

## A Short Note on Pastoral Elegy-

An elegy is a form of poem in which a poet laments the death of a particular person. A further category of elegy is the Pastoral Elegy. In this kind of elegy the mourner and the mourned both are represented as shepherds. It was originated by Greek poet Theocritus. It was developed in European literature during the Renaissance and became a popular poetic form in the 19th century. In English literature, the most notable examples of pastoral elegy are Milton's "Lycidas", Shelley's "Adonais" and Matthew Arnold's "Thyrsis" and "Scholar Gypsy". The earliest example of pastoral elegy is "Astrophil" composed by Spenser lamenting the death of Sir Philip Sidney. In "Lycidas" Milton laments the death of Henry King and in "Adonais" Shelley laments the death of John Keats. Some of the notable features of a pastoral elegy are as follows:

- \* The poet and the person, whose death is lamented, are represented as shepherds.
- \* The poet invokes Muses in the beginning and then reference is made to several mythological characters.
- \* All natural elements are shown as lamenting the shepherd's death
- \* The poet charges nymphs and other guardians of dead shepherd with negligence.
- \* The poet reflects on divine justice and laments the contemporary social evils.
- \* In the end of the poem, the poet expresses his hope and joy for beginning of a new and higher life after death.