

- Irrational
- Sudden, incurable infection
- Could let in evil and chaos

Chaos

- The undoing of God's creation
- Return to darkness and nothingness
- Contemporary fear of a return to the civil war period before the Tudor settlement

Courtly Love

- Arthurian heritage
- 'Knight in shining armour' idea
- Respectable man, upright, good morals
- Brought together masculine ideals of the soldier and the lover

Cuckoldry

- Becoming a horned beast
- Huge embarrassment; fear
- Man couldn't control his wife, and/or she had an unnatural sexual appetite

Chastity

- Society passed inheritance down the male line
- Men needed to be sure their son was their own, and not another's bastard
- A man's reputation could be destroyed by an unfaithful wife

Literary

- Giraldi Cinthio; wrote 'El Capitano' (Moor); source of Othello
- Traditional Greek tragedy: Hamartia
- Revenge tragedy: Iago is a scheming Machiavellian

Exploration

- Known world consisted of Africa, Europe and Asia
- Maps often made symbolically, with the holy city of Jerusalem in the centre
- Only the coast of Northern Africa was known in detail; further reaches of Asia were largely fable
- Europe bought luxury goods for China (eg. spice), but little firsthand knowledge of the Orient

The 'Other'

- Discovering new lands meant discovering new people
- Indigenous tribes were seen as a) inferior savages, needing to be converted to Christianity, or b) noble savages, purer than decadent Westerners

'New World' Imagery

- Propagandistic intent; advocated white supremacy
- Full of fabled riches and beauty of the New World
- Africa; land of mystery and exoticism
- America; golden and exotic world

Humanity

- Should be governed by reason, not passion
- Debasement of soul (I.e. Falling victim to passion) can be done through drunkenness or giving way to extreme sexual appetite
- Often compared to state, or body politic

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