

“ON HIS BLINDNESS”

-BY JOHN MILTON

When I consider how my light is *spent*
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,
And that one *talent* which is death to hide
Lodg'd with me useless, though my soul more *bent*
To serve therewith my *Maker*, and *present*
My true account, lest he returning chide,
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"
I fondly ask. But *Patience*, to *prevent*
That murmur, soon replies: "God *doth* not *need*
Either man's work or his own gifts: who best
Bear his mild *yoke*, they serve him best. His *state*
Is *kingly*; thousands at his bidding *speed*
And post o'er land and ocean without *rest*:
They also serve who only *stand and wait*."



SUMMARY:

When Milton became blind he began to think about his fate. He felt very sad that he became blind even before he could complete half of his life. The world became dark and wide. What pained him most is that his talent as a poet could not be used. It is like death if he could not use his talent. As he became blind, it was difficult for him to read and write. He had hoped to write many poems, but the chance was lost. On the Day of Judgment, when all the souls will meet God Milton wishes to present all his work to God and prove that he has made the best use of the talent that God had given him. But blindness denied him that chance. In agony and anger, Milton questions God - if He wanted Milton to use his talent of writing poetry, why did he take his sight?

After sometime, the Goddess of patience answered his question. She said, God doesn't want man's work or his gifts. The people who accept God and his decisions willingly and cheerfully, they are the best servants to God. God has many angles to serve him. Man and his work are nothing before them. Only those who stand and wait patiently, who bear their problems without any murmuring, they serve God the best.

Annotation:

1)“When I consider how my light is spent”

Context: The above lines are taken from the poem ‘On His Blindness’ composed by John Milton. The sonnet ‘On His Blindness’ is an autobiographical poem. It is all about the poet’s feelings and emotions on becoming blind. The poem also tells us about the Milton’s religious views.

Explanation: At the outset of the poem the poet says that when he became blind he began to think about his fate. He felt very sad that

he became blind even before he could complete half of his life. The world became dark and wide. What pained him most is that his talent as a poet could not be used. As he became blind, it was difficult for him to read and write.

**2) Though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker,**

Context: The above lines are taken from the poem 'On His Blindness' composed by John Milton. The sonnet 'On His Blindness' is an autobiographical poem. It is all about the poet's feelings and emotions on becoming blind. The poem also tells us about the Milton's religious views.

Explanation: The poet says that the world became dark and wide. What pained him most is that his talent as a poet could not be used. As he became blind, it was difficult for him to read and write. He had hoped write many poems, but the chance was lost.

3) "My True account"

Context: same as above

Explanation: On the Day of Judgment, when all the souls will meet God.why did he take away his insight? (From Summary)

4) "They serve Him best"

Context: same as above

**Explanation : The Goddess of patience tells the poet that
..... murmuring,
they serve God the best. (From Summary)**
