Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

Assignment: On His Blindness

1. What does Milton mean by ‘light’ in the first line? How is his world now? Why?

By the word ‘light’, Milton means his vision in the first line. His world now is wide but dark. It is because of the loss of vision that he is suffering from.

2. Explain the line: ‘one talent which is death to hide’

‘One talent which is death to hide’ means the ability or the talent that he has received from God is in darkness. Here darkness is symbolised as ‘death’. Milton believes that due to the lack of vision his talent is hidden in the death of darkness.

3. What is the symbolic meaning of the word ‘talent’? Is there any Biblical reference to this?

Symbolic meaning of the word ‘talent’ is his writing ability. Yes, there is Biblical reference to this. According to the Parable of talents, a master gave one coin each to his three servants. The third servant buried and did not use it. He was given a punishment by the master for not using the coin productively. Similarly, God has also given talents to everyone to use it productively.

4. What does Milton’s soul wish to do?

Milton’s soul wishes to wants to serve the Maker that is God and show his worth. He feels that God might scold him for not using the talent given to him.

5. Which other voice is mentioned? What does it say?

The other voice mentioned is the voice of one’s Patience which is the inner voice or conscience. It says that God does not need either man’s work or his own gifts. The one who bears his mild yoke that is the one who surrenders to him with complete faith serves him the best.

6. How is God described by Milton?

Milton describes God as kingly and he has thousands at his bidding speed and they post over land and ocean without rest.

7. State the message given in the poem.

The message given in the poem is how one should have faith in God. In adverse circumstance also, one should surrender to God’s will and have Patience. One should use the gifts offered to by God. By working hard doesn’t prove that you serve your Maker but it is by using your talents, having Patience and by waiting that you can offer your devotion to God.