

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 12th



aglasem.com

Class : 12th

Subject : English

Chapter : 2

Chapter Name : On Time

Q1 Why has the poet pitted the flight of Time against the 'lazy leaden-stepping hours' and 'the heavy Plummets pace'?

Answer. In the poem, Milton says that the human being is eternal. He triumphs over time by attaining eternal life in heaven. Time is personified as being envious by human beings. Poet asks time to flee as it will soon face defeat and humans will face eternal bliss.

The "lazy leaden stepping hours" refers to clock moving slowly covering hours with "leaden" hands. Times movement is compared to the pendulum in a clock that moves slowly. Times movement is limited to the clock but human life is eternal and exists even after death.

Page : 95 , Block Name : Understanding the poem

Q2 What are the things associated with the temporal and what is associated with the eternal?

Answer. Temporal things are that are temporary in their existence that is bound to finish at a certain point. Qualities like "Envious", "lazy", "womb", "greedy", "vain", "glut", "plummets", "leaden", "hours", and "mortal", "Death", "Chance" is bound to end, they are temporal in their existence.

The things that are not bound to death and continue to survive even after that, are "Love", "Peace", "Truth", "Joy", "Throne", "soul", "Stars", which are attained in heaven.

Page : 95 , Block Name : Understanding the poem

Q3 What guides human souls towards divinity? Who is the final winner in the race against Time?

Answer. In this poem, John Milton has depicted the common conception of Time as moving too fast or too slowly, according to the individual's perception. Time is shown as an intangible entity that rules the lives of human beings but actually, it is just in the mind of the individual, but not in reality. Time is a recognized force that drives a person's lifespan forward, bringing inevitable change in every passing moment but they should not be affected by its influence in a negative way rather look forward to changes. Milton explains that we must realize that there is only one destination in the race against Time, i.e. Death. Time devours everything in our lifetime but it too must come to an end like everything else in the universe. Time's power ends when the human soul is released from its earthly abode and is guided by Death, to the realm of the divine, where eternal bliss is waiting, along with the joyful union with the Creator.

Page : 95 , Block Name : Understanding the poem

aglasem.com