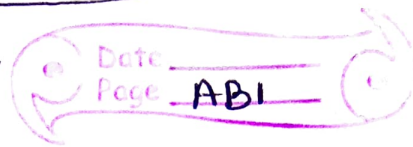


Chaucer as the father of English Poetry



Chaucer is regarded as the father of English poetry and the first of the great moderns. In those dark days when the light of modernism ~~was~~ had not yet been visible on the horizon. Chaucer anticipated the modern taste and the modern mind, and his poetry introduced qualities far in advance of his time. Though, Chaucer could not write a drama or novel as we know it, yet his works contain the seeds both of the modern drama and the novel. If he had lived a few years more, he would certainly have been the first English dramatist and novelist just as he is the first national poet of England.

Chaucer made several contributions to English poetry and his debt is so great that it can never be repaid even by the most panegyrics that may be written for

him. Chaucer enlarged the scope and range of the poet, introduced minute observation of life around him. gave vivid and clear descriptions of the conditions of his time excelled in characterisation, humour pathos, made narratives on art and above all gave a new form and shape to English language and reosification. As E. Albest says, "All the Chaucerian features help to create this modern atmosphere: the shrewd and placidly humorous observation, the wide humanity, the quick aptness of phrase and the dexterous ~~touch~~ touch upon the metres, and above all, the fresh and formative spirit - the genius turning dross into gold." With these remarks let us examine the various features of Chaucer's poetry and his main contribution to English literature.

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