

B.A. Part II (Hons) Eng.

Paper II

Q. Discuss Lycidas as an Elegy
Is there no fusion of real
passion in it?

Note: Continued from Pg. 4:

Even in 'Thyrsis' Arnold devotes quite a good part of the poem to the description of the Oxford countryside. But even if the pastoral form is artificial, the poem has got its appeal to the readers. The pastoral form is not a limitation but a means to objectify emotion and to prevent personal feeling from overpowering poetry.

3. Death evokes discursive reflections — It is again alleged that there are two long digressions in the poem where the poet

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Lycidas whose death he professes to mourn. Firstly he laments the unhappy lots of the poet, and secondly he criticises the church. The religious fervour of Milton inspires him to avail this opportunity and criticise the corrupt clergy of the Church. But above all we should not forget the death is so vast a subject that it can lead the ~~subject~~ poet to reflect on those things which may otherwise not like to touch. A.R. Entwistle rightly observes "Sometimes death is the inspiration and sole theme; at other times it is merely the common starting point from which poet has launched various themes, speculating

on the nature of death is so vast a subject that it can lead the poet to reflect on those things which may otherwise not like to touch.

4. Lycidas has the dignity and solemnity of an elegy — An elegy commemorates the death of a person and death is very serious and solemn subject. Lycidas has also got the dignity and solemnity of an elegy. There is invocation of muse in it.

5. Note of reconciliation with the inevitable — Though we know that grief is the dominant emotion in the elegy, yet it changes into that of