

Christopher Marlowe

U.G. Semester III

MJC – 04

Unit -3

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

Christopher Marlowe (1564-93) is the most intellectual of the playwrights during the Elizabethan age in English literature. The period known for unprecedented literary activity in England, finds its genius, chiefly in drama whose most eloquent spokesman was William Shakespeare. Marlowe is undoubtedly, the greatest of Shakespeare's predecessors in drama. To him, goes the credit of heralding the powerful English tragic drama that remains, even today, as one of the chief achievements of English literature. Marlowe died very young, before he was thirty, in suspicious circumstances but left about half a dozen tragedies all written in a period of five years --- **Tamburlaine** (1587), **Doctor Faustus** (1586), **The Jew of Malta** (1589), and **The Massacre at Paris** (11592). Endowed with vast biblical and classical scholarship, a rebellious spirit and poetic imagination, Marlowe marks the end of an adolescent phase in English drama and begins its mature tragedy.

Christopher Marlowe

U.G. Semester III

MJC – 04

Unit -3

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

In effecting this transition, Marlowe had to attempt to reconcile the traditions of medieval Christianity with rise of the Reformation, on the one hand, and reconcile these two with the continental Renaissance humanism and the revival of the fascinating classical learning and literature, on the other. Additionally, there was the linguistic and lyrical upsurge of the blank verse and its liberating tone of freedom from the rigors of metrical verse. Whatever Marlow wrote was poignant, for he could never separate his personal yearnings from his dramatic reflections. A very striking personality and a powerful dramatist, he is a significant part of a still greater tradition of the Elizabethan drama --- tragedy in particular, which was taking shape in his time. Marlowe is judged with a sense of regret that he died young and that his talents left many a masterpiece unwritten, especially in view of the fact that Shakespeare, similarly gifted could achieve greatness with longer years of life

Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz Alam