

The Metaphysical Poets Quotations

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Quotes

"A thought to Donne was an experience; it modified his sensibility."

(Explanation:

Donne's ideas were not just thoughts; he felt them deeply. His thinking changed his emotions and imagination.

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"They do not feel their thought as immediately as the odour of a rose."

(Explanation:

Later poets could not feel their ideas naturally. Their thoughts were slow and lifeless compared to real emotions.

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"The poets of the seventeenth century... possessed a mechanism of sensibility which could devour any kind of experience."

(Explanation:

Seventeenth-century poets could deeply feel and express all experiences like love, pain, or knowledge with balance and power.

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"They think; but they do not feel their thought as immediately as the odour of a rose."

(Explanation:

Modern poets only think intellectually; they cannot feel their thoughts instantly and emotionally like the older poets could.

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"When a poet's mind is perfectly equipped for its work, it is constantly amalgamating disparate experience."

(Explanation:

A great poet unites many different experiences—happy or sad—into one deep artistic feeling.

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"In the seventeenth century a dissociation of sensibility set in, from which we have never recovered."

(Explanation:

After the 17th century, poets lost the power to unite thought and feeling, and that loss never healed.

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"Fidelity to thought and feeling."

(Explanation:

A true poet must be honest to both ideas and emotions—neither should be fake or separate.

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"The effect is due to a contrast of ideas, different in degree but the same in principle."

(Explanation:

Poetry gains strength through sharp contrasts of ideas that still connect to the same truth.

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“Telescoping of images and multiplied associations.”

(Explanation:

Metaphysical poets joined many images and meanings quickly by creating rich and surprising effects.

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“Poets in our civilization, as it exists at present, must be difficult.”

(Explanation:

Modern poets must be complex because modern life and thought are also complex.

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**“The most heterogeneous ideas are yoked by violence together.”
(by Dr. Samuel Johnson)**

(Explanation: T

he metaphysical poets joined very different or opposite ideas in one poem.

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