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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ The term '*Reformation*' refers to the religious and political upheavals caused by the new Protestant religion in the early sixteenth century.
- ❖ Reformation began in most of the European countries in the 16th century in order to reform the abuses in the *Roman Catholic Church*. In its essence the Reformation was a revolt against conventions which had lost the justification and had become fetters intellectual and spiritual progress rather than aids to its advancement.
- ❖ It was a revolt against the Roman Papacy, and ultimately shattered the supreme position of the Pope which he enjoyed throughout the Middle Ages. Reformation was thus an attempt at taking Christianity back to the original religion of Jesus Christ and the Holy Bible.

- ❖ The *Reformation* meant the application of the spirit of enquiry to the religious sphere had manifested itself in a bitter opposition to the exaggerated authority of the Church as an indispensable intermediary between man and his God.
- ❖ However ,Reformation may also be regarded as the manifestation and extension of the renaissance.
- ❖ The reformation was started first of all in Germany by reformer Martin Luther in the early 16th century.



CAUSES OF REFORMATION

- ❖ Out of many causes of the reformation, the prevalent corruption in the Catholic Church was the chief cause.
- ❖ The Pope possessed the power to interdict and even excommunicate the kings of continental countries.
- ❖ The immense religious powers were misused for terrorizing the rulers of different Christian kings, along with receiving large sums of money from rich tenants by granting them pardon for their moral vices.
- ❖ Extravagance and corruption had become a hall mark of monks and the friars, who lived a life of luxury and vice, rather than helping and saving people from sin.
- ❖ So the contemporary age, age reacted sharply against these evils and were full of hatred for the Pope.

- ❖ As early of 14th century John Wycliff had attacked the corruption in the Church and having read Wycliff writings, John Huss in Bohemia (modern Czechoslovakia) led a similar movement early in the 15th century against the Church in his own country and was burnt at the stake. The English kings like William the conqueror William Rufus. Henry 2nd had already shown stiff resistance against the Pope. But it was Henry 8th, who revolted openly against the Roman Church.
- ❖ This was the beginning of the split of Church between Protestant and Catholic. A great part of Germany became protestant and repudiated the authority of the Pope. But the movement was not confined to Germany alone. In Switzerland the reform movement was taken up by a Zurich priest, Zuwingli and later on by French man, Jon Calvin.

- ❖ The movement of reformation received further support from the renaissance humanists. The most important of these was Erasmus (1466-1536), a Dutch man who traveled over most of Europe and lived for a time in England and lectured at Cambridge for three years early in the 16th century.
- ❖ Another important event that helped the reformation was a fresh translation of *Bible* by Miles Coverdale. Copies of the Bible were ordered to be placed in churches and soon after any one could possess a Bible. Bible becoming common, more and more people read the scripture for themselves and repudiated the Pope and Roman Catholic doctrines.



INFLUENCE OF THE REFORMATION ON ENGLISH LITERATURE

❖ *NOURISHED RELIGIOUS LITERATURE* :

Like the Renaissance, the Reformation also left its mark on English Literature. Religious Literature was produced in England under the impact of the Reformation.

❖ It gave England its Bible, preparing the way for the Authorized Version of the Bible which was produced in 1611. Tyndale's *Bible* and *The Book of Common Prayer* are the glorious achievements of the Reformation. Tyndale based his translation of the Bible on the original sources.

❖ *Spenser* and *Milton* were the children of Reformation who mixed both the *Renaissance* and the *Reformation* in their works. Spenser's four *Hymns*, *The Fairie Queen* and Milton's *epics* and religious play *Samson Agonistes* all are imbued with the spirit of Reformation.

INSPIRATION OF CHRONICLE WRITING :

- ❖ The Reformation also encouraged writers to pen chronicles. Edward Hall and Raphael Holinshed, who wrote ***Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland (1577)***, were the famous Chroniclers of the time. They helped to establish the ‘Tudor myth’ of English history much drawn on by poets, including Shakespeare.
- ❖ John Stow between 1561 and 1604, published eleven editions of his summaries of English Chronicles . John Speed got his history of Great Britain published in 1166, and William Camden’s History of the Reign of Elizabeth, written in Latin was published in 1615 and translated first into French, and then into English in 1625.



THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE


- ❖ The Reformation preferred to speak to the people in their native tongue, English, to Latin and this tendency led to the growth and development of the English language and English prose.

Poetry :

Poetry owes little to the Reformation. The poets kept aloof from it as secular, though frivolous. But ***Spenser*** and ***Milton*** revealed deep influence of ***Reformation*** fused with the element of ***Renaissance*** in their works.

Drama :

English drama suffered a setback. The ***Reformation*** advanced ***Puritanism*** which gave to drama in the age of ***Milton*** a severe blow.



CONCLUSION

- ❖ The Reformation in England stood side by side the Renaissance as an Elizabethan compromise between Protestantism and Catholicism in which the authority of the Roman Church was replaced by the English Church, and the Latin copy of the New Testament by the English version of the same text.
- ❖ This spirit of compromise between the warring *Catholic* And *Protestant* factions of the time gets reflected in the literature of the age as well. More important than this compromise is the one between Reformation and Humanism, which the English writers as well as statesmen and theologians made possible. *Thomas More* and *Shakespeare* are the best examples of the fine combination of humanism and Christianity.



- ❖ More's *Utopia* and Shakespeare's play strike a happy reconciliation between the humanist emphasis on reason and the Christian emphasis on faith.
- ❖ Edmund Spenser's *Fairie Queen* and Marlow's *Doctor Faustus* reflect a similar reflect a similar compromise between the humanist quest for learning and the Christian need for faith .
- ❖ Reformation under Martin Luther (1483-1546) were so occupied with things of deeper moment that they sacrificed that culture of the Renaissance. The Reformation generated counter-reformation. In England the Renaissance was from the very beginning permeated with the free spirit of the Reformation.



IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

Question 1.

- ❖ Trace the influence of Reformation on English Literature?

Question 2.

- ❖ Briefly define the term Reformation?

Question 3.

- ❖ Describe the growth and development of English Language under the Reformation?

Question 4.

- ❖ What were the causes of Reformation?



DECLARATION

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THANK YOU

