

Before Areopagitica.

[s.n.] - *Areopagitica* by John Milton



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- Before Areopagitica.
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Areopagitica: Introduction

In *Paradise Lost*, Milton mourns the end of the godly. First, is fear'd the infection that may spread; but then all human learning and controversie in religious points must remove out of the world, yea the Bible it selfe; for that oftentimes relates blasphemy not nicely, it describes the carnall sense of wicked men not unelegantly, it brings in holiest men passionately murmuring against providence through all the arguments of Epicurus: in other great disputes it answers dubiously and darkly to the common reader: And ask a Talmudist what ails the modesty of his marginal Keri, that Moses and all the Prophets cannot perswade him to pronounce the textuall.

John Milton's Areopagitica

Preparing to become a priest, Milton stayed on and obtained his on 3 July 1632. *Areopagitica* was one of the first literary works in modern history to argue for a complete, uninhibited Freedom of the Press.

Areopagitica — Smudgy Guide

Almost four hundred years old now, *Areopagitica* is nonetheless still a very relevant document today. And in conclusion it reflects to the disrepute of our ministers also, of whose labours we should hope better, and of the proficiency which their flock reaps by them, than that after all this light of the Gospel which is, and is to be, and all this continual preaching, they should still be frequented with such an unprincipled, unedified and laic rabble, as that the whiff of every new pamphlet should stagger them out of their catechism and Christian walking.

Milton and Freedom of Speech

Their tone, however, stemmed from the Puritan emphasis on the centrality and inviolability of conscience. After his divorce writings, *Areopagitica*, and a gap, he wrote in 1649—54 in the aftermath of the , and in polemic justification of the regicide and the existing Parliamentarian regime. And they are always provisional, never final.

John Milton Areopagitica, 1644

Censorship is the dismantling of this vital system of idea exchange.

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