

On His Blindness by John Milton

On His Blindness is a beautiful autobiographical poem, composed by a very talented poet of the Puritan Period John Milton. The very poem *On His Blindness* describes about the value of his own spiritual beauty after becoming losing his light of his eyes. This poem is a sonnet which deals the poet's agony and frustration of his blindness and the poet also complains that he is now not able to see and appreciate the beauty and the glory of the almighty God. The poet thinks in the beginning that he will not be able to serve God as his visual power has gone. As the poem develops, he begins to believe that God wants him to working, in spite of the fact that his job caused him to lose his sight. In the end, he is assured that he is serving God like angels who just wait for the orders of the God.

The poem has a number of Biblical references that depicts Milton's stern belief in God. The poem is written in the Petrarchan rhyme scheme.

The poet starts the poem with 'When' thus he introduces his ideas in the very beginning. According to him, he often thinks that half of his life or sight or intelligence has been spent in serving humanity, but now he has lost his eyesight and so his other half-life is dark and has become more challenging. The talent of writing which he had, is useless now because without eyesight he cannot write. Thus, it is just a load from the God that has been bestowed on him. The poet laments over the loss of his eyesight and wonders what this talent means for him now as without eyesight he cannot use it.

In the next stanza, the lament of the poet turns into desire and wonder. He says that he desired to serve his Maker but because of this blindness he cannot do so. He wonders if God still wants to serve him in spite of the fact that his sight has gone. The poet says that his foolish thought often haunts him.

In the last stanza, the poet says that when such foolish thoughts came into his mind, the patience at once comes to reply that the work of man does not please god, but the ' who best bear his mild yoke' i.e. the one who remains patient content with what he has, is most liked by him.

God has a huge kingdom and there are thousands of angels who remain in motion to carry God' order. They never take rest. The poet compares them with those who have the talent and use it to serve God. On the other hand, there are some other angels also who serve Him jus by standing and waiting before God. According to him, their service is equally valuable to God as that of the first category of angels. The poet compares himself with the later Angels who just keeps patience. Thus, in the end, the poet is quite satisfied as he is also serving just by keeping patience.

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