

2ed Stage
Fifth Lecture

George Herbert:

Born & death: Wales city in the United Kingdom 1593-1633
died of consumption

Education: University of Cambridge 1609-1616 MA.

Posts & Career: Poet, public orator and priest *Starts working in the church After the death of king Jane*

Fame & Reputation: The talk of the countryside in the last three years of his life. *preached and prayed, visited the poor, stay at the bed of dying*

Notable Work: “ His poems were published in “ The Temple”
the book was published after his death by his friend.

Herbert is best known for his poetry, which was published posthumously under the title **The Temple**: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations (1633). His poems are characterized **by a precision of language, a metrical versatility**, and an **ingenious use of imagery** or conceits that was favored by the metaphysical school of poets such as John Donne. Many of Herbert's poems are of a **religious nature**, often revealing his own spiritual struggles and the solace he found in the priesthood. He also wrote a book of principles for the guidance of rural clergymen, *A Priest to the Temple, or the Country Parson* (1652). George Herbert became one of the major metaphysical poets being greatly influenced by John Donne because Donne was his mother's friend. Though Herbert started his career writing love poems, he burnt all his love poems and devoted himself and his poetry to **religion**. His poetry is characterized by the following:

1. Herbert draws most of his images from nature, music, the church and church furniture.
2. He pays great attention to form and in most of his poems there is strong correspondence between form and content. The visual shape of the poem in print is sometimes very important.
3. He is a master of a special sort of the metaphysical conceit where the conceit is implied by the whole poem as in "Easter Wings" and "The Collar".
4. He pays special attention to the titles of his poems. Sometimes the title is never mentioned in the poem and sometimes the conceit is in the title itself as in "The Pulley" and "The Collar".
5. Due to his love of music (especially the lute), he pays special attention to rhythm, metre and rhyme- scheme in his poems. His poems are highly regular.
6. Most of his poems deal with his inner conflicts as a priest.

Easter Wings

Lord, who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:
With thee
O let me rise
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.

My tender age in sorrow did beginne
And still with sicknesses and shame.
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.
With thee
Let me combine,
And feel thy victorie:
For, if I imp my wing on thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.

Easter: A christian holy day in March or April when they remember the death of christ and his return to life.

It will give them **the chance to overcome sins** by believing in christ and becoming like him.

In a nutshell, according to Christianity, **christ's sacrifice, life us out of sin and sadness like a pair of wings.**