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