

20.2.24.

B.A. Part II ENG (Hons)

By Lycidus.

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

Ans. Dr. Johnson was perhaps the first to point out the somewhat indiscriminate mixing of Christian and pagan elements in these terms:

"With these trifling and mingled the most awful and sacred truths such as ought never to be polluted with such irreverent combinations...

Here they are indecent and at least approach to impiety".

Another critic also remarked: "Here and buccolic imagery and pagan dramatic personae, Christianity can have no place".

The points out to be made out by these critics are: Paganism and Christianity are antithetical antithetical according to popular conception. Milton has grouped together pagan deities with Christian personages (2) The introduction St. Peter and reference to Christ is incongruous from the artistic