

# MILTON AS A POET



## ❖ Introduction:

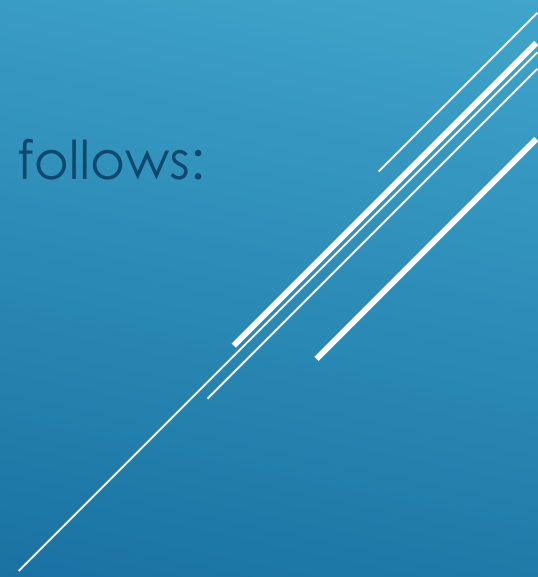
- ▶ Milton is one of the greatest poets of England and is placed next to Shakespeare in the hierarchy of English poets . Milton`s literary career is divided into three periods.

1.The Early Period

2.The Middle Period

3.The Period of matured or major poems

- ▶ The main characteristics of Milton`s poetry are as follows:



## 1. Sublimity:

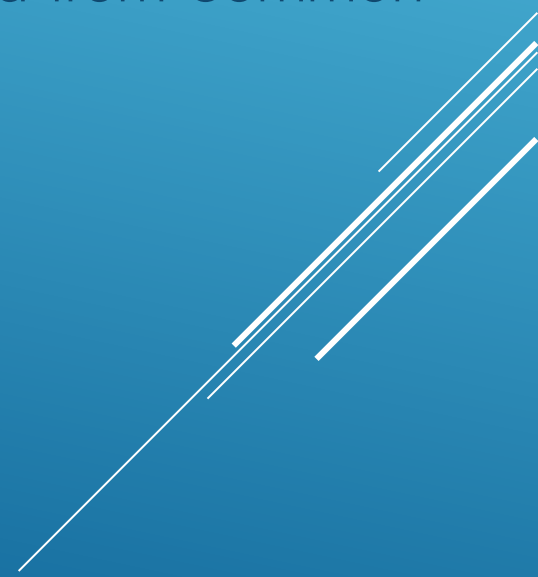
- ▶ The most notable quality of Milton`s poetry is sublimity. His poems are sublime and they bear the stamp of the nobility of character .The subject matter of his poem is sublime and the reader feels elevated on reading them . Milton`s ‘Paradise Lost’ and ‘Paradise Regained’ are expression of
  - ‘Sublime thoughts and ideas about God and religion’
- ▶ Comus contains,
  - ‘Milton`s sublime thoughts and concerning virtue’

## 2. Sense of Beauty:

- ▶ The chief characteristics of Milton`s poetry is
- ▶ ‘His profound love of beauty in its various forms.’
- ▶ Milton`s poems show his sensitivity to the beauty of external nature . He gives a beautiful pen picture of the country side in L`Allegro and Il Penserose . Also in ‘Paradise Lost’ he depicts beauty in his glowing descriptions of Eden , Adam and Eve.

### 3. Dignity of Style:

- ▶ Milton`s poems have a great dignity . His style gave English poetry majesty and stateliness . His choice of subject and language are graceful and dignified . The best example is his 'Paradise Lost' . Milton never dealt with common objects or themes in his poetry . His poetry is far removed from common life.



#### 4. High Seriousness:

- ▶ High Seriousness which Mathew Arnold considered to be a characteristic of good and great poetry , marks both Milton`s character and poetry . Milton`s poetry lacks humour and lightness of tone . Milton`s poetry has high seriousness because his themes were such.

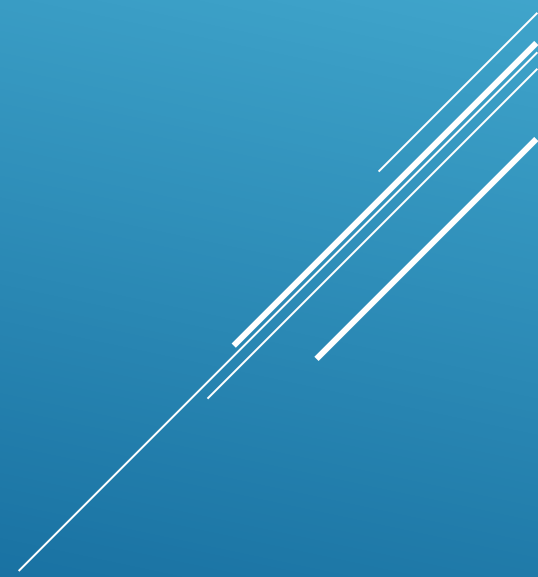
- ▶ Milton was a conscious critic and a good poet . He took as much pains in the construction of his poems as he did while selecting subjects . His poems are excellent examples of artistic craftsmanship . He pursued the art of writing poetry with discipline and dedication only a poet like Milton could have composed a flawless 'Paradise Lost'.

## 5.CRAFTSMANSHIP



- ▶ Milton had a strong and varied imaginative power . Only , Milton`s imagination could have shaped 'Paradise Lost' .His imagination brings the picture and landscapes alive before our eyes . His descriptions of heaven and hell are unequalled . His imagination could go beyond suggestive pictures.

## 6. IMAGINATIVE POWER





- ▶ Milton`s poetry is greatly autobiographical . His subjectivity is in marked contrast to Shakespeare`s objectivity . His early poems are the reflection of his own personality . In ‘Lycidas’ . Milton thinks more of himself than his dead friend . The treatment of the great epic ‘Paradise Lost’ is too personal.
- ▶ Milton`s early life and his devotion to the law of God is presented in the first books of ‘Paradise Regained’.

## 7.AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENT



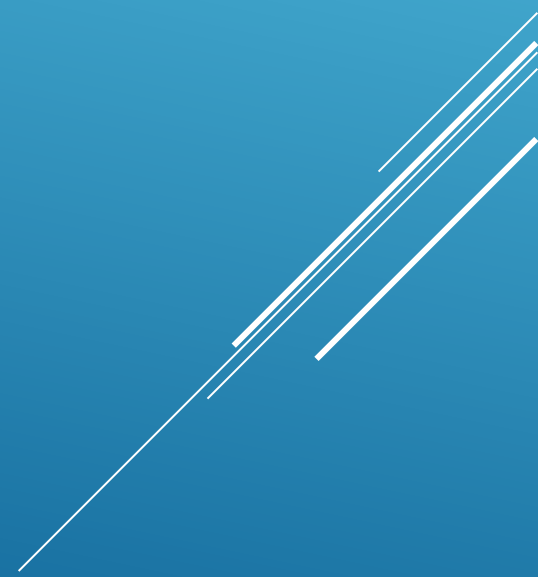
- ▶ In Milton`s poetry the notes of Puritanism and morality is first sounded in 'Comus',it is in this masque that Milton presents his Puritanism learning towards high morality and the triumph of virtue . In 'Lycidas' Milton`s puritanism comes out in the thundering denunciation of St.Peter against the corrupt clergymen of his times . In 'Paradise Lost' and 'Paradise Regained' the note of Puritanism is sounded further.

## 8. INFLUENCE OF PURITANISM



- ▶ Milton had natural bend for Classicism . He was a keen student of the ancient classics and was steeped in Classical references . His Classical attitude is also evident in his choice of forms such as the epic , the Greek tragedy ,the tragedy ,the pastoral and the sonnet.

## 9.CLASSICISM



- ▶ Dr . Johnson said:
- ▶ ‘Milton`s blank verse is the only blank verse in the language’.
- ▶ Milton`s early poems were in rhymed verse . His L`Allegro and I Pensorose reveal his superb handling of rhymed verse . Later Milton adopted blank verse and gave it the stamp of perfection . Milton was considered as the greatest artist of the blank verse.

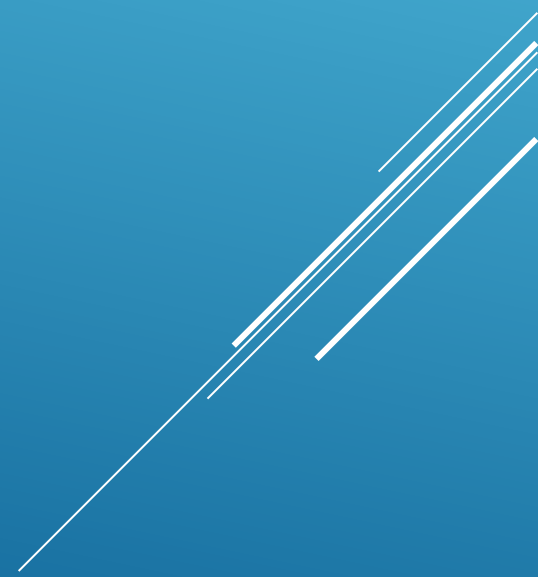
## 10. EXPERT VERSIFICATION

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- ▶ As a great Milton`s function is to refine and make perfect . Every form he touches acquires grace and dignity.
- ▶ Thus,
- ▶ “Milton occupies an important position in English literature”.



## CONCLUSION



**Presented By:  
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