

Shakespeares Religious Background

Robert F. Fleissner

Shakespeares Religious Background:

Shakespeare's Religious Background Peter Milward, 1973 For England the sixteenth century was above all an age of religious upheaval Behind the glittering procession of Tudor monarchs were dragged the bruised consciences of their unfortunate subjects Then at the end of the century came the genius of Shakespeare who gave in his plays the very age and body of the time his form and pressure To what extent we may ask does the religious upheaval of his time feature in these plays Apparently not all is the surprising answer But apparently is not the same as really For when we study the plays in relation to the religious movements of the Elizabethan age we find unsuspected depths of meaning and implication In these depths we may discern the various echoes of the continuing force of Catholic tradition the developing establishment of Protestant reform the gathering onslaught of radical Puritanism and the steady growth of religious indifference These currents and cross currents of the age are all reflected to a greater or lesser extent in different plays But it is only when the plays are taken together that there emerges a characteristic moral and theological viewpoint which may be regarded as Shakespeare s own It even seems that so far from ignoring the religious issues of his time it was precisely on this point that Shakespeare felt most deeply so deeply perhaps that it was impossible for him to express his feelings in anything but the most enigmatic modes As he made Hamlet exclaim in a somewhat analogous situation But break my heart For I must hold my tongue Peter Millard Religion in the Age of Shakespeare Christopher Baker, 2007-09-30 Shakespeare s plays were the product of his culture and reflect the daily life of Elizabethans This book examines the religious background of his works and helps students use his plays to understand religion in Elizabethan England The initial chapters survey the role of religion in Shakespeare's world The volume then looks at religion in his plays and how productions from different periods have addressed the religious issues of his drama A chapter then overviews criticism on Shakespeare and religion while a selection of primary documents illuminates his religious milieu Students often find the Elizabethan world fascinating yet challenging The same can be said of Shakespeare's plays which reflect the daily life and concerns of Elizabethan England and grew out of his milieu Written for students this book illuminates the religious life of Elizabethan England promotes a greater understanding of Shakespeare's plays and uses Shakespeare's works to examine Early Modern religious culture The volume begins with a quick overview of the origins of Elizabethan religious traditions followed by a more detailed consideration of the chief religious beliefs and concerns of Shakespeare's world It then discusses the role of religion in Shakespeare's plays This is followed by a look at how various productions have interpreted his religious concerns A review of criticism on Shakespeare and religion follows along with a selection of primary documents related to religion in his world A glossary defines key terms and concepts and a bibliography cites print and electronic resources for further study Literature students will welcome this book as a quide to Shakespeare s plays while history students will value it for using his plays to examine religion in the Early Modern era Shakespeare's Religious Background Peter Milward, 1985 For England the sixteenth

century was above all an age of religious upheaval Behind the glittering procession of Tudor monarchs were dragged the bruised consciences of their unfortunate subjects Then at the end of the century came the genius of Shakespeare who gave in his plays the very age and body of the time his form and pressure To what extent we may ask does the religious upheaval of his time feature in these plays Apparently not all is the surprising answer But apparently is not the same as really For when we study the plays in relation to the religious movements of the Elizabethan age we find unsuspected depths of meaning and implication In these depths we may discern the various echoes of the continuing force of Catholic tradition the developing establishment of Protestant reform the gathering onslaught of radical Puritanism and the steady growth of religious indifference These currents and cross currents of the age are all reflected to a greater or lesser extent in different plays But it is only when the plays are taken together that there emerges a characteristic moral and theological viewpoint which may be regarded as Shakespeare's own It even seems that so far from ignoring the religious issues of his time it was precisely on this point that Shakespeare felt most deeply so deeply perhaps that it was impossible for him to express his feelings in anything but the most enigmatic modes As he made Hamlet exclaim in a somewhat analogous situation But break my heart Shakespeare's Religious Allusiveness Maurice Hunt, 2019-10-28 Shakespeare's For I must hold my tongue Peter Millard Religious Allusiveness complicates debates about whether Shakespeare's plays are fundamentally Protestant or Catholic in sympathy challenging analyses that either find Protestant elements consistently undercutting Catholic motifs or less often discover evidence of the playwright's endorsement of Catholic doctrine and customs Rather Maurice Hunt argues that Shakespeare's syncretistic method of incorporating both Protestant and Catholic elements into his plays was singular among early modern English playwrights at a time when governmental and social tolerance of Protestantism in the theatre was high and criticism of stereotyped Catholicism was correspondingly rampant in drama In depth discussions of The Two Gentlemen of Verona the Second Henriad All s Well That Ends Well Twelfth Night and Othello reveal how Shakespeare allusively integrates Reformation Protestant and Roman Catholic motifs and systems of thought This book sheds new light on the playwright s knowledge of and interest in Elizabethan and Jacobean religious debates over the nature of spiritual reformation the efficacy of merit for redemption and the operation of Providence It will appeal not only to Shakespeare scholars but to those interested in the cultural history of the Reformation **Shakespeare's Religious Language** R. Chris Hassel Jr., 2015-03-26 Religious issues and discourse are key to an understanding of Shakespeare's plays and poems This dictionary discusses over 1000 words and names in Shakespeare's works that have a religious connotation Its unique word by word approach allows equal consideration of the full nuance of each of these words from abbess to zeal It also gradually reveals the persistence the variety and the sophistication of Shakespeare's religious usage Frequent attention is given to the prominence of Reformation controversy in these words and to Shakespeare's often ingenious and playful metaphoric usage of them Theological commonplaces assume a major place in the dictionary as do overt references to biblical figures biblical

stories and biblical place names biblical allusions church figures and saints Religions in Shakespeare's Writings David V. Urban, 2020-12-10 Offering a wide range of scholarly perspectives Religions in Shakespeare's Writings explores Shakespeare's depictions throughout his canon of various religions and matters related to them This collection's fifteen essays explore matters pertaining to Catholic Anglican and Puritan Christianity the Albigensian heresy of the high middle ages Islam Judaism Roman religion different manifestations of religious paganism and even the religion of Shakespeare practiced by Shakespeare's nineteenth century admirers These essays analyze how Shakespeare depicts both tensions between religions and the syntheses of different religious expressions on topics as diverse as Shakespeare's varied portrayals of the afterlife religious experience in Measure for Measure and Black natural law and The Tempest This collection also explores the political ramifications of religion within Shakespeare's works as well as Shakespeare's multifaceted uses of the Bible Additionally while this collection does not present a Shakespeare whose particular religious beliefs can definitely be known or are displayed uniformly throughout his canon various essays consider to what extent Shakespeare's individual works demonstrate a Christian foundation Contributors include John D Cox Cyndia Susan Clegg Grace Tiffany Matthew J Smith Bethany C Besteman Sarah Skwire Feisal Mohamed Benedict J Whalen Benjamin Lockerd Bryan Adams Hampton Debra Johanyak John E Curran Emily E Stelzer David V Urban and Julia Reinhard Lupton Shakespeare, Religion and Beyond Robert F. Fleissner, 2010-10-19 A daring look into the art and technique of one of history's most celebrated literary scholars Shakespeare Religion and Beyond is a detailed documentation on that attempt to shed light on a missing piece in a cryptic puzzle As described by Robin L Inboden Ph D Wittenberg University Fleissners s book summarized interrogates and extends both long held assumptions about Shakespeare's work and newer claims alike His speculative web of connections among plays the life the religion and the literary inspirations of Shakespeare links the unexpected and thus suggests potentially fruitful avenues for further study Shakespeare Survey: Volume 54, Shakespeare and Religions Peter Holland, 2001-10-04 Shakespeare Survey is a yearbook of Shakespeare studies and production Since 1948 Survey has published the best international scholarship in English and many of its essays have become classics of Shakespeare criticism Each volume is devoted to a theme or play or group of plays each also contains a section of reviews of the previous year s textual and critical studies and of major British performances The books are illustrated with a variety of Shakespearean images and production photographs The current editor of Survey is Peter Holland The first eighteen volumes were edited by Allardyce Nicoll numbers 19 33 by Kenneth Muir and numbers 34 52 by Stanley Wells The virtues of accessible scholarship and a keen interest in performance from Shakespeare's time to our own have characterised the journal from the start For the first time numbers 1 50 are being reissued in paperback available separately and as a set **Shakespeare and Religion** Alison Shell, 2014-09-22 This book sets Shakespeare in the religious context of his times presenting a balanced up to date account of current biographical and critical debates and addressing the fascinating under studied topic of how Shakespeare s writing was perceived by literary contemporaries both Catholic and Protestant whose priorities were more obviously religious than his own It advances new readings of several plays especially Hamlet King Lear and The Winter's Tale these draw in many cases on new and under exploited contemporary analogues ranging from conversion narratives books of devotion and polemical pamphlets to manuscript drama and emblems Shakespeare's writing has been seen both as profoundly religious giving everyday human life a sacramental quality and as profoundly secular foreshadowing the kind of humanism that sees no necessity for God This study attempts to reconcile these two points of view describing a writer whose language is saturated in religious discourse and whose dramaturgy is highly attentive to religious precedent but whose invariable practice is to subordinate religious matter to the particular aesthetic demands of the work in hand For Shakespeare as for few of his contemporaries the Judaeo Christian story is something less than a master narrative

Shakespeare and Biography Katherine Scheil, Graham Holderness, 2020-09-23 From Shakespeare's religion to his wife to his competitors in the world of early modern theatre biographers have approached the question of the Bard's life from numerous angles Shakespeare Biography offers a fresh look at the biographical questions connected with the famous playwright's life through essays and reflections written by prominent international scholars and biographers

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In a time characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its capability to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Shakespeares Religious Background**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned with a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring affect our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book is central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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