

5504640995

Patcharatrai Buasap

The literature influencer called Ovid

790 Words

Every great scholar and writer has his own mentor, who is a source of inspiration and imagination, even one of the greatest poets of all time William Shakespeare. A writer and poet who gave William Shakespeare an inspiration and passion to write all of his poetry was Publius Ovidius Naso. Ovid was one of the greatest poets during 43 BC – 17 AD. Besides an inspiration being to William Shakespeare, Ovid also wrote several amazing poetry pieces and love stories which have impacted other writers in the later decades.

Publius Ovidius Naso was an ancient roman poet (43 BC- 17 AD) who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 43 BC. Publius Ovidius Naso was considered one of the best writers of his time<sup>1</sup>. He successfully wrote many great poetry, especially love poetry, and his two most famous pieces are “Ars Amatoria (The Art of love)” and “Metamorphoses (Transformations)” which the latter was an extremely influential work to William Shakespeare to start writing poetry<sup>2</sup>. In AD 8, Ovid was exiled to Tomis by the emperor of Roman Empire, Augustus, and the reason for his exile was implicated in his own work, “Tristia and Epistulae ex Ponto”. Ovid died in AD 17 at the place of his exiled and his body was buried on the shore of the black sea<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>Wikipedia contributors. “Ovid” Wikipedia, The free Encyclopedia. 4 September 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovid>>

<sup>2</sup>Blakeney, Katherine MI. (2009). "Ovid's Metamorphoses and the Plays of Shakespeare." *Student Pulse*, 1(12). 11 September 2012 <<http://www.studentpulse.com/a?id=105>>

<sup>3</sup>Ovid FAQ. Why Was Ovid Exiled?.Litot-es. 11 September 2012.<<http://jiffycomp.com/smr/ovid-faq/exile>>

Publius Ovidius Naso was recognized as a significant elegiac poet. The readers who read Ovid's Poetry can imagine the story like it was real and tend to have vivid imagination. Some characters in the poetry were interpreted as a symbolic meaning of something else, such as Corinna, one of Ovid's poetry characters who was interpreted as a symbol of elegiac style<sup>4</sup>. Publius Ovidius Naso was well-known from his two famous poetry. First, "The art of love", is all about the nature of love and giving advice to both men and women on how to seduce each other. Most people apply his advice to prolong their marriage. From this case, it made most readers believe and feel that Ovid was their teacher. On the other hand, Ovid's poetry, "The art of love", was considered scandalous and it was accused that he disparaged the emperor. For this reason, he was exiled<sup>5</sup> and abandoned by many people. However his work still received positive compliments and has influenced art and literature in Europe for many decades.

Another important piece of writing is "Metamorphoses". The whole poetry describes the transformation of people, both physical and emotional, by heroines and heroes. This work contains fifteen books, in which each book has a different content such as the first one describes the changes of the world, whereas the other one is about the change in nature. The third is about the mythology of Thebes and the fourth explains three pairs of love. The sixth focuses on competition between human and gods.<sup>6</sup> There were many people who became interested in Ovid's work "Metamorphoses" such as famous scholars, philosophers and artists. However, the writer who received huge inspiration and showed great influence from Ovid's work is William Shakespeare.

---

<sup>4</sup>Wikipedia contributors. "style" Wikipedia, The free Encyclopedia. 4 September 2012.  
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovid#Style>>

<sup>5</sup>Paul Brian. Study guide for Ovid. 6 September 2012.  
<<http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/love-in-the-arts/ovid.html>>

<sup>6</sup>Wikipedia contributors. "Metamorphoses" Wikipedia, The free Encyclopedia. 4 September 2012.  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovid#Metamorphoses\\_.28.22Transformations.22.29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovid#Metamorphoses_.28.22Transformations.22.29)>

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* was an extremely influential work to William Shakespeare. When William Shakespeare learned about *Metamorphoses*, there were so many quotations and references to Ovid on William Shakespeare's texts. Most of Shakespeare's literature have the reference to Ovid and some were important quotations that Ovid wrote in *Metamorphoses*. William Shakespeare's characters were also developed or have some parts like an Ovid's characters, such as William Shakespeare's Hecuba, who is the wife of King Priam of Troy, was referred to Ovid's Hecuba in "The Sufferings of Hecuba" from book thirteen of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Some were stories that were interpreted from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, such as William Shakespeare's "the story of Niobe", which followed a book six of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.<sup>7</sup>

Besides inspiring William Shakespeare, after the renaissance, Ovid's works have also influenced another famous person both directly and indirectly; in literature such as Edmund Spenser and John Milton, two of the greatest English poets,<sup>8</sup> and in the indirect way in modern times for John Dryden, who translated Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and this work was illustrated by one of the famous artists of all time, Pablo Picasso.<sup>9</sup>

From all of the above, it is shown that Publius Ovidius Naso plan an important role in ancient literature. Every piece of Ovid's work still affects the later generation. Publius Ovidius Naso was not only a great writer, he was also a teacher and influencer to many other artists including William Shakespeare. People had the chance to read such great poetry, especially love poetry, and this encourages them to have a romantic side of life, and learn to

---

<sup>7</sup>Blakeney, Katherine MI. (2009). "Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the Plays of Shakespeare." *Student Pulse*, 1(12). 11 September 2012 <<http://www.studentpulse.com/a?id=105>>

<sup>8</sup>Famous people. Ovid. 11 September 2012. <<http://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/ovid-255.php>>

<sup>9</sup>Encyclopedia of world biography. Ovid Biography. 11 September 2012. <<http://www.notablebiographies.com/Ni-Pe/Ovid.html>>

know what a love story is. Even if Publius Ovidius Naso passed, he will always be remembered as a “Father of the poetry”.