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Thesis Title	A Study of John Donne's Secular and Religious Selected Poems		
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Abstract	<p>The seventeenth century was an age of certain changes; changes that had affected everything in that age, politically, religiously, and economically. It was the age that witnessed the emergence of the witty minds that did not accept any thought or phenomena unless being proved scientifically. Intellectually the level of learning was very variable and extended to include most sciences and branches of knowledge that were changeable continuously, since the 17<sup>th</sup> century was the age of development and discoveries in all levels. Such a milieu produced many witty minds that kept various kinds of knowledge, those of their age and of what was forthcoming.</p> <p>As a man living in such age and witnessing its changes and developments in all levels, Donne reflected all that in his poetry, amorous and religious with an eager curiosity to discover and experience more about that changeable world around him.</p> <p>John Donne was not known as a distinguished literary figure in his time, because nearly most of his poems were read among close friends through manuscript form. He became of interest after the publication of his prose and poetry by Herbert Grierson at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the essay of T.S. Eliot at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, leading to the revival of the metaphysical poetry and Donne as its master.</p> <p>Donne emerged from a rigid Catholic family, taught by special Jesuit</p>		

tutors, and studying in the Inns of Court almost most branches of knowledge and learning that were an additional intellectual accumulation added to his infinite curiosity to know, understand, and experience everything around him.

Affected by such world around him, Donne presented this affection within the experiences he went through. In love poetry, he knocked almost all its strains; cynical, platonic, sensual, and conjogical and in some poems he presented a blend of the physical and spiritual aspects of love relationship in a very logical way.

In religious poetry he presented himself as a believer, son of God, one of his poor creatures and a suffering human being, pleading to God for salvation, mercy and grace.

This study aims at showing Donne's witty metaphysical style reflected in both types of his poetry, in presenting his way of dealing with life, with concepts as love, separation, physical and spiritual union, religion, death, and ultimately his dealings with God as a suffering soul asking, pleading, and hoping of God's eternal love in heaven.

The study falls into three chapters and the conclusion. Chapter one is composed of two parts. Part one is an introduction to the beginning of the seventeenth century with its rapid changes, the main characteristics of the metaphysical poetry, its imagery, the most notable poets who imitated Donne's style and so were named as metaphysical poets, the most familiar themes discussed by such poets, the origin and causes of acquiring such kind of poetry such nomination. Part two deals with Donne's life, personal and professional. His social milieu, his concepts beliefs, and how did reflect them in his poetry in addition to the opinion of different critics on this kind of poetry from different periods after the seventeenth century.

Chapter two deals with Donne's love poetry, its main characteristics, the differences and similarities that he shared with his contemporaries, and the types of love poems that he wrote. This chapter will deal with his Platonic strand, discussing nine love poems that share withthn themselves his ideas concerning the essence of true love, separation, death, and the physical-spiritual union between the two lovers which he considered the essence of a

human being, leading ultimately to his notion of eternity of the two lovers in life and the after life.

Chapter three will deal with Donne's religions poetry, it main characteristic, the method that he followed in writing his religious poetry and his genius dramatic energy in presenting himself as a tortured soul wavering between its desire for salvation and God's mercy, pleading God and hoping to gain God's eternal love in heaven.

The conclusion will sum up the finding of the study, proving the similarities between the two types of his poetry, amorous and religious concerning the concepts of love, death in relation to God.