

Explication Essay for The Canonization

The Canonization is a work that deals with love. In this work, Donne is questioning why whom he loves matters so much. In the first paragraph, Donne is pleading for any forces to allow him to love who he wants. As for how the piece is structured and broken up, the piece is divided into paragraphs with a number denoting every five stanzas. There are forty-five stanzas, and the piece has five paragraphs. The writer uses the first-person point of view throughout the piece, and the narrator is the writer himself. This is made clear when the writer is talking about his love for a girl, and he tries to drive home the point that his love does not hurt anyone. The major plot points seem to be when the writer is going through trials for his love. The overall tone of the piece has a longing to it, with the tone remaining that way throughout the entire piece with no shifts in tone. As for any locations described, I do not see a location mentioned or implied. A pattern I could note throughout the piece was the use of the AABB rhyming structure, the ABAB rhyming structure, the AABA rhyming structure, and the ABCA rhyming structure.

What the piece seems to be saying is that the writer should be able to love the certain girl he has in mind, without any interference from the King, God, or any outside force. It says this when the writer asks who or what is injured by his love. “What merchant ships have my sighs drowned?” is a rhetorical question meant to ask what harm there is in allowing him to love. The writer uses rhyme and diction to convey his wants and desires, especially for the person he loves. The piece does hold some meaning for me. It shows how someone is willing to lay down everything in their life to go after who they see as the worthiest to be with. The world and even their life does not matter to them as long as they can be with their lover or the person of their dreams. He emphasizes this by making a reference to the eagle and the phoenix. The eagle was mystified to die and then be able to rise from the ashes as a phoenix, born anew. The writer, Donne, makes a reference to the phoenix since he wants to make a point that like his lover, he will die and rise anew. At the end of the poem, Donne makes a passionate plea for a pattern of his love.