

Brief Investigations Metaphysical poetry:

Marvell: Religious poems: *The Coronet, A Dialogue between Soul and Body, On a Drop of Dew*

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The Coronet

- Read through Marvell's *The Coronet*
 - Do you think it is possible to write a completely selfless religious poem, where all the attention is on God?
- Why are such poets as Herbert and Marvell so anxious about writing religious poetry?
 - In what way does Marvell think he has added to the crown of thorns on Christ? (ll.1-3)
- Compare *The Coronet* with Herbert's *Jordan I*

A Dialogue between the Soul and Body

- Read through *A Dialogue between the Soul and Body*
 - Pick out some of the images and work them out
- Compare Marvell's Platonism here with that of Vaughan in his *Ascension – Hymn*
 - What are the differences in the way they express their desire to escape earthly existence?
- What is metaphysical about this poem?
- Compare Marvell's attitude to the body to Donne's.

On a Drop of Dew

- Read through Marvell's *On a Drop of Dew*
 - Explain 'recollecting its own Light'
 - Explain 'Here disdaining, there in Love'
 - What sort of love?
- In what ways does this differ from a Herbert poem?
- Compare this with Vaughan's *The Water-fall*