

The Tragedie Of Mariam The Faire Queene Of Jewry: A Literary Exploration

The Tragedie Of Mariam The Faire Queene Of Jewry is a play by Thomas Goffe, first published in 1623. The play tells the story of Mariamne, the wife of Herod the Great, who was executed on charges of adultery. *The Tragedie Of Mariam* is a powerful and moving play that explores the themes of love, loss, and betrayal. It is also a significant work in the history of English drama, as it is one of the first plays to use the blank verse form.



The Tragedie of Mariam, the Faire Queene of Jewry

by Maureen Emerson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 230 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Print length : 85 pages



Historical Context

The Tragedie Of Mariam is set in the first century BC, during the reign of Herod the Great. Herod was a cruel and ambitious king who was responsible for the deaths of many of his family members, including his wife, Mariamne. The play is based on the historical account of Mariamne's death, which is recorded in the works of the Roman historian Josephus.

Plot

The play opens with Mariamne being accused of adultery by her husband's sister, Salome. Herod is convinced of Mariamne's guilt, and he orders her to be executed. Mariamne is heartbroken, but she accepts her fate with dignity. She is executed by beheading, and her head is brought to Herod. When Herod sees Mariamne's head, he is overcome with remorse. He realizes that he has made a terrible mistake, and he kills himself in grief.

Characters

The play's main characters are:

- **Mariamne:** The Queen of Judea and the wife of Herod the Great. Mariamne is a beautiful and virtuous woman who is falsely accused of adultery. She is executed by beheading, and her death is a tragedy for all who knew her.
- **Herod:** The King of Judea and the husband of Mariamne. Herod is a cruel and ambitious man who is responsible for the deaths of many of his family members. He is convinced of Mariamne's guilt, and he orders her to be executed. When Herod sees Mariamne's head, he is overcome with remorse, and he kills himself in grief.
- **Salome:** Herod's sister and the accuser of Mariamne. Salome is a jealous and ambitious woman who is determined to destroy Mariamne. She falsely accuses Mariamne of adultery, and she is responsible for her death.

Themes

The play's main themes are:

- **Love:** The play explores the power of love and its ability to overcome adversity. Mariamne and Herod are deeply in love, but their love is tested by Salome's accusations. Mariamne is willing to die for her love of Herod, and Herod is overcome with remorse when he realizes that he has killed her.
- **Loss:** The play also explores the pain of loss. Mariamne's death is a tragedy for all who knew her, and Herod is never able to recover from his grief. The play shows how loss can destroy even the strongest of people.
- **Betrayal:** The play also explores the theme of betrayal. Salome betrays Mariamne by falsely accusing her of adultery. Herod betrays Mariamne by ordering her to be executed. The play shows how betrayal can destroy trust and lead to tragedy.

Literary Significance

The Tragedie Of Mariam is a significant work in the history of English drama for several reasons. First, it is one of the first plays to use the blank verse form. Blank verse is a type of poetry that is written in unrhymed iambic pentameter. It is a challenging form to write, but it can be very effective in creating a sense of drama and suspense.

Second, *The Tragedie Of Mariam* is a powerful and moving play that explores the themes of love, loss, and betrayal. The play's characters are well-developed and believable, and the plot is both exciting and tragic. *The Tragedie Of Mariam* is a classic work of English literature that deserves to be more widely known and appreciated.

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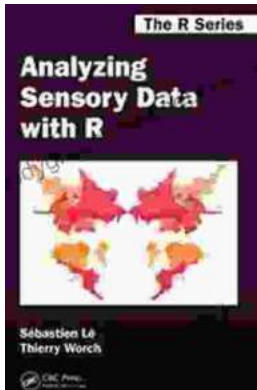
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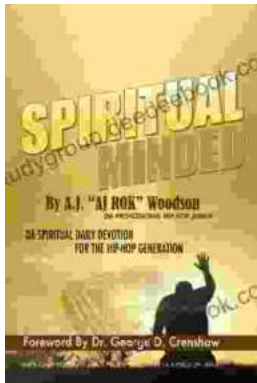
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