else is.

These lines blend striking thoughts with the intense emotion of love. Donne's witty argument and playful yet persuasive tone showcase how he can blend logical reasoning with passionate emotion. Another example is "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning." Here, Donne compares the love between him and his wife to a compass. The compass's two legs represent the lovers, who remain connected even when physically apart.

If they be two, they are two so

As stiff twin compasses are two;

Thy soul, the fixed foot, makes no show

To move, but doth, if the other do.

This metaphor illustrates not only the strength and depth of their love but also Donne's intellectual genius and emotional depth.

Donne's poetry often addresses themes like love, death, and faith, connecting them with philosophical reflections and personal emotions. His innovative use of language, paradoxes, and striking metaphors exemplifies metaphysical poetry's unified sensibility.

LxNotes