

**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