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Study Material - 3
 UOI Paper - I

A DEEP STUDY OF THE ART OF JOHN DONNE

Donne, the son of a wealthy merchant, was born in London. His parents were Roman Catholics and he was educated in their faith before going on to Oxford and Cambridge. Donne was the most independent of the Elizabethan poets and revolted against the easy fluent style stock ~~and~~ imagery and pastoral conventions of the followers of Spenser. He aimed at reality of thought and vividness of expression. His poetry is forceful vigorous and in spite of faults of rhythm

often strangely harmonious. His cynical nature and keenly critical mind led him to write satires such as of the Progress of the Poet. They were written in the couplet form later to be adopted by Dryden and then by Pope and show clearly often coarsely and crudely, Donne's dissatisfaction with the world around him.

His love poems - the songs and sonnets, were written in the same period and are intense and subtle analyses of all the moods of a love expressed in vivid and startling language which is colloquial rather than conventional. A vein of satire runs through these too. The rhythm is dramatic and gives the illusion of excited talk. He avoids the smooth, easy patterns of most of his contemporaries preferring to arrest attention rather than to lull the senses. His great variety of pace, his fondness for echoing sounds his deliberate

of reasoning a blend of insight and deduction a mixture of the heavily and the lightly and the subtle and the serious which make his full of variety and surprise. It is in these many characteristics, so widely differing yet often brought together in a striking finish, that the genius of Poe is applied.

Probably the most distinctive feature of the metaphysicians is their imagery which is dense in almost invariably casual and striking often quaint - taking but sometimes direct - detached old doctrine from his wide range of knowledge he draws many remarkable comparisons perfect. I can see like the legs of a pair of compasses love is a spider which transubstantiates all, his sick body is a map his physicians cartographers and death his South-West direction. Poe's prose work is considerable both in bulk and achievement.

They reveal the struggle in
 his mind before taking orders
 in the English church his haunting
 of death and the fascination
 which it had for him, his
 search of the will of God
 and his longing for God's love
 they are the expressing of a
 deep and troubled soul. In them
 we found the intellectual sub-
 tlety, the scholastic learning
 and the wit and conceits of
 the love poems. We give here
 one of the holy books. It was
 but the intensely personal
 note and the concern with
 death which are so typical of
 Donne's religious works. He affects
 the metaphysical, said Dryden
 of Donne and the term metaphy-
 sical has come to be applied
 to Donne and the group of
 poets who followed him.
 strictly the word means based
 on abstract general reasoning,
 but the poetry of Donne shows
 more than this. It reveals a
 depth of philosophy a subtlety