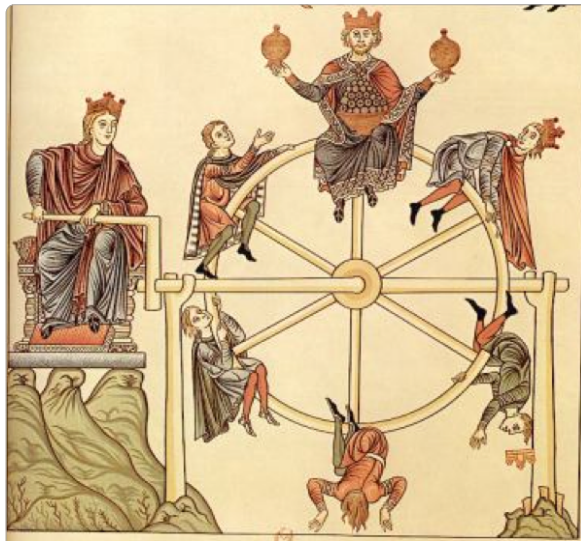


I.The nature of tragedy and the tragic hero:

I.The Elizabethan idea of "the wheel of fortune."

A. In its continual revolution it elevates one man while the other falls.

B.This involves the descent of a great man, a king or warrior, from success to bitter fortune.



2.The foundation of Shakespeare's tragedies come from those of the ancient Greeks, specifically Aristotle.

3.The purpose is to gain the greatest possible response from the audience in order to fully share in tragic hero's downfall.

4.Audience response is based upon their individual convictions.

II. The tragic hero

1. The hero must be a great man and have power and opportunities.
2. Must be a person so placed in society that his actions affect the welfare of others.
3. The plot should show him working to achieve a goal very dear to him.
4. His actions will force him to make an important choice.
5. His downfall will result from this choice and set off a unknown chain of events which he can neither foresee or halt.
6. The audience foresees his evil destiny long before he does.
7. His death at end releases him from life's burdens, his society from the disorder creates, and causes a catharsis in the audience.

The four humors: yellow bile, black bile, phlegm, and blood.

Yellow bile: causes anger and irritability.

Black bile: causes sadness

Phlegm: causes lethargy and boredom.

Blood: causes excitement, energy, and happiness.

