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classmate

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B. A Part II Hons
Paper II
Lycidas.

(1) Discuss 'Lycidas' as a pastoral poem.

Ans. Lycidas belongs to the tradition of pastoral poetry. A pastoral poem portrays country life, has the ~~shep~~ shepherds and the shepherdesses as its characters and breathes the climate of unsophisticated countryside. No doubt the theme of the poem is to bewail the loss of a friend of the poet, but the poet discusses it in a pastoral setting. The earliest example of pastoral are to be found in the writing of Theocritus, a Greek poet who lived in the first half of the third century.

His pastoral poems represent
herdsman or wooden drinking
bowl, or pouring forth of
lays of love lamenting for
a dear friend or a maiden.
The tradition of pastoral
poetry did not early estab-
lish itself as a distinct
literary form. This tradition
flourished in England
during fifty years after
Shepherd's Calendar.

It is no wonder
then that Milton should
have cast his first
outpouring in his music
into pastoral form. I Allegro
and II Penseroso are
pastoral, odes, Arcades and
Comus are pastoral
drama and Lycidas is
a pastoral elegy.

(a) Subject-matter
of pastoral elegy - Lycidas
is a pastoral elegy

and like other poem of this tradition, it also mourns the death of a shepherd. In other words, Milton who imagines himself to be a shepherd bewails the death of Edward king who is given the typical name of a shepherd, ~~Lydi~~ Lycidas. The loss of this shepherd is being painfully experienced not only by the shepherds but all the objects of Nature.

) Pastoral poems only a means to objective emotions — Critics like Dr. Johnson have raised the point that pastoral poem is an artificial one and it is therefore not a favourable form for an elegiac poem.

giving vent to genuine
sorrow.

To be continued.

Prof. Karunaditya Singh
Deptt - English
Shri Saksh College,
Sas .