The Influence Of John Donne: His Uncollected Seventeenth-Century Printed Verse

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His Divine Poems, as his religious verse is called, is marked by an intense feeling of piety, by a brooding thought on the subject of death and a strong faith in Resurrection. Learning in Metaphysical poetry. John Donne has made a characteristic use of ideas and experience and the most startling connections are discovered between them. When the use of conceit fails in its purpose, Dr. Johnson’s remark “the most heterogeneous ideas are yoked by violence together” seems to be justified and when it succeeds one thinks rather of Coleridge’s remark that imagination shows itself in “the balance or reconciliation of opposite or discordant qualities.” Religious poetry came to be written under the influence of the seventeenth century metaphysical poets.