Milton's Lycidas

Milton John
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROSE AND POETICAL WORKS OF

JOHN MILTON
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PROSE AND POETICAL WORKS

OF

JOHN MILTON

Comprising all the Autobiographic Passages in his Works, the more Explicit Presentations of his Ideas of True Liberty

COMUS, LYCIDAS, and SAMSON AGONISTES

With Notes and Forewords

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‘Servant of God, well done! Well hast thou fought
The better fight, who single hast maintained
Against revolted multitudes the cause
Of truth, in word mightier than they in arms,
And for the testimony of truth hast borne
Universal reproach, far worse to bear
Than violence; for this was all thy care—
To stand approved in sight of God, though worlds
Judged thee perverse.’

— Paradise Lost, VI. 29–37.

‘O mighty-mouthed inventor of harmonies,
O skilled to sing of Time or Eternity,
   God-gifted organ-voice of England,
   Milton, a name to resound for ages;
Whose Titan angels, Gabriel, Abdiel,
Starred from Jehovah’s gorgeous armories,
   Tower as the deep-domed empyrean
   Rings to the roar of an angel onset—
Me rather all that bowery loneliness,
The brooks of Eden mazily murmuring,
   And bloom profuse and cedar arches
   Charm, as a wanderer out in ocean,
Where some refulgent sunset of India
Streams o’er a rich ambrosial ocean isle,
   And crimson-hued the stately palmwoods
   Whisper in odorous heights of even.’

— Tennyson.