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A MIND DRAWN BY A WORD

A meditative dimension of selected epigrams by Richard Crashaw (1612–1649)

Summary

The analysis of the relation between religious meditation and epigram representing domain of poetry shows their own common place, a very interesting matter for further research. Reading verses as well as meditating could draw one's mind to concentrate on an intriguing sign for some time. The process of rereading the text supplies deeper theological senses, spiritual satisfaction and an opportunity to contemplate an object in a way of acquired contemplation following ordinary mental prayer. This drawing role is successfully played by a conceit, when its form (*acutum*) enchants the mind and it is equivalent to the stirring moment of meditating reason.

The epitome of these proprieties is a collection of epigrams by Richard Crashaw. Their Christ-centrism expresses itself in taking into consideration selected mysteries of Jesus' life presented in the sharpness of meanings crossed in conceit. It is done via accurately selected requisites as well as a variety of poetical and rhetorical means. This young English poet created short verses that strike a reader's attention and prompt it to consider the prepared literary form and to meditate or contemplate the mystery of Saviour realizing a significant element of the Roman Catholic Church's theory of meditation. The poetical genius of the author supported by good artistic work and connected with his religion zeal causes that this ability of drawing of a reader works still in the charming way.