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classmate

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Eng. B. ed Part II (Hons)
Paper II

Q. Is Milton himself the subject of 'Lycidas'?

OR

If the subject of the poem is not simply Edward King as a man, neither is it (as Lillyard would have it) simply Milton himself. It is man in his creative capacity, as Christian humanist, poet, priest. David Daiches.

Ans. The autobiographical note is quite conspicuous in the poetry of John Milton. He is considered to be a self-conscious poet. It is said by the critics that though in 'Lycidas' though the professed theme of the poem is to bewail the ^{death} ~~theme~~ of learned friend yet he himself is the

subject matter of the poem. Some of his own ideas have found an expression through the poem which chiefly aims at mourning the death of the Edward King

Though we not wholly agree to the view expressed by these critics, yet we cannot deny the fact that these arguments are based on textual ~~agreements~~ evidence. Although Milton ~~expresses~~ professes that "bitter constraint and sad occasion dear" makes him write the elegy, but the lines 15-22 are likely to convey the impression that 'melodious tears' does not wholly spring

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from the grief caused
by the death of the
friend but it is also
inspired by the selfish
move that his own
death should be mourned
by some other poet as he
mourned King!

So may some gentle Muse
with lucky words favoured
my destined urn,
And as he passes turn,
And bid ~~fortune~~ fair
pace to my able shroud
Marseiler in long
digressions, Milton expresses
views on two subjects
which may be termed
personal. In the first
digression he discusses
the tragic and unhappy
fate of poet in general.
Perhaps he expresses his
own desires to win all
round and reputation!

popularity - that is why
we call it fame, the "that
last infirmity of common
mind". He forgets the
fact that cavalier
poets writing light
verse are winning
popularity while poet
like him writing
serious stuff get no
sufficient response
from the people. Perhaps
he himself has the fear
that if he meets the fate
of his friend, his
dreams of becoming the
immortal poet may
not be realised.

Prof. Karunaditya

Asst. Prof.

Sub - Eng.

St. ...