“The Day of Doom” is a poem written by Michael Wigglesworth. It was originally printed in 1662 by Samuel Green in Boston, Massachusetts and is now published by Sola Scriptura Publishing (2013). The poem is about sinners who do not follow the Puritan religion that are being judged by God on Judgement Day and sent to Hell. Themes such as the apocalypse and religion are used throughout the poem. He used Bible verses to capture the image in a poetic form such as fear, death, and Judgement Day itself. Wigglesworth, being a Puritan man, uses these literary elements to scare his readers into converting into Puritanism and I am going to explain how.

Wigglesworth uses themes such as religion and apocalypse to give the mood of the poem a horror so that the readers will convert to Puritanism. The theme is religion, because the poem is inspired by The New Testament in the Holy Bible. It reflects the horrors sinners will face if they do not give themselves to God and live by the Bible. There is a universal belief that people must pay for their actions and behaviors whether it is inflicting pain onto others or having “too much” of a good time such as going to the club and drinking or doing drugs. He scripts each verse of the Book of Revelation into a poetic form which makes it easier for the reader to comprehend.

Since there is a universal belief of punishment for sins, this punishment is thought out as the apocalypse for these sinners. The poem mentions a thunderous voice coming from the sky and supernatural phenomena happening which makes it apocalyptic. These horrors happening throughout the poem are what make the readers feel suspense and question their belief in the Lord. The world is collapsing, people are dying, and feeling misery being attacked by these demonic figures.

Judgement Day is one of the imageries used throughout the poem. Even though this idea and the theme Apocalypse are similar, the idea behind them both are different. Jesus coming back from the dead and looking in disbelief at the sinners is the main imagery behind Judgement Day.

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