

# MILTON IN PURGATORY

by Edward Vass

## QUESTIONS

- The narrative is divided into sections marking the passage of time. What effect does this have and would the story be lacking without this information?
- The story is primarily driven forward by the main character's interaction with various figures in the Afterlife. What function do these figures have? Are they depicted in a convincing way?
- The narrative could be described as circular. What is the purpose of such a narrative? Can you think of any other books that use this technique?
- What literary influences can you spot in the novella? How are they used and what do they bring to the narrative?
- Pick a passage where one of the characters, e.g. Narration or Tracey, gives Milton information about this 'religion'. (See for example Chapter 9.) Describe the language and the level of interaction in this passage.
- How would you describe the ending of the novella? Would you have ended it differently?
- What is the message of this novella? Does a story always have a message? Why (not)?

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## WRITING EXERCISES

A) Write a story of 1,000 words that has a circular narrative.

OR

B) Write a passage of 1,000 words imagining a character's journey in an afterlife (it could be Hell, Purgatory, Paradise, or something completely different).

## NOTES

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