

## **METAPYSICAL POETS: DONNE, HERBERT AND MARVELL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the major characteristics of the metaphysical poets—John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell. It explores their intellectual depth, complex metaphors, the blend of religious and philosophical themes, and the significance of metaphysical conceits in the evolution of English poetry.

**KEY WORDS:** Metaphysical poets, John Donne, George Herbert, Andrew Marvell, Metaphysical conceit, Intellectual poetics, Religious themes, Philosophical imagery, Seventeenth-century English poet Metaphoric expression

### **АННОТАЦИЯ**

В данной статье анализируются основные особенности творчества метафизических поэтов — Джона Донна, Джорджа Герберта и Эндрю Марвелла. Рассматриваются интеллектуальная глубина, сложные метафоры, религиозные и философские мотивы, а также роль «консита» и зической образности в развитии английской поэзии.

**КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА:** Поэты-метафизики, Джон Донн, Джордж Герберт, Эндрю Марвелл, метафизическое представление, интеллектуальная поэтика, религиозные темы, философские образы, английский поэт XVII века, метафорическое выражение

### **ANNATATSIYA**

Ushbu maqolada metafizik shoirlar—Jon Donn, Jorj Herbert va Endryu Marvell ijodining asosiy xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Ularning she'riyatida aqliy teranlik, murakkab metaforalar, diniy va falsafiy mavzularning uyg'unligi ko'rsatib beriladi. Metafizik obrazlar, "conceit" uslubi va intellektual poetika orqali ingliz she'riyati taraqqiyotidagi o'rni yoritiladi.

**KALIT SO'ZLAR:** Metafizik shoirlar, Jon Donne, Jorj Gerbert, Endryu Marvell, Metafizik mag'rurlik, Intellektual poetika, Diniy mavzular, Falsafiy tasvirlar, XVII asr ingliz shoiri Metaforik ifoda

## **INTRODUCTION**

The metaphysical poets were a distinctive group of seventeenth-century English writers who introduced a new intellectual and philosophical depth into poetry. Among them, John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell stand as the most influential figures. Their works are characterized by unconventional metaphors, complex imagery, and a unique blend of emotional and intellectual expression. This article examines the major features of their poetry and the role they played in shaping English literature.

### **JOHN DONNE (1572-1631)**

John Donne is widely considered the founder and central figure of metaphysical poetry. His works display intense emotion, bold imagery, and sophisticated reasoning. Donne frequently employed "metaphysical conceits" — extended, surprising comparisons that connect distant or unrelated ideas. In poems such as "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning", he compares lovers to the two legs of a compass, highlighting both unity and independence. Donne's religious poetry, especially in Holy Sonnets, explores themes of sin, repentance, salvation, and the human struggle with faith. His style is energetic, dramatic, and intellectually challenging, making him the leading representative of metaphysical wit.

### **GEORGE HERBERT (1593-1633)**

George Herbert represents the more spiritual and devotional side of metaphysical poetry. A priest and deeply religious writer, Herbert used poetry as a medium to express his relationship with God. His works are known for their sincerity, humility, and structural creativity.

Herbert often experimented with poetic form to reinforce meaning. For example, “The Altar” and “Easter Wings” use visual shapes to reflect their themes. His language is simple yet profound, blending emotional devotion with metaphysical reflection. Unlike Donne’s dramatic tone, Herbert conveys calmness, purity, and inner contemplation.

### **ANDREW MARVELL (1621-1678)**

Andrew Marvell stands between the spiritual seriousness of Herbert and the bold intellectualism of Donne. His poetry combines political commentary, philosophical meditation, and delicate lyricism. Marvell’s famous poem “To

Coy Mistress” illustrates carpe diem philosophy, exploring time, desire, mortality, and the fleeting nature of life.

Marvell’s metaphors are both vivid and subtly ironic. He deals with themes of nature, love, and human existence with clarity and elegance. His balanced style makes him one of the most versatile metaphysical poets.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF METAPHYSICAL POETRY**

The works of Donne, Herbert, and Marvell share several defining features: Metaphysical conceits: elaborate and surprising metaphors linking distant ideas. Intellectual depth: poems require reflection and reasoning rather than simple emotional response. Philosophical and spiritual themes: discussions of life, death, the soul, time, love, and the divine. Conversational tone: direct address to the reader or a silent listener. Blend of emotion and logic: strong feelings expressed through rational argument.

### **CONCLUSION**

John Donne, George Herbert, and Andrew Marvell made significant contributions to English poetry by transforming the way emotion, thought, and imagery were expressed. They challenged traditional poetic forms and introduced a deeper philosophical dimension to literature. Their works continue to be studied for their originality, complexity, and lasting influence on the development of English poetry

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