

ENGL 220 Milton
Professor John Rogers

“Lycidas” (1637)

Theodicy (theos + dikē)
Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716)

. . . to the height of this great argument
I may assert eternal providence
And justify the ways of God to men. (1.24-26)

Justa Edouardo King naufrago (Obsequies for Edward King, lost at sea)
Theocritus, *Idyl I*
Moschus, *Lament for Bion*
Virgil, *Eclogue X*

Dr Johnson on "Lycidas": “Where there is leisure for fiction there is little grief....Its form is that of a pastoral, easy, vulgar, and therefore disgusting.”

Procession of mourners in “Lycidas”:
LL. 76-84 Phoebus Apollo
88-102, Triton, the herald of the Sea,
103-107, Camus, God of the river Cam (Cambridge Univ.)
108-31, St. Peter

Orpheus in early Milton:
“Il Penseroso,” lines 103-108
“L’Allegro,” lines 145-50
“Lycidas,” lines 56-63

“Listen, Diodati, but in secret, lest I blush; and let me talk to you grandiloquently for a while. You ask what I am thinking? So help me God, an immortality of fame! --
--Milton to Charles Diodati, Sept. 23, 1637.

Atropos

pastor, L., shepherd
William Laud
prelates, bishops
presbyters
Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton, in CCL.
ottava rima, abababcc