

21.2.24

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B. A Eng. (Hons) Part II

Continued from dated 20.2.24
Paper II

Q Discuss the apparent incongruity of Christian and pagan elements in 'Lycidus'.

Ans Poets of Milton time were not infrequently indulged in different mixtures of pagan myths and Christianity. Dr. Johnson and ext critics like him could hardly understand that beauty wherever it was found either in the pagan world or Christianity, appeared to Milton who was admittedly no unmeaning searcher of things pagan. Besides, it has to be remembered that 'Lycidus' is basically a pagan poem in structure, conception or sentiment, being cast in the conventional style of pastoral poetry with its phrasal richness of classical ~~poetry~~ gods and goddesses, nymphs of sea and rivers, huge monsters, of deep, giants of mountains, Satyres and Fauns. The introduction of Christian elements in pagan is accounted for the fact that Milton was the child of Reformation and that both puritanism and

invariably kept intruding into his poetry. The strong and criticism of English Church put into the mouth of St. Peter, is entirely inspired by the puritanical fervour of Milton.

To be continued
Kamunaditya Singh
Sept - English