

Batter My Heart Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

Apostrophe

An apostrophe means speaking directly to someone who is not present or to something that cannot respond. In this poem, the speaker talks directly to God as if God is right in front of him.

Example:

"Batter my heart, three-person'd God"

The speaker is talking to God with strong emotions, asking Him to enter his heart.

Metaphor

Comparing two different things without using "like" or "as."

Example:

"I, like an usurp'd town to another due"

The speaker compares himself to a city that has been taken over by the enemy (Satan or sin). He says he really belongs to God, but his soul is now under the enemy's control.

Personification

Personification is giving human qualities to something non-human. In this poem, the speaker personifies Reason. The speaker says Reason (a part of his mind) is like a weak person who cannot help him.

*"Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd..."*

He treats reason like a person (a guide or helper) who has failed in doing his duty.

Symbols

The Usurped Town: In the poem, the usurped town is the symbol of the speaker's soul, which is taken over by sin/Satan. This city (his soul) really belongs to God. But sin has taken control of it. This symbol shows how the speaker feels trapped by sin. He wants God to fight and win him back.

LxNotes