

Brief Investigations Metaphysical poetry:

Herbert: Writing as a poet or priest: Aaron, Jordan I, Jordon II

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Metaphysical poetry: Herbert: Writing as a poet or priest: *Aaron, Jordan I, Jordon II*

Aaron

- Take one line at a time, and follow through that one line in all the stanzas
 - What is the structure?
 - What is the progress of the argument?
 - Clue: look at the words at the end of each line.
 - Trace the word 'dead' through the poem
- Can you work out the symbolism?
- Although the form of this poem seems really quite simple, the meaning takes a great deal of working out
 - Why do you think this is?

Jordon I

- Do you think Herbert is being a little disingenuous in *Jordan I*?
 - Is his verse is always straightforward?
- Is pastoral poetry always complex?
- Is Herbert condemning all love poetry?
 - Is he saying Christian poetry is better than love poetry?

Jordon II

- Read through *Jordan II*
- The poem has a neat ending but what do you think it takes to 'copy out love'?
 - What is the force of 'copy out only'?
- Would you say the poem exemplifies what God tells Herbert to do?
 - What similarities can you find?
- Compare the poem with *Jordan I*
- What do they have in common?
- What are their different emphases?
- Compare this poem to Marvell's *The Coronet*
 - What similarities can you find?