

# Poems

Literature



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English Literature Doha AlEssa & Shekha AlMndeel 17 Dec The Legend of Provençe by Adelaide Procter uses a strong religious and emotional theme, about a young woman who leaves her childhood upbringing in a convent to follow first romantic love. These actions were out of the ordinary at the time that this poem was written and severely frowned upon though the idea of 'fallen woman' reclaiming their original place in society was becoming very popular among women poets (Hickok). This may be even considered early feminism. Strong Christian religious devotion is evident in the character's attitude and desire to return to the convent after she had left, where she spent the remainder of her life. Divine intervention and God's undying and complete forgiveness are central to the poem.

The writing technique of this poem is rhyme. The rhyming is used throughout and flows easily in the poem, each verse appropriate length, using rhyme with almost a musical quality. It uses technique familiar of the Victorian age. Imagery is used throughout to elicit emotional response and vivid description of feelings and attitude of the day.

In the manner in which it was composed, The Legend of Provençe easily and delicately presents larger issues than at first appearance for society's' review, acceptance, and debate (Gorman). Gender politics are expressed with the theme of returning from society and being accepted back into the convent without question which would have been unheard of at the time but it is a gentle suggestion that woman may have other roles in society and explore cultural boundaries.

I agree with the critic in that gender politics are gently expressed though in this time and age reading this poem it is more difficult to recognize gender politics because we have become desensitized to the issue after much

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exposure and many changes. The idea of the 'fallen' women reclaiming her role in society was a novel and new idea at that time. Women had specific roles and usually remained in them during their lifetimes. The poem was easy to read though some thought and examination was required because of the use of imagery and symbolism. For example it was not immediately evident who was being referred to during the appearance of Mary or easy to understand whether it was actual or thought.

#### Works Cited

Hickok, Kathleen. *The Spinster In Victorias England: Changing Attitudes In Popular Poetry By Women*. 1977. ERIC. Web. 14 Dec. 2011. . Retrieved from  
OGorman, F. (2004). *Victorian poetry: an annotated anthology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. Retrieved from