

MUHAMMAD ALI PHOTOSTATE ZAFARWAL

Phone # 0322-6681871 | Website: www.kazmibooks.com

CLASS 12TH ENGLISH NOTES

Unit 3: On His Blindness (by John Milton)

Complete Chapter Analysis, Line-by-Line Urdu Translation & Comprehensive Exercise Solutions

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Learning Outcomes & Pre-Reading

Learning Outcomes Summary: Students will learn to analyze complex poetic structures, deduce word meanings using contextual clues and reference materials (dictionaries, thesauruses), critique text interpretations with textual evidence, use structural word patterns, and master editing/proofreading techniques.

Pre-Reading Questions & Answers

Q1: How would you feel if you suddenly lost an important ability such as sight, and how might it affect your goals in life?

Answer: Losing an essential ability like sight would be deeply overwhelming and emotionally challenging. It would temporarily disrupt life goals, requiring a complete readjustment of daily habits and methods of working.

However, with strong determination, faith, and modern technological tools, one can adapt and pursue goals through alternative channels.

Q2: Do you think a person can still serve the society even if he is unable to work actively?

Answer: Yes, absolutely. Physical activity is not the sole requirement for serving society. A person can serve through mental contributions, intellectual ideas, teaching, moral support, writing, or simply displaying patience and submission to Allah's will, which serves as an inspiration to others.

Poem Text & English to Urdu Translation

Line 1: When I consider how my light is spent,

جب میں سوچتا ہوں کہ میری بینائی کیسے ختم ہو گئی،

Line 2: Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,

اس وسیع اور تاریک دنیا میں میری نصف عمر گزرنے سے پہلے،

Line 3: And that one talent which is death to hide

اور وہ ایک صلاحیت (شاعری) جسے چھپانا روحانی موت کے برابر ہے،

Line 4: Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent

میرے پاس بیکار پڑی ہے، اگرچہ میری روح زیادہ مائل ہے،

Line 5: To serve therewith my Maker, and present

کہ اس کے ذریعے اپنے خالق کی خدمت کروں، اور پیش کروں،

Line 6: My true account, lest he returning chide;

اپنا سچا حساب، تاکہ ایسا نہ ہو کہ وہ (رب) واپس آ کر مجھے ڈانٹے؛

Line 7: "Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"

"کیا اللہ بینائی جھیننے کے بعد بھی دن بھر کی مشقت کا مطالبہ کرتا ہے؟"

Line 8: I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent

میں یہ قوفی سے پوچھتا ہوں۔ لیکن صبر، روکنے کے لیے

Line 9: That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need

اس شکوے کو، جلد ہی جواب دیتا ہے، "اللہ کو ضرورت نہیں ہے

Line 10: Either man's work or his own gifts; who best

نہ انسان کے کام کی اور نہ ہی اپنے دیے گئے تحائف کی؛ جو بہترین انداز میں

Line 11: Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state

اس کے ہلکے طوق (آزمائش / حکم) کو برداشت کرتے ہیں، وہی اس کی بہترین خدمت کرتے ہیں۔ اس کی شان

Line 12: Is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed

بادشاہانہ ہے۔ ہزاروں فرشتے اس کے حکم پر تیزی سے دوڑتے ہیں

Line 13: And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:

اور بغیر آرام کیے خشکی اور سمندروں پر سفر کرتے ہیں:

Line 14: They also serve who only stand and wait."

وہ لوگ بھی خدمت کرتے ہیں جو صرف خاموشی سے کھڑے رہتے ہیں اور انتظار کرتے ہیں۔"

While-Reading Questions

Q1: Why does the poet feel worried about his "talent" in these lines?

Answer: The poet is worried because his talent for writing poetry has become useless due to his sudden blindness. He fears he cannot use it to serve Allah and might be reprimanded for failing to utilize his gift.

Q2: What does the line "They also serve who only stand and wait" mean?

Answer: This line means that active physical service is not the only way to obey Allah. Those who cannot perform physical actions but remain patient, humble, and accept Allah's divine decree without complaint are

also serving Him effectively.

Theme & About the Author

Theme

The theme revolves around faith, patience, submission to divine authority, and acceptance of Allah's (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى) will. It teaches that God does not evaluate humans based solely on physical output, but values genuine faith, patience during trials, and humble acceptance of His destiny.

About the Author

John Milton (1608–1674) was a prominent English poet and scholar best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Despite losing his eyesight completely, he demonstrated remarkable fortitude and continued producing masterpiece literature focused on faith, morality, and human struggles.

Vocabulary & Glossary

Word	English Meaning	Urdu Meaning (اردو معنی)
Chide	To scold, rebuke	ڈانٹنا / ملامت کرنا
Denied	Refused, not allowed	محروم کیا گیا / انکار کیا
Ere	Before (archaic English)	قبل ازیں / پہلے
Lodged	Kept, placed in a position	موجود ہونا / رکھنا
Mild	Gentle, not harsh	نرم / ملائم
Murmur	A soft complaint; low sound	شکوہ / سرگوشی
Stand	To remain firm, stay patient	قائم رہنا / ثابت قدم رہنا

Word	English Meaning	Urdu Meaning (اردو معنی)
Talent	Intellectual/creative capability	صلاحیت / قابلیت
Wait	To stay calm patiently	انتظار کرنا / صبر کرنا
Yoke	Burden, duty, submission	طوق / ذمہ داری / پٹا
Fondly	Foolishly, naively	نادانی سے / بیوقوفی سے
Exact	To demand or require	مطالبہ کرنا / تقاضا کرنا

Exercise A: Comprehension Questions

1. What does the poet mean by "my light is spent"?

Answer: The phrase means that the poet has completely lost his eyesight and has become blind before reaching half of his life.

2. Why does the poet feel that his "talent" is useless?

Answer: He feels his poetic talent is useless because his loss of vision prevents him from reading and writing efficiently to serve Allah.

3. What fear does the poet express about serving God [Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى)]?

Answer: He fears that Allah will scold or rebuke him when judging his actions because he hasn't been able to use his creative talent due to his blindness.

4. What question does the poet ask about [Allah's (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى)] expectations?

Answer: He foolishly asks: "Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?" (Does Allah demand full work and labor from someone after taking away their sight?).

5. Who answers the poet's doubt in the poem?

Answer: His inner voice of "Patience" responds to and clears his doubts.

6. What is meant by "bear his mild yoke"?

Answer: It means to calmly and willingly submit to Allah's commands, rules, and tests with patience and humility.

7. How does the poem describe those who actively serve [Allah (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى)]?

Answer: It describes them as angelic messengers who constantly hurry across land and ocean without rest to carry out Allah's supreme commands.

8. What is the meaning of the line "They also serve who only stand and wait"?

Answer: It means that people who cannot perform active physical work but wait patiently, remaining steadfast and resigned to Allah's will, are also serving Him truly.

9. What is the central message or moral of the poem?

Answer: The central message is that true submission to Allah relies on inner patience and faith rather than physical achievements. Allah does not need human work; He values silent devotion and endurance during hardship.

Exercise B: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

#	Question	Options	Correct Answer
1	What does "my light is spent" mean?	a) lost hope b) lost sight c) lost wealth d) lost friends	b) lost sight
2	The poet worries his Talent is...	a) useful still b) completely lost c) useless now d) overrated gift	c) useless now
3	"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?" shows the poet...	a) expresses anger b) asks doubt c) seeks wealth d) plans travel	b) asks doubt

#	Question	Options	Correct Answer
4	"Bear his mild yoke" means...	a) carry burden b) obey patiently c) work actively d) suffer silently	b) obey patiently
5	People unable to serve actively...	a) are useless b) can serve c) must work d) should cry	b) can serve
6	The main lesson of the poem is... matters.	a) wealth b) patience c) courage d) strength	b) patience
7	"Ere half my days" means...	a) early life b) midlife point c) night time d) noon hour	b) midlife point
8	"They also serve who only stand and wait" means...	a) active work b) patient service c) physical standing d) tireless effort	b) patient service

Vocabulary & Critical Thinking Exercises

Critical Interpretation C: Why is it important to support your interpretation of a text with evidence?

Answer: Supporting an interpretation with textual evidence ensures that your opinion is grounded in factual points from the text rather than personal bias or guessing. It makes arguments convincing, logical, and objective for readers.

Vocabulary A: What are context clues, and how do they help you understand new words?

Answer: Context clues are hints found in surrounding words, phrases, or sentences. They help readers infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word instantly without checking a dictionary.

Vocabulary B: What does the prefix "re-" mean? Give one example word using it.

Answer: The prefix "re-" means "again" or "back".

Example: Re-read (to read again) or *Rewrite* (to write again).

Vocabulary C: When you come across a new word in a text, which reference material would you use first and why?

Answer: A **dictionary** should be consulted first because it gives the direct, authoritative definition, exact pronunciation, part of speech, and primary usage of the word.

Vocabulary D: What steps can you take to verify the meaning of an unfamiliar word in a text?

Answer:

1. Read surrounding sentences for context clues.
2. Identify word structures (prefixes, suffixes, root words).
3. Make a preliminary logical guess.
4. Confirm the exact definition using a reliable dictionary or glossary.

Oral Communication & Writing Skills

Oral Communication Skills

Activity A: Pair Work Interview Questions (Reporter & Entrepreneur)

Sample Questions & Responses:

- **Reporter:** What inspired your business idea?
Entrepreneur: I wanted to solve local educational access issues.
- **Reporter:** What major challenge did you face initially?
Entrepreneur: Securing adequate resources and initial financing.
- **Reporter:** How do you manage your daily goals?
Entrepreneur: By prioritizing tasks and focusing on consistent execution.
- **Reporter:** What keeps you motivated during failures?
Entrepreneur: My belief in my mission and continuous learning.
- **Reporter:** What is your main long-term goal?
Entrepreneur: To expand our digital educational services nationwide.

Activity B: Why is it important to ask meaningful questions during a conversation or interview?

Answer: Meaningful questions guide the discussion towards relevant insights, clarify misunderstandings, engage the speaker, and allow deep information gathering.

Writing Skills

A. Why is it important to revise and edit before writing the final draft?

Answer: Revising and editing eliminate grammatical errors, polish sentence structures, ensure logical transitions, and clarify main ideas, guaranteeing a coherent and error-free final piece.

B. What should you look for when critiquing someone's final draft?

Answer:

- Clarity and strength of the main topic sentence.
- Logical progression and support within paragraphs.
- Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Proper introduction (hook/lead-in) and effective closing conclusion.