

Milton as A Poet

BA Part1 Eng Hons paper2019-20

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Milton has contributed significantly for the enrichment of English poetry. He brought English poetry to the high pedestal using his extraordinary poetic excellence. He made significant change in the vocabulary of English and introduced Latinized diction, Elliptical expressions and frequent play on words to add delicacy and refinement to English poetry which no English poet had practised prior to him. Although critics like Dr. Johnson have vehemently opposed Milton`s Poetic style which fell far too short of his Augustan norms for which he had to earn the ire of him calling his Paradise Lost a duty rather than pleasure. Actually the innovations which Milton made in poetic style do not pose any threat to his treatment of epic rather they earn him a respectable place which no poet in the post-Milton era has been able to achieve. He explored new horizons in English poetry and discovered new pastures in Paradise Lost which overshadowed his predecessors and cast a spell on many of the poets who came after him. He seems to have traversed on untrodden path. He realized that unless English poetry was set free from conventional diction, no healthy development in this regard could be possible. He deliberately borrowed Latinized diction to give a new twist and turn to English poetry. Eliot too has held Milton responsible for corrupting English

language by initiating bad taste and causing an adverse impact on the poets from the 17th century onwards. He noticed a wide ranging difference in the language practised and feelings and sensibilities depicted by the poets showing allegiance to Milton. He insisted that a dissociation of sensibility had set in English poetry from the 17th century onwards for which two leading English poets –Dryden and Milton should be held responsible. BY Dissociation of sensibility in Milton Eliot means a separation from the thinking and the feeling part of the poet's consciousness to accommodate intellect in poetic sensibility. Another celebrated critic E.M.W. Tillyard reacted sharply against Eliot's remark insisting that Milton should not be held responsible for causing dissociation of sensibility in the writings of the poets of the succeeding generations. Keats too in his poem tried to imitate Milton but failed miserably insisting that life to him will be death to me English must be kept up.