

# On His Blindness

## STANZAS for Explanation ▼

Q. 5. Explain with reference to the context any one of the following extracts : 10

- (a) *To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, least He, returning, chide.  
'Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?'*  
I fondly ask : (2017, 18)

**Reference to the context:** These lines have been taken from the sonnet 'On His Blindness', composed by John Milton. In these lines Milton says that he was very much

anxious to serve God with his poetic powers. But he could not do so because he became blind in the middle of his age.

**Explanation :** He hoped that when he went before God he would show Him what he had done with the talent that God had given him. He was afraid that if he did nothing, God would rebuke him for his carelessness. But he became blind before he had passed half of his life. The world became very large and dark for him. That talent remained unused with him. It would be lost when he died. He said to himself : Will God expect me to work which can be done in daylight, when He has taken away my eyesight ? He feels that the question is foolish.

- (b) *His state  
Is kingly. Thousands at His bidding speed,  
And post over land and ocean without rest,  
They also serve who only stand and wait.*  
(2014, 15, 16, 17, 18, 2020 YA)

**Reference to the context :** This last stanza of the poem 'On His Blindness' is composed by John Milton. He expresses the firm belief in God.

**Explanation :** Patience says to Milton that God does not need work done by everybody. Man should not complain. Patience then advises him further. God is like a king. He has a very large number of servants. On his command thousands of fairies and angels run on land and the sea. God recognises them too who are ready but get no chance. God feels that everyone who is ready to carry out His command has really served Him.

Q. 6. Give the central idea of the poem 'On His Blindness'. 7 (2011, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2020 YB)

## Ans. On His Blindness (John Milton)

God does not need man's work. He does not either need his own gifts. He recognizes even those who are willing to work as his true servants. Willingness and the desire to serve God is the most important thing. It is as good as real service. Persons who want to serve God but cannot serve him because of some difficulty, should not worry. God will accept them like those who did real service.

ईश्वर को मनुष्य के कार्य की आवश्यकता नहीं है। उसको अपने दिए हुए उपहार की आवश्यकता नहीं है। वह उन लोगों को भी जो कार्य करने के इच्छा हैं, अपना सच्चा सेवक मानता है। ईश्वर की सेवा करने की इच्छा व अभिलाषा सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तथ्य है। यह इतना ही अच्छा है, जितना कि सच्ची सेवा। उन लोगों को, जो ईश्वर की सेवा करना चाहते हैं परन्तु किसी कठिनाई व शर्त के कारण, चिन्ता नहीं करनी चाहिए। ईश्वर उनको उसी प्रकार स्वीकार करता है जैसे उन लोगों को जो वास्तविक सेवा करते हैं। □