



## Samson Agonistes by John Milton

Total running time: 01:52:55

*Samson Agonistes* is a dramatic poem by John Milton based on the Old Testament story of Samson. It was first published in 1671 alongside *Paradise Regained*. The poem depicts Samson in the final day of his life, blinded and in captivity. He muses on his miserable condition and is then visited by friends from the tribe of Dan, by his father Manoa, his wife Delila, and the giant Harapha. Finally, he is ordered by the Philistines to publicly demonstrate his strength, which leads to the dramatic end to his story and his life. At the time Milton wrote this work, he had himself lost his sight and also witnessed the collapse of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, which he had strongly supported. It is probable that these events influenced the thoughts that he puts into the mind of Samson.

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