

Dr. BRR GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE JADCHERLA

Department of English



A PROJECT REPORT

ON

On His Having Arrived at the age of Twenty Three

- John Milton

Submitted By

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DECLARATION

We are hereby declare that the study project: **On His Having Arrived atthe age of Twenty Three - John Milton** is a record of work done by us under the supervision of **R.ANITHA**, faculty of English, Government Degree College, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar District and that the project has not been previously done by any others in this college and any other college/University.

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Date : 27/06/2022

Place : Jadcherla

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the Study project on On His Having Arrived at the age of Twenty Three - John Milton is a bonafide Project work done by B.A I students listed below.

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On His Having Arrived at the age of Twenty Three

- John Milton

ABOUT THE AUTHOR JOHN MILTON:

Now most famous for having written the epic poem *Paradise Lost*, John Milton's writing career was long and diverse but certain themes can be seen to have consistently preoccupied him. He

spent his life grappling with ideas of personal, political and religious freedom in the context of different forms of governance by the Church and state.

Early life and education

Milton was born in London in 1608 and educated at St Paul's School, followed by the University of Cambridge. He knew at least ten languages, and was enormously well-read in literature, history, theology, philosophy and natural sciences. Milton's [Commonplace Book](#), in which he made notes on his extensive reading, is now held at the British Library.

Politics and religion

In his lifetime, which spanned the period before, during and after the English Civil Wars between Royalists and Republicans, Milton was not only a celebrated poet, but also a political and religious controversialist. He was the author of a large number of polemical works (many intended for an international audience), and advocated stamping out corruption among the English clergy (*Of Reformation*, among other works published in 1641–42); the freedom of the press (*Areopagitica*, 1644); permission for divorce on the grounds of mutual incompatibility (his most famous work on the same theme was *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce*, 1643); and the necessity of Charles I's execution (see *Eikonoklastes*, 1649). Thanks to having written these so-called 'regicide tracts', Milton lived under the threat of arrest and possibly even execution after the monarchy was restored in 1660.

Poetry and *Paradise Lost*

Milton published his first volume of poetry, the *Poems of Mr John Milton, Both English and Latin*, in 1645, which included some compositions from as early as his teens. By 1654, he had gone completely blind (see his sonnet 'When I Consider How My Light is Spent'), and therefore had to dictate his writings to amanuenses, including his own daughters.

As well as *Paradise Lost*, first published in ten books in 1667, this later period of Milton's writing life was spent composing the drama *Samson Agonistes* (telling the Old Testament story of Samson and Delilah) and *Paradise Regain'd* (the New Testament story of Christ's temptation by Satan in the desert). These two works were published together in 1671, followed by a second edition of his early *Poems* (1673) and the second, 12-book edition of *Paradise Lost* (1674).

Reputation

Milton's reputation has only grown in the centuries since his death, and he has stood for different things to different readers at different times. Many [Romantic poets](#), for instance, saw him – and in particular, his Satan – as a figurehead for revolutionary liberty, and [Victorian readers](#) were newly interested in the complexities of his theology. For some [modernist poets](#) at the beginning of the [20th century](#) Milton was a 'tyrannical' poet who had exerted an inhibiting influence on his literary descendants. In the 21st century, he is widely considered to be [Shakespeare's](#) closest rival as the greatest author in the history of English literature.

On His Having Arrived at the age of Twenty Three

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION :

The poem was most likely written his graduation from Cambridge and is a reflection of his state of mind. It expresses his disappointment at his non achievement. He is pained to realise that he has not achieved anything and not composed any poem of good worth.

EXPLANATION :

The poet blames time for stealing away his youth without ripening his poetic talent. He regrets that time is a thief which has stolen his twenty three years in a hurry. He has not attained maturity yet. Though his outer appearance shows that he has arrived at manhood yet there is inward immaturity in him.

He feels that if he had got some more time to bring maturity in himself, he would have been very happy. But then he realises that it is the discussion of God for him and he ought not to have any regrets against it. He believes that whatever God does is only justified for us. There is no conflict between man's desire and God's will. He asserts his complete faith in God and wishes to be guided by the divine will.

CONCLUSION:

Milton says that everything in his life is under the supervision and care of God, if only he has grace to use it. As a true devotee and servant to his great Task Master, the God, he is waiting for God's will to grant him success.