

Explain the Central Idea of Milton's Sonnet, "On His Blindness."

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John Milton's (1608-74) "On His Blindness" (1673) is a deeply personal poem. It reflects his struggles with losing his eyesight. Milton feels worried because he can no longer use his talent to serve God. However, he later finds peace through faith. The poem teaches patience and trust in God's plan. It also shows that inner faith and acceptance are just as important as action.

Conflict About Serving God: Milton feels sad and confused about his blindness. He wonders how he can serve God without his eyesight. He refers to the "one Talent" (his poetic gift) that he can no longer use fully. This creates a fear in him. He asks if God expects people to work even when they are in darkness. This shows his inner conflict and doubt about his purpose.

Patience Brings Understanding: In the poem "Patience" answers Milton's doubts. It tells him that God does not need human work or gifts. Instead, God values those who bear hardships with faith and patience. Milton realizes that serving God does not always mean doing great deeds. Accepting challenges with trust is also a service to God.

True Service to God: Milton says that patience and faith are powerful forms of service. Milton understands that even in blindness, he can serve God. He does not need to worry about action. Trusting God's will is enough. Milton ends the poem by saying,

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

Milton's "On His Blindness" teaches us an important lesson. We should trust God and accept our challenges. True service to God comes from faith and patience, even when we feel limited.