Ceirra Ivette Montanez

Mrs. Billy

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Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Elizabeth Barrett Browning had an amusing life as a poet. Elizabeth Barrett was born March 6, 1806, in Durham, England. Barrett was the oldest of twelve other children. In 1837, suffered from a very chronic disease. Her father was very strict and protective, he would keep her in the house most of the time. Barrett married Robert Browning in September 1846. They wed secrecy, and moved to Italy freeing her from her father’s home

Barrett’s first book was “Essay on Mind with Other Poems,” this book was published in 1826. Woman back then were represented as objects of poet’s desire or quest. Gender was a very big issue when it can to poems in this time period. In mid1820’s Barrett struggled to find poetic role. In most of Barrett’s poems she represented the poetic character as a men intill mid 1840’s. She also studied the masculine languages, Latin and Greek. By 1833 Barrett was able to produce translation of Aeschylus’s Prometheus Bound.

Barrett’s first volume of original poetry was “ The Seraphim and Other Poems,” this was published in 1838. She worked toward a letter in female poetic as she regretted lack of worldly experience. Barrett started speaking with more confidence in her poems.

*The Seraphim and Other Poems,* in this poem she adopts Greek tragedy , two angel’s watching the crucification. This poem also avoids the problem of gender poetic voice by using a very dramatic form. This presented visionary truths though un-gendered voices of the angels.

*A Song Against Singing*, this poem represents fallen human nature that can sing imperfectly. *The Island*, *The Deserted Garden, My Dove’s, The lost Bower, The Romance of Swan’s Nest,* and *Hector in the Garden.* All of these poems expresses regret for lost innocence, submission to God’s will and Prayer “Heavenly Promise”. The dominate tone of the poem’s is melancholy. The Reviewer reffered to as “virile”.

*The Romaunt of Margret, A Romance of the Ganges, The Romaunt of the Page, The Lay of the Duchess May,* and *Bertha in the Lane.* These poems represent balled romances about a woman’s tribulation in love.

*Lady Geraldine’s Courtship,* is about a highborn lady that accepts the love of as lowborn suitor, because he is a poet and noble. *The Cry of the Children,* protests against the exploition of children in factories and mines. *The Runaway Slave at Pilgram’s Point*, is about ferocious and anti-slavery.

*Casa Guidi Windows, Barrett wrote this poem in 1848.* This is a still- confined poetic vision type of poem. *Aura Leigh,* was written in 1857, this poem is a novel- poem. It was also written in 3rd person, it represents social restraints imposed upon woman of that time period.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning is a momentous poet in the 1800’s for woman. Unfortually she ended up passing away in 1861, that was 28 years before Robert did. Some people believed that he died of a broken heart.

Works cited

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