

**NEW APOCALYPSE OR**  
**THE NEO-ROMANTIC MOVEMENT**  
*Background Studies*

**Miss.Shiuli Bhattacharya**  
Associate Professor  
Department of English  
Women's College,Samastipur  
L N M U,Darbhanga  
Email id- shiulib02 @ gmail's. Com  
9835238000

*Useful for B.A. Part I English (Hons.) students*  
*Paper- I*

In the thirties and forties a new generation of poets appeared---the poets who were not only influenced by the trends of contemporary poetry but also reacted against it. It was Day Lewis who first wrote about this new Apocalypse movement. A group of poets including Dylan Thomas, David Gascoyne, George Barker, Kathleen Raine, G S Fraser.l, Herbert Read and some other British, Scottish and Welsh poets contributed in the anthologies of The New Apocalypse (1939) and The White Horsemen (1941).

These poets had no specific style neither did they write on any particular theme. Day Lewis pointed out that these poets felt the need to return "to the direction of pure poetry". The poets found themselves caught in a world increasingly terrifying and disturbing. They tried to escape reality by speaking in a different voice; their movement was to liberate themselves from all logic, substituting "intention for thinking" and "improvisation for form. With such an attitude surrealism in art and literature was born. Surrealism could not become popular in England but it did influence the poetry of the times.

Henry Treece in his book, *How I See Apocalypse* says: "In my definition, the writer who senses the chaos, the turbulence, the laughter and the tears, the order and the peace of the world in its entirety, is an apocalyptic writer."

The Apocalypticists were called the new romantics because like the Romantic poets the Apocalyptic poets emphasised that dreams myths fantasy and other terrible desires should be controlled by sanity. Nicholas Moore is one of the most well-known poets in the Neo-Romantic movement. His feelings about war and his longing for peace is so well expressed in these lines:

O refuge and visiting stranger, have mercy  
Look with a cold eye on our crooked landscape, and wish for  
Peace that will break with new fire, as the people  
Free this dear country.

The achievements of the Neo-Romantics or the New Apocalypse movement are quite significant as J F Hendry claims: "Apocalyptic writing is concerned with the study of living, the collapse of social forms and the emergence of new and more organic ones". It will not be an exaggeration to say that this movement has given English poetry "a new manner, at the best a new vision."

Thankyou