MILLICENT TSIKE

DISCUSSION POST 1

EVERYMAN.

The play from the previous class helped me to visualize the reading and I must confess it was awesome. The story to my best of knowledge tells everyman to look well and ponder over the end time as well as seek our ways to salvation. This morality play seems to me like a sermon that acted out. The action begins in heaven where God sends death to summon the main character, everyman-a typical human being who has neglected his spiritual life but repents his sins in time to be saved. Thereafter the action takes place on earth. The language of the play is Middle English which I somewhat found difficult to comprehend when I started reading but I liked it anyway.

Again I noticed that the dialogue contained a lot of rhymes. An example in God’s speech is- Drowned in sin, they know me not for their God; In worldly riches is all their mind, They fear not any righteousness, the sharp rod.

God’s messenger, death often speaks in couplets: e.g. Everyman will I beset that liveth beastly out of God’s laws, and dreadeth not folly; He that loveth riches I will strike with my dart, His sight to blind and from heaven to depart ,Except that alms be his good friend, In hell for to dwell, world without end.

I do not know much about much about Catholics but from my point of view the play represents a Roman Catholic doctrine where person attains eternal reward through good work and reception of the sacraments of the church such as confession (penance) and the Holy Eucharist. Another observation that depicts in a Roman Catholic point of view is the mentioning of” ‘Mary’s” name as this is peculiar to the Catholics.

In a nutshell the theme of the play shows that no human being can escape final judgment, thus no man can flee from this task but in order not to be found wanting on the day of reckoning everyman must lead a holy and virtuous earthly life that includes doing good and not sin, as well as ignoring material gains.