

**Paradise Lost BOOK 9**  
**John Milton (1667)**

THE ARGUMENT

*Satan having compassed the Earth, with meditated guile returns as a mist by Night into Paradise, enters into the Serpent sleeping. Adam and Eve in the Morning go forth to thir labours, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each labouring apart: Adam consents not, alledging the danger, lest that Enemy, of whom they were forewarn'd, should attempt her found alone: Eve loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, the rather desirous to make tryal of her strength; Adam at last yields: The Serpent finds her alone; his subtle approach, first gazing, then speaking, with much flattery extolling Eve above all other Creatures. Eve wondring to hear the Serpent speak, asks how he attain'd to human speech and such understanding not till now; the Serpent answers, that by tasting of a certain Tree in the Garden he attain'd both to Speech and Reason, till then void of both: Eve requires him to bring her to that Tree, and finds it to be the Tree of Knowledge forbidden: The Serpent now grown bolder, with many wiles and arguments induces her at length to eat; she pleas'd with the taste deliberates a while whether to impart thereof to Adam or not, at last brings him of the Fruit, relates what perswaded her to eat thereof: Adam at first amaz'd, but perceiving her lost, resolves through vehemence of love to perish with her; and extenuating the trespass, eats also of the Fruit: The Effects thereof in them both; they seek to cover thir nakedness; then fall to variance and accusation of one another.*

**NO** more of talk where God or Angel Guest  
With Man, as with his Friend, familiar us'd  
To sit indulgent, and with him partake  
Rural repast, permitting him the while  
Venial discourse unblam'd: I now must change [ 5 ]  
Those Notes to Tragic; foul distrust, and breach  
Disloyal on the part of Man, revolt,  
And disobedience: On the part of Heav'n  
Now alienated, distance and distaste,  
Anger and just rebuke, and judgement giv'n, [ 10 ]  
That brought into this World a world of woe,  
Sinne and her shadow Death, and Miserie  
Deaths Harbinger: Sad task, yet argument  
Not less but more Heroic then the wrauth  
Of stern *Achilles* on his Foe pursu'd [ 15 ]  
Thrice Fugitive about *Troy* Wall; or rage  
Of Turnus for Lavinia disespous'd,  
Or *Neptun's* ire or *Juno's*, that so long  
Perplex'd the Greek and Cytherea's Son;  
If answerable style I can obtaine [ 20 ]

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Page 1 of 41

Of my Celestial Patroness, who deignes  
 Her nightly visitation unimplor'd,  
 And dictates to me slumb'ring, or inspires  
 Easie my unpremeditated Verse:  
 Since first this Subject for Heroic Song [ 25 ]  
 Pleas'd me long choosing, and beginning late;  
 Not sedulous by Nature to indite  
 Warrs, hitherto the onely Argument  
 Heroic deem'd, chief maistrie to dissect  
 With long and tedious havoc fabl'd Knights [ 30 ]  
 In Battels feign'd; the better fortitude  
 Of Patience and Heroic Martyrdom  
 Unsung; or to describe Races and Games,  
 Or tilting Furniture, emblazon'd Shields,  
Impreses quaint, Caparisons and Steeds; [ 35 ]  
 Bases and tinsel Trappings, gorgeous Knights  
 At Joust and Torneament; then marshal'd Feast  
 Serv'd up in Hall with Sewers, and Seneshals;  
 The skill of Artifice or Office mean,  
 Not that which justly gives Heroic name [ 40 ]  
 To Person or to Poem. Mee of these  
 Nor skilld nor studious, higher Argument  
 Remaines, sufficient of it self to raise  
 That name, unless an age too late, or cold  
Climat, or Years damp my intended wing [ 45 ]  
 Deprest, and much they may, if all be mine,  
 Not Hers who brings it nightly to my Ear.

The Sun was sunk, and after him the Starr  
 Of Hesperus, whose Office is to bring  
 Twilight upon the Earth, short Arbiter [ 50 ]  
 Twixt Day and Night, and now from end to end  
 Nights Hemisphere had veild the Horizon round:  
 When Satan who late fled before the threats  
 Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improv'd  
 In meditated fraud and malice, bent [ 55 ]  
 On mans destruction, maugre what might hap  
 Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd.  
 By Night he fled, and at Midnight return'd.  
 From compassing the Earth, cautious of day,  
 Since Uriel Regent of the Sun descri'd [ 60 ]  
 His entrance, and forewarnd the Cherubim  
 That kept thir watch; thence full of anguish driv'n,  
 The space of seven continu'd Nights he rode  
 With darkness, thrice the Equinoctial Line  
 He circl'd, four times cross'd the Carr of Night [ 65 ]

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From Pole to Pole, traversing each Colure;  
 On the eighth return'd, and on the Coast averse  
 From entrance or Cherubic Watch, by stealth  
 Found unsuspected way. There was a place,  
 Now not, though Sin, not Time, first wraught the change, [ 70 ]  
 Where Tigris at the foot of Paradise  
 Into a Gulf shot under ground, till part  
 Rose up a Fountain by the Tree of Life;  
 In with the River sunk, and with it rose  
 Satan involv'd in rising Mist, then sought [ 75 ]  
 Where to lie hid; Sea he had searcht and Land  
 From Eden over Pontus, and the Poole  
Mæotis, up beyond the River Ob;  
 Downward as farr Antartic; and in length  
 West from Orontes to the Ocean barr'd [ 80 ]  
 At Darien, thence to the Land where flowes  
Ganges and Indus: thus the Orb he roam'd  
 With narrow search; and with inspection deep  
 Consider'd every Creature, which of all  
 Most opportune might serve his Wiles, and found [ 85 ]  
 The Serpent suttlest Beast of all the Field.  
 Him after long debate, irresolute  
 Of thoughts revolv'd, his final sentence chose  
 Fit Vessel, fittest Imp of fraud, in whom  
 To enter, and his dark suggestions hide [ 90 ]  
 From sharpest sight: for in the wilie Snake,  
 Whatever sleights none would suspicious mark,  
 As from his wit and native suttletie  
 Proceeding, which in other Beasts observ'd  
 Doubt might beget of Diabolic pow'r [ 95 ]  
 Active within beyond the sense of brute.  
 Thus he resolv'd, but first from inward grieve  
 His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd:  
     O Earth, how like to Heav'n, if not preferr'd  
 More justly, Seat worthier of Gods, as built [ 100 ]  
 With second thoughts, reforming what was old!  
 For what God after better worse would build?  
 Terrestrial Heav'n, danc't round by other Heav'ns  
 That shine, yet bear thir bright officious Lamps,  
 Light above Light, for thee alone, as seems, [ 105 ]  
 In thee concentring all thir precious beams  
 Of sacred influence: As God in Heav'n  
 Is Center, yet extends to all, so thou  
 Centring receav'st from all those Orbs; in thee,  
 Not in themselves, all thir known vertue appears [ 110 ]

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Productive in Herb, Plant, and nobler birth  
 Of Creatures animate with gradual life  
 Of Growth, Sense, Reason, all summ'd up in Man.  
 With what delight could I have walkt thee round,  
 If I could joy in aught, sweet interchange [ 115 ]  
 Of Hill, and Vallie, Rivers, Woods and Plaines,  
 Now Land, now Sea, and Shores with Forrest crownd,  
 Rocks, Dens, and Caves; but I in none of these  
 Find place or refuge; and the more I see  
 Pleasures about me, so much more I feel [ 120 ]  
 Torment within me, as from the hateful siege  
 Of contraries; all good to me becomes  
 Bane, and in Heav'n much worse would be my state.  
 But neither here seek I, no nor in Heav'n  
 To dwell, unless by maistring Heav'ns Supream; [ 125 ]  
 Nor hope to be my self less miserable  
 By what I seek, but others to make such  
 As I, though thereby worse to me redound:  
 For onely in destroying I find ease  
 To my relentless thoughts; and him destroyd, [ 130 ]  
 Or won to what may work his utter loss,  
 For whom all this was made, all this will soon  
 Follow, as to him linkt in weal or woe,  
 In wo then: that destruction wide may range:  
 To mee shall be the glorie sole among [ 135 ]  
 The infernal Powers, in one day to have marr'd  
 What he *Almightie* styl'd, six Nights and Days  
 Continu'd making, and who knows how long  
 Before had bin contriving, though perhaps  
 Not longer then since I in one Night freed [ 140 ]  
 From servitude inglorious weligh half  
 Th' Angelic Name, and thinner left the throng  
 Of his adorers: hee to be aveng'd,  
 And to repaire his numbers thus impair'd,  
 Whether such vertue spent of old now faild [ 145 ]  
 More Angels to Create, if they at least  
 Are his Created, or to spite us more,  
 Determin'd to advance into our room  
 A Creature form'd of Earth, and him endow,  
 Exalted from so base original, [ 150 ]  
 With Heav'nly spoils, our spoils: What he decreed  
 He effected; Man he made, and for him built  
 Magnificent this World, and Earth his seat,  
 Him Lord pronounc'd, and, O indignitie!  
 Subjected to his service Angel wings, [ 155 ]

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And flaming Ministers to watch and tend  
 Thir earthy Charge: Of these the vigilance  
 I dread, and to elude, thus wrapt in mist  
 Of midnight vapor glide obscure, and prie  
 In every Bush and Brake, where hap may finde [ 160 ]  
 The Serpent sleeping, in whose maziie foulds  
 To hide me, and the dark intent I bring.  
 O foul descent! that I who erst contended  
 With Gods to sit the highest, am now constraïnd  
 Into a Beast, and mixt with bestial slime, [ 165 ]  
 This essence to incarnate and imbrute,  
 That to the hight of Deitie aspir'd;  
 But what will not Ambition and Revenge  
 Descend to? who aspires must down as low  
 As high he soard, obnoxious first or last [ 170 ]  
 To basest things. Revenge, at first though sweet,  
 Bitter ere long back on it self recoiles;  
 Let it; I reck not, so it light well aim'd,  
 Since higher I fall short, on him who next  
 Provokes my envie, this new Favorite [ 175 ]  
 Of Heav'n, this Man of Clay, Son of despite,  
 Whom us the more to spite his Maker rais'd  
 From dust: spite then with spite is best repaid.  
 So saying, through each Thicket Danck or Drie,  
 Like a black mist low creeping, he held on [ 180 ]  
 His midnight search, where soonest he might finde  
 The Serpent: him fast sleeping soon he found  
 In Labyrinth of many a round self-rowld,  
 His head the midst, well stor'd with suttile wiles:  
 Not yet in horrid Shade or dismal Den, [ 185 ]  
 Nor nocent yet, but on the grassie Herbe  
 Fearless unfeard he slept: in at his Mouth  
 The Devil enterd, and his brutal sense,  
 In heart or head, possessing soon inspir'd  
 With act intelligential; but his sleep [ 190 ]  
 Disturbd not, waiting close th' approach of Morn.  
 Now when as sacred Light began to dawne  
 In *Eden* on the humid Flours, that breathd  
 Thir morning incense, when all things that breath,  
 From th' Earths great Altar send up silent praise [ 195 ]  
 To the Creator, and his Nostrils fill  
 With grateful Smell, forth came the human pair  
 And joind thir vocal Worship to the Quire  
 Of Creatures wanting voice, that done, partake  
 The season, prime for sweetest Sents and Aires: [ 200 ]

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Then commune how that day they best may ply  
Thir growing work: for much thir work outgrew  
The hands dispatch of two Gardning so wide.  
And *Eve* first to her Husband thus began.

*Adam*, well may we labour still to dress [ 205 ]  
This Garden, still to tend Plant, Herb and Flour,  
Our pleasant task enjoyn'd, but till more hands  
Aid us, the work under our labour grows,  
Luxurious by restraint; what we by day  
Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind, [ 210 ]  
One night or two with wanton growth derides  
Tending to wilde. Thou therefore now advise  
Or hear what to my minde first thoughts present,  
Let us divide our labours, thou where choice  
Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind [ 215 ]  
The Woodbine round this Arbour, or direct  
The clasping Ivie where to climb, while I  
In yonder Spring of Roses intermixt  
With Myrtle, find what to redress till Noon:  
For while so near each other thus all day [ 220 ]  
Our taske we choose, what wonder if so near  
Looks intervene and smiles, or object new  
Casual discourse draw on, which intermits  
Our dayes work brought to little, though begun  
Early, and th' hour of Supper comes unearn'd. [ 225 ]

To whom mild answer *Adam* thus return'd.  
Sole *Eve*, Associate sole, to me beyond  
Compare above all living Creatures deare,  
Well hast thou motion'd, well thy thoughts imployd  
How we might best fulfill the work which here [ 230 ]  
God hath assign'd us, nor of me shalt pass  
Unprais'd: for nothing lovelier can be found  
In Woman, then to studie houshold good,  
And good workes in her Husband to promote.  
Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd [ 235 ]  
Labour, as to debarr us when we need  
Refreshment, whether food, or talk between,  
Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse  
Of looks and smiles, for smiles from Reason flow,  
To brute deni'd, and are of Love the food, [ 240 ]  
Love not the lowest end of human life.  
For not to irksom toile, but to delight  
He made us, and delight to Reason joyn'd.  
These paths & Bowers doubt not but our joynt hands  
Will keep from Wilderness with ease, as wide [ 245 ]

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Page 6 of 41

As we need walk, till younger hands ere long  
 Assist us: But if much converse perhaps  
 Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield.  
 For solitude sometimes is best societie,  
 And short retirement urges sweet returne. [ 250 ]  
 But other doubt possesses me, least harm  
 Befall thee sever'd from me; for thou knowst  
 What hath bin warn'd us, what malicious Foe  
 Envyng our happiness, and of his own  
 Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame [ 255 ]  
 By sly assault; and somewhere nigh at hand  
 Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find  
 His wish and best advantage, us asunder,  
 Hopeless to circumvent us joynd, where each  
 To other speedie aide might lend at need; [ 260 ]  
 Whether his first design be to withdraw  
 Our fealtie from God, or to disturb  
 Conjugal Love, then which perhaps no bliss  
 Enjoy'd by us excites his envie more;  
 Or this, or worse, leave not the faithful side [ 265 ]  
 That gave thee being, still shades thee and protects.  
 The Wife, where danger or dishonour lurks,  
 Safest and seemliest by her Husband staies,  
 Who guards her, or with her the worst endures.  
     To whom the Virgin Majestie of *Eve*, [ 270 ]  
 As one who loves, and some unkindness meets,  
 With sweet austere composure thus reply'd,  
     Ospring of Heav'n and Earth, and all Earths Lord,  
 That such an Enemie we have, who seeks  
 Our ruin, both by thee informd I learne, [ 275 ]  
 And from the parting Angel over-heard  
 As in a shadie nook I stood behind,  
 Just then returnd at shut of Evening Flours.  
 But that thou shouldst my firmness therfore doubt  
 To God or thee, because we have a foe [ 280 ]  
 May tempt it, I expected not to hear.  
 His violence thou fear'st not, being such,  
 As wee, not capable of death or paine,  
 Can either not receive, or can repell.  
 His fraud is then thy fear, which plain inferrs [ 285 ]  
 Thy equal fear that my firm Faith and Love  
 Can by his fraud be shak'n or seduc't;  
 Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy brest  
*Adam*, misthought of her to thee so dear?

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To whom with healing words *Adam* replyd. [ 290 ]  
 Daughter of God and Man, immortal *Eve*,  
 For such thou art, from sin and blame entire:  
 Not diffident of thee do I dissuade  
 Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid  
 Th' attempt itself, intended by our Foe. [ 295 ]  
 For hee who tempts, though in vain, at least asperses  
 The tempted with dishonour foul, suppos'd  
 Not incorruptible of Faith, not proof  
 Against temptation: thou thy self with scorne  
 And anger wouldst resent the offer'd wrong, [ 300 ]  
 Though ineffectual found: misdeem not then,  
 If such affront I labour to avert  
 From thee alone, which on us both at once  
 The Enemy, though bold, will hardly dare,  
 Or daring, first on mee th' assault shall light. [ 305 ]  
 Nor thou his malice and false guile contemn;  
 Suttle he needs must be, who could seduce  
 Angels nor think superfluous others aid.  
 I from the influence of thy looks receive  
 Access in every Vertue, in thy sight [ 310 ]  
 More wise, more watchful, stronger, if need were  
 Of outward strength; while shame, thou looking on,  
 Shame to be overcome or over-reacht  
 Would utmost vigor raise, and rais'd unite.  
 Why shouldst not thou like sense within thee feel [ 315 ]  
 When I am present, and thy trial choose  
 With me, best witness of thy Vertue tri'd.

So spake domestick *Adam* in his care  
 And Matrimonial Love; but *Eve*, who thought  
 Less attributed to her Faith sincere, [ 320 ]  
 Thus her reply with accent sweet renewd.

If this be our condition, thus to dwell  
 In narrow circuit strait'nd by a Foe,  
 Suttle or violent, we not endu'd  
 Single with like defence, wherever met, [ 325 ]  
 How are we happie, still in fear of harm?  
 But harm precedes not sin: onely our Foe  
 Tempting affronts us with his foul esteem  
 Of our integritie: his foul esteeme  
 Sticks no dishonor on our Front, but turns [ 330 ]  
 Foul on himself; then wherefore shund or feard  
 By us? who rather double honour gaine  
 From his surmise prov'd false, find peace within,  
 Favour from Heav'n, our witness from th' event.

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And what is Faith, Love, Vertue unassaid [ 335 ]  
 Alone, without exterior help sustain'd?  
 Let us not then suspect our happie State  
 Left so imperfet by the Maker wise,  
 As not secure to single or combin'd.  
 Fraile is our happiness, if this be so, [ 340 ]  
 And *Eden* were no *Eden* thus expos'd.  
     To whom thus *Adam* fervently repli'd.  
 O Woman, best are all things as the will  
 Of God ordain'd them, his creating hand  
 Nothing imperfet or deficient left [ 345 ]  
 Of all that he Created, much less Man,  
 Or aught that might his happie State secure,  
 Secure from outward force; within himself  
 The danger lies, yet lies within his power:  
 Against his will he can receive no harme. [ 350 ]  
 But God left free the Will, for what obeyes  
 Reason, is free, and Reason he made right  
 But bid her well beware, and still erect,  
 Least by some faire appeering good surpris'd  
 She dictate false, and misinforme the Will [ 355 ]  
 To do what God expresly hath forbid,  
 Not then mistrust, but tender love enjoynes,  
 That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me.  
 Firm we subsist, yet possible to swerve,  
 Since Reason not impossibly may meet [ 360 ]  
 Some specious object by the Foe subornd,  
 And fall into deception unaware,  
 Not keeping strictest watch, as she was warnd.  
 Seek not temptation then, which to avoide  
 Were better, and most likelie if from mee [ 365 ]  
 Thou sever not: Trial will come unsought.  
 Wouldst thou approve thy constancie, approve  
 First thy obedience; th' other who can know,  
 Not seeing thee attempted, who attest?  
 But if thou think, trial unsought may finde [ 370 ]  
 Us both securer then thus warnd thou seemst,  
 Go; for thy stay, not free, absents thee more;  
 Go in thy native innocence, relie  
 On what thou hast of vertue, summon all,  
 For God towards thee hath done his part, do thine. [ 375 ]  
     So spake the Patriarch of Mankinde, but *Eve*  
 Persisted, yet submiss, though last, repli'd.  
     With thy permission then, and thus forewarnd  
 Chiefly by what thy own last reasoning words

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Touchd onely, that our trial, when least sought, [ 380 ]  
 May finde us both perhaps farr less prepar'd,  
 The willinger I goe, nor much expect  
 A Foe so proud will first the weaker seek,  
 So bent, the more shall shame him his repulse.  
 Thus saying, from her Husbands hand her hand [ 385 ]  
 Soft she withdrew, and like a Wood-Nymph light  
Oread or Dryad, or of Delia's Traine,  
 Betook her to the Groves, but Delia's self  
 In gate surpass'd and Goddess-like deport,  
 Though not as shee with Bow and Quiver armd, [ 390 ]  
 But with such Gardning Tools as Art yet rude,  
 Guiltless of fire had formd, or Angels brought.  
 To Pales, or Pomona, thus adornd,  
 Likeliest she seemd, Pomona when she fled  
Vertumnus, or to Ceres in her Prime, [ 395 ]  
 Yet Virgin of Proserpina from Jove.  
 Her long with ardent look his Eye pursu'd  
 Delighted, but desiring more her stay.  
 Oft he to her his charge of quick returne  
 Repeated, shee to him as oft engag'd [ 400 ]  
 To be returnd by Noon amid the Bowre,  
 And all things in best order to invite  
 Noontide repast, or Afternoons repose.  
 O much deceav'd, much failing, hapless Eve,  
 Of thy presum'd return! event perverse! [ 405 ]  
 Thou never from that houre in Paradise  
 Foundst either sweet repast, or sound repose;  
 Such ambush hid among sweet Flours and Shades  
 Waited with hellish rancour imminent  
 To intercept thy way, or send thee back [ 410 ]  
 Despoild of Innocence, of Faith, of Bliss.  
 For now, and since first break of dawne the Fiend,  
Meer Serpent in appearance, forth was come,  
 And on his Quest, where likeliest he might finde  
 The onely two of Mankinde, but in them [ 415 ]  
 The whole included Race, his purposd prey.  
 In Bowre and Field he sought, where any tuft  
 Of Grove or Garden-Plot more pleasant lay,  
 Thir tendance or Plantation for delight,  
 By Fountain or by shadie Rivulet [ 420 ]  
 He sought them both, but wish'd his hap might find  
Eve separate, he wish'd, but not with hope  
 Of what so seldom chanc'd, when to his wish,  
 Beyond his hope, Eve separate he spies,

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Veild in a Cloud of Fragrance, where she stood, [ 425 ]  
 Half spi'd, so thick the Roses bushing round  
 About her glowd, oft stooping to support  
 Each Flour of slender stalk, whose head though gay  
 Carnation, Purple, Azure, or spect with Gold,  
 Hung drooping unsustaind, them she upstaies [ 430 ]  
 Gently with Mirtle band, mindless the while,  
 Her self, though fairest unsupported Flour,  
 From her best prop so farr, and storm so nigh.  
 Neerer he drew, and many a walk travers'd  
 Of stateliest Covert, Cedar, Pine, or Palme, [ 435 ]  
 Then voluble and bold, now hid, now seen  
 Among thick-wov'n Arborets and Flours  
 Imborderd on each Bank, the hand of *Eve*:  
 Spot more delicious then those Gardens feign'd  
 Or of reviv'd *Adonis*, or renownd [ 440 ]  
*Alcinous*, host of old *Laertes* Son,  
 Or that, not Mystic, where the Sapient King  
 Held dalliance with his fair *Egyptian* Spouse.  
 Much hee the Place admir'd, the Person more.  
 As one who long in populous City pent, [ 445 ]  
 Where Houses thick and Sewers annoy the Aire,  
 Forth issuing on a Summers Morn to breathe  
 Among the pleasant Villages and Farmes  
 Adjoynd, from each thing met conceaves delight,  
 The smell of Grain, or tedded Grass, or Kine, [ 450 ]  
 Or Dairie, each rural sight, each rural sound;  
 If chance with Nymphlike step fair Virgin pass,  
 What pleasing seemd, for her now pleases more,  
 She most, and in her look summs all Delight.  
 Such Pleasure took the Serpent to behold [ 455 ]  
 This Flourie Plat, the sweet recess of *Eve*  
 Thus earlie, thus alone; her Heav'nly forme  
 Angelic, but more soft, and Feminine,  
 Her graceful Innocence, her every Aire  
 Of gesture or lest action overawd [ 460 ]  
 His Malice, and with rapine sweet bereav'd  
 His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought:  
 That space the Evil one abstracted stood  
 From his own evil, and for the time remaind  
 Stupidly good, of enmitie disarm'd, [ 465 ]  
 Of guile, of hate, of envie, of revenge;  
 But the hot Hell that alwayes in him burnes,  
 Though in mid Heav'n, soon ended his delight,  
 And tortures him now more, the more he sees

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Of pleasure not for him ordain'd: then soon [ 470 ]  
Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts  
Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites.

Thoughts, whither have ye led me, with what sweet  
Compulsion thus transported to forget  
What hither brought us, hate, not love, nor hope [ 475 ]  
Of Paradise for Hell, hope here to taste  
Of pleasure, but all pleasure to destroy,  
Save what is in destroying, other joy  
To me is lost. Then let me not let pass  
Occasion which now smiles, behold alone [ 480 ]  
The Woman, opportune to all attempts,  
Her Husband, for I view far round, not nigh,  
Whose higher intellectual more I shun,  
And strength, of courage haughty, and of limb  
Heroic built, though of terrestrial mould, [ 485 ]  
Foe not formidable, exempt from wound,  
I not; so much hath Hell debas'd, and paine  
Infeeb'd me, to what I was in Heav'n.  
Shee fair, divinely fair, fit Love for Gods,  
Not terrible, though terrour be in Love [ 490 ]  
And beautie, not approacht by stronger hate,  
Hate stronger, under shew of Love well feign'd,  
The way which to her ruin now I tend.

So spake the Enemy of Mankind, enclosed  
In Serpent, Inmate bad, and toward *Eve* [ 495 ]  
Address'd his way, not with indented wave,  
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his reare,  
Circular base of rising foulds, that tour'd  
Fould above fould a surging Maze, his Head  
Crested aloft, and Carbuncle his Eyes; [ 500 ]  
With burnisht Neck of verdant Gold, erect  
Amidst his circling Spires, that on the grass  
Floted redundant: pleasing was his shape,  
And lovely, never since of Serpent kind  
Lovelier, not those that in *Illyria* chang'd [ 505 ]  
*Hermione* and *Cadmus*, or the God  
In *Epidaurus*; nor to which transform'd  
Ammonian Jove, or Capitoline was seen,  
Hee with *Olympias*, this with her who bore  
Scipio the highth of *Rome*. With tract oblique [ 510 ]  
At first, as one who sought access, but feard  
To interrupt, side-long he works his way.  
As when a Ship by skilful Steersman wrought  
Nigh Rivers mouth or Foreland, where the Wind

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Page 12 of 41

Veres off, as oft so steers, and shifts her Saile; [ 515 ]  
 So varied hee, and of his tortuous Traine  
 Curld many a wanton wreath in sight of *Eve*,  
 To lure her Eye; shee busied heard the sound  
 Of rusling Leaves, but minded not, as us'd  
 To such disport before her through the Field, [ 520 ]  
 From every Beast, more duteous at her call,  
 Then at *Circean* call the Herd disquis'd.  
 Hee boulder now, uncall'd before her stood;  
 But as in gaze admiring: Oft he bowd  
 His turret Crest, and sleek enamel'd Neck, [ 525 ]  
 Fawning, and lick'd the ground whereon she trod.  
 His gentle dumb expression turnd at length  
 The Eye of *Eve* to mark his play; he glad  
 Of her attention gaind, with Serpent Tongue  
 Organic, or impulse of vocal Air, [ 530 ]  
 His fraudulent temptation thus began.

Wonder not, sovran Mistress, if perhaps  
 Thou canst, who art sole Wonder, much less arm  
 Thy looks, the Heav'n of mildness, with disdain,  
 Displeas'd that I approach thee thus, and gaze [ 535 ]  
 Insatiate, I thus single, nor have feard  
 Thy awful brow, more awful thus retir'd.  
 Fairest resemblance of thy Maker faire,  
 Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine  
 By gift, and thy Celestial Beautie adore [ 540 ]  
 With ravishment beheld, there best beheld  
 Where universally admir'd; but here  
 In this enclosure wild, these Beasts among,  
 Beholders rude, and shallow to discern  
 Half what in thee is fair, one man except, [ 545 ]  
 Who sees thee? (and what is one?) who shouldst be seen  
 A Goddess among Gods, ador'd and serv'd  
 By Angels numberless, thy daily Train.

So gloz'd the Tempter, and his Proem tun'd;  
 Into the Heart of *Eve* his words made way, [ 550 ]  
 Though at the voice much marveling; at length  
 Not unamaz'd she thus in answer spake.  
 What may this mean? Language of Man pronounc't  
 By Tongue of Brute, and human sense exprest?  
 The first at lest of these I thought deni'd [ 555 ]  
 To Beasts, whom God on thir Creation-Day  
 Created mute to all articulat sound;  
 The latter I demurre, for in thir looks  
 Much reason, and in thir actions oft appeers.

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Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field [ 560 ]  
 I knew, but not with human voice endu'd;  
 Redouble then this miracle, and say,  
 How cam'st thou speakable of mute, and how  
 To me so friendly grown above the rest  
 Of brutal kind, that daily are in sight? [ 565 ]  
 Say, for such wonder claims attention due.  
 To whom the guileful Tempter thus reply'd.  
 Empress of this fair World, resplendent *Eve*,  
 Easie to mee it is to tell thee all  
 What thou commandst and right thou shouldst be obeyd: [ 570 ]  
 I was at first as other Beasts that graze  
 The trodden Herb, of abject thoughts and low,  
 As was my food, nor aught but food discern'd  
 Or Sex, and apprehended nothing high:  
 Till on a day roaving the field, I chanc'd [ 575 ]  
 A goodly Tree farr distant to behold  
 Loaden with fruit of fairest colours mixt,  
 Ruddie and Gold: I nearer drew to gaze;  
 When from the boughes a savorie odour blow'n,  
 Grateful to appetite, more pleas'd my sense, [ 580 ]  
 Then smell of sweetest Fenel or the Teats  
 Of Ewe or Goat dropping with Milk at Eevn,  
 Unsuckt of Lamb or Kid, that tend thir play.  
 To satisfie the sharp desire I had  
 Of tasting those fair Apples, I resolv'd [ 585 ]  
 Not to deferr; hunger and thirst at once,  
 Powerful perswaders, quick'nd at the scent  
 Of that alluring fruit, urg'd me so keene.  
 About the mossie Trunk I wound me soon,  
 For high from ground the branches would require [ 590 ]  
 Thy utmost reach or *Adams*: Round the Tree  
 All other Beasts that saw, with like desire  
 Longing and envying stood, but could not reach.  
 Amid the Tree now got, where plenty hung  
 Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill [ 595 ]  
 I spar'd not, for such pleasure till that hour  
 At Feed or Fountain never had I found.  
 Sated at length, ere long I might perceave  
 Strange alteration in me, to degree  
 Of Reason in my inward Powers, and Speech [ 600 ]  
 Wanted not long, though to this shape retain'd.  
 Thenceforth to Speculations high or deep  
 I turnd my thoughts, and with capacious mind  
 Considerd all things visible in Heav'n,

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Or Earth, or Middle, all things fair and good; [ 605 ]  
But all that fair and good in thy Divine  
Semblance, and in thy Beauties heav'nly Ray  
United I beheld; no Fair to thine  
Equivalent or second, which compel'd  
Mee thus, though importune perhaps, to come [ 610 ]  
And gaze, and worship thee of right declar'd  
Sovran of Creatures, universal Dame.

So talk'd the spirited sly Snake; and *Eve*  
Yet more amaz'd unwarie thus reply'd.

Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt [ 615 ]  
The vertue of that Fruit, in thee first prov'd:  
But say, where grows the Tree, from hence how far?  
For many are the Trees of God that grow  
In Paradise, and various, yet unknown  
To us, in such abundance lies our choice, [ 620 ]  
As leaves a greater store of Fruit untoucht,  
Still hanging incorruptible, till men  
Grow up to thir provision, and more hands  
Help to disburden Nature of her Bearth.

To whom the wilie Adder, blithe and glad. [ 625 ]  
Empress, the way is readie, and not long,  
Beyond a row of Myrtles, on a Flat,  
Fast by a Fountain, one small Thicket past  
Of blowing Myrrh and Balme; if thou accept  
My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon. [ 630 ]

Lead then, said *Eve*. Hee leading swiftly rowld  
In tangles, and made intricate seem strait,  
To mischief swift. Hope elevates, and joy  
Bright'ns his Crest, as when a wandering Fire  
Compact of unctuous vapor, which the Night [ 635 ]  
Condenses, and the cold invirons round,  
Kindl'd through agitation to a Flame,  
Which oft, they say, some evil Spirit attends  
Hovering and blazing with delusive Light,  
Misleads th' amaz'd Night-wanderer from his way [ 640 ]  
To Boggs and Mires, and oft through Pond or Poole,  
There swallow'd up and lost, from succour farr.  
So glister'd the dire Snake, and into fraud  
Led *Eve* our credulous Mother, to the Tree  
Of prohibition, root of all our woe; [ 645 ]  
Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake.

Serpent, we might have spar'd our coming hither,  
Fruitless to mee, though Fruit be here to excess,  
The credit of whose vertue rest with thee,



Wondrous indeed, if cause of such effects. [ 650 ]  
But of this Tree we may not taste nor touch;  
God so commanded, and left that Command  
Sole Daughter of his voice; the rest, we live  
Law to our selves, our Reason is our Law.

To whom the Tempter guilefully repli'd. [ 655 ]  
Indeed? hath God then said that of the Fruit  
Of all these Garden Trees ye shall not eate,  
Yet Lords declar'd of all in Earth or Aire?

To whom thus *Eve* yet sinless. Of the Fruit  
Of each Tree in the Garden we may eate, [ 660 ]  
But of the Fruit of this fair Tree amidst  
The Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eate  
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, least ye die.

She scarce had said, though brief, when now more bold  
The Tempter, but with shew of Zeale and Love [ 665 ]  
To Man, and indignation at his wrong,  
New part puts on, and as to passion mov'd,  
Fluctuats disturbd, yet comely and in act  
Rais'd, as of som great matter to begin.  
As when of old som Orator renown [ 670 ]  
In *Athens* or free *Rome*, where Eloquence  
Flourishd, since mute, to som great cause adress,  
Stood in himself collected, while each part,  
Motion, each act won audience ere the tongue,  
Somtimes in highth began, as no delay [ 675 ]  
Of Preface brooking through his Zeal of Right.  
So standing, moving, or to highth upgrown  
The Tempter all impassiond thus began.

O Sacred, Wise, and Wisdom-giving Plant,  
Mother of Science, Now I feel thy Power [ 680 ]  
Within me cleere, not onely to discern  
Things in thir Causes, but to trace the wayes  
Of highest Agents, deemd however wise.  
Queen of this Universe, doe not believe  
Those rigid threats of Death; ye shall not Die: [ 685 ]  
How should ye? by the Fruit? it gives you Life  
To Knowledge, By the Threatner, look on mee,  
Mee who have touch'd and tasted, yet both live,  
And life more perfet have attaind then Fate  
Meant mee, by ventring higher then my Lot. [ 690 ]  
Shall that be shut to Man, which to the Beast  
Is open? or will God incense his ire  
For such a petty Trespass, and not praise  
Rather your dauntless vertue, whom the pain

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Page 16 of 41

Of Death denounc't, whatever thing Death be, [ 695 ]  
 Deterrd not from atchieving what might leade  
 To happier life, knowledge of Good and Evil;  
 Of good, how just? of evil, if what is evil  
 Be real, why not known, since easier shunnd?  
 God therefore cannot hurt ye, and be just; [ 700 ]  
 Not just, not God; not feard then, nor obeyd:  
 Your feare it self of Death removes the feare.  
 Why then was this forbid? Why but to awe,  
 Why but to keep ye low and ignorant,  
 His worshippers; he knows that in the day [ 705 ]  
 Ye Eate thereof, your Eyes that seem so cleere,  
 Yet are but dim, shall perfetly be then  
 Op'nd and cleerd, and ye shall be as Gods,  
 Knowing both Good and Evil as they know.  
 That ye should be as Gods, since I as Man, [ 710 ]  
 Internal Man, is but proportion meet,  
 I of brute human, yee of human Gods.  
 So ye shall die perhaps, by putting off  
 Human, to put on Gods, death to be wisht,  
 Though threat'nd, which no worse then this can bring. [ 715 ]  
 And what are Gods that Man may not become  
 As they, participating God-like food?  
 The Gods are first, and that advantage use  
 On our belief, that all from them proceeds;  
 I question it, for this fair Earth I see, [ 720 ]  
 Warm'd by the Sun, producing every kind,  
 Them nothing: If they all things, who enclos'd  
 Knowledge of Good and Evil in this Tree,  
 That whoso eats thereof, forthwith attains  
 Wisdom without their leave? and wherein lies [ 725 ]  
 Th' offence, that Man should thus attain to know?  
 What can your knowledge hurt him, or this Tree  
 Impart against his will if all be his?  
 Or is it envie, and can envie dwell  
 In Heav'nly brests? these, these and many more [ 730 ]  
 Causes import your need of this fair Fruit.  
 Goddess humane, reach then, and freely taste.  
 He ended, and his words replete with guile  
 Into her heart too easie entrance won:  
 Fixt on the Fruit she gaz'd, which to behold [ 735 ]  
 Might tempt alone, and in her ears the sound  
 Yet rung of his perswasive words, impregn'd  
 With Reason, to her seeming, and with Truth;  
 Mean while the hour of Noon drew on, and wak'd

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An eager appetite, rais'd by the smell [ 740 ]  
 So savorie of that Fruit, which with desire,  
 Incluable now grown to touch or taste,  
 Solicited her longing eye; yet first  
 Pausing a while, thus to her self she mus'd.  
 Great are thy Vertues, doubtless, best of Fruits. [ 745 ]  
 Though kept from Man, and worthy to be admir'd,  
 Whose taste, too long forborn, at first assay  
 Gave elocution to the mute, and taught  
 The Tongue not made for Speech to speak thy praise:  
 Thy praise hee also who forbids thy use, [ 750 ]  
 Conceales not from us, naming thee the Tree  
 Of Knowledge, knowledge both of good and evil;  
 Forbids us then to taste, but his forbidding  
 Commends thee more, while it inferrs the good  
 By thee communicated, and our want: [ 755 ]  
 For good unknown, sure is not had, or had  
 And yet unknown, is as not had at all.  
 In plain then, what forbids he but to know,  
 Forbids us good, forbids us to be wise?  
 Such prohibitions binde not. But if Death [ 760 ]  
 Bind us with after-bands, what profits then  
 Our inward freedom? In the day we eate  
 Of this fair Fruit, our doom is, we shall die.  
 How dies the Serpent? hee hath eat'n and lives,  
 And knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns, [ 765 ]  
 Irrational till then. For us alone  
 Was death invented? or to us deni'd  
 This intellectual food, for beasts reserv'd?  
 For Beasts it seems: yet that one Beast which first  
 Hath tasted, envies not, but brings with joy [ 770 ]  
 The good befall'n him, Author unsuspect,  
 Friendly to man, farr from deceit or guile.  
 What fear I then, rather what know to feare  
 Under this ignorance of good and Evil,  
 Of God or Death, of Law or Penaltie? [ 775 ]  
 Here grows the Cure of all, this Fruit Divine,  
 Fair to the Eye, inviting to the Taste,  
 Of vertue to make wise: what hinders then  
 To reach, and feed at once both Bodie and Mind?  
 So saying, her rash hand in evil hour [ 780 ]  
 Forth reaching to the Fruit, she pluck'd, she eat:  
 Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat  
 Sighing through all her Works gave signs of woe,  
 That all was lost. Back to the Thicket slunk

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The guiltie Serpent, and well might, for *Eve* [ 785 ]  
Intent now wholly on her taste, naught else  
Regarded, such delight till then, as seemd,  
In Fruit she never tasted, whether true  
Or fansied so, through expectation high  
Of knowledg, nor was God-head from her thought. [ 790 ]  
Greedily she ingorg'd without restraint,  
And knew not eating Death: Sate at length,  
And hight'nd as with Wine, jocond and boon,  
Thus to her self she pleasingly began.

O Sovran, vertuous, precious of all Trees [ 795 ]  
In Paradise, of operation blest  
To Sapience, hitherto obscur'd, infam'd,  
And thy fair Fruit let hang, as to no end  
Created; but henceforth my early care,  
Not without Song, each Morning, and due praise [ 800 ]  
Shall tend thee, and the fertil burden ease  
Of thy full branches offer'd free to all;  
Till dieted by thee I grow mature  
In knowledge, as the Gods who all things know;  
Though others envie what they cannot give; [ 805 ]  
For had the gift bin theirs, it had not here  
Thus grown. Experience, next to thee I owe,  
Best guide; not following thee, I had remaind  
In ignorance, thou op'nst Wisdoms way,  
And giv'st access, though secret she retire. [ 810 ]  
And I perhaps am secret; Heav'n is high,  
High and remote to see from thence distinct  
Each thing on Earth; and other care perhaps  
May have diverted from continual watch  
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his Spies [ 815 ]  
About him. But to *Adam* in what sort  
Shall I appeer? shall I to him make known  
As yet my change, and give him to partake  
Full happiness with mee, or rather not,  
But keep the odds of Knowledge in my power [ 820 ]  
Without Copartner? so to add what wants  
In Femal Sex, the more to draw his Love,  
And render me more equal, and perhaps,  
A thing not undesireable, sometime  
Superior: for inferior who is free? [ 825 ]  
This may be well: but what if God have seen  
And Death ensue? then I shall be no more,  
And *Adam* wedded to another *Eve*,  
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct;

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A death to think. Confirm'd then I resolve, [ 830 ]  
*Adam* shall share with me in bliss or woe:  
So dear I love him, that with him all deaths  
I could endure, without him live no life.

So saying, from the Tree her step she turn'd,  
But first low Reverence don, as to the power [ 835 ]  
That dwelt within, whose presence had infus'd  
Into the plant sciential sap, deriv'd  
From Nectar, drink of Gods. *Adam* the while  
Waiting desirous her return, had wove  
Of choicest Flours a Garland to adorne [ 840 ]  
Her Tresses, and her rural labours crown,  
As Reapers oft are wont thir Harvest Queen.  
Great joy he promis'd to his thoughts, and new  
Solace in her return, so long delay'd;  
Yet oft his heart, divine of somthing ill, [ 845 ]  
Misgave him; hee the faultring measure felt;  
And forth to meet her went, the way she took  
That Morn when first they parted; by the Tree  
Of Knowledge he must pass, there he her met,  
Scarse from the Tree returning; in her hand [ 850 ]  
A bough of fairest fruit that downie smil'd,  
New gatherd, and ambrosial smell diffus'd.  
To him she hasted, in her face excuse  
Came Prologue, and Apologie to prompt,  
Which with bland words at will she thus adrest. [ 855 ]

Hast thou not wonderd, *Adam*, at my stay?  
Thee I have misst, and thought it long, depriv'd  
Thy presence, agonie of love till now  
Not felt, nor shall be twice, for never more  
Mean I to trie, what rash untri'd I sought, [ 860 ]  
The pain of absence from thy sight. But strange  
Hath bin the cause, and wonderful to heare:  
This Tree is not as we are told, a Tree  
Of danger tasted, nor to evil unknown  
Op'ning the way, but of Divine effect [ 865 ]  
To open Eyes, and make them Gods who taste;  
And hath bin tasted such: the Serpent wise,  
Or not restrain'd as wee, or not obeying,  
Hath eat'n of the fruit, and is become,  
Not dead, as we are threatn'd, but thenceforth [ 870 ]  
Endu'd with human voice and human sense,  
Reasoning to admiration, and with mee  
Perswasively hath so prevaild, that I  
Have also tasted, and have also found

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Page 20 of 41

Th' effects to correspond, opener mine Eyes [ 875 ]  
 Dimm erst, dilated Spirits, ampler Heart,  
 And growing up to Godhead; which for thee  
 Chiefly I sought, without thee can despise.  
 For bliss, as thou hast part, to me is bliss,  
 Tedious, unshar'd with thee, and odious soon. [ 880 ]  
 Thou therefore also taste, that equal Lot  
 May joyne us, equal Joy, as equal Love;  
 Least thou not tasting, different degree  
 Disjoyne us, and I then too late renounce  
 Deitie for thee, when Fate will not permit. [ 885 ]  
 Thus *Eve* with Countenance blithe her storie told;  
 But in her Cheek distemper flushing glowd.  
 On th' other side, *Adam*, soon as he heard  
 The fatal Trespass don by *Eve*, amaz'd,  
 Astonied stood and Blank, while horror chill [ 890 ]  
 Ran through his veins, and all his joynts relax'd;  
 From his slack hand the Garland wreath'd for *Eve*  
 Down drop'd, and all the faded Roses shed:  
 Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length  
 First to himself he inward silence broke. [ 895 ]  
 O fairest of Creation, last and best  
 Of all Gods works, Creature in whom excell'd  
 Whatever can to sight or thought be formd,  
 Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!  
 How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, [ 900 ]  
 Defac't, deflourd, and now to Death devote?  
 Rather how hast thou yeelded to transgress  
 The strict forbiddance, how to violate  
 The sacred Fruit forbidd'n! som cursed fraud  
 Of Enemy hath beguil'd thee, yet unknown, [ 905 ]  
 And mee with thee hath ruind, for with thee  
 Certain my resolution is to Die;  
 How can I live without thee, how forgoe  
 Thy sweet Converse and Love so dearly joyn'd,  
 To live again in these wilde Woods forlorn? [ 910 ]  
 Should God create another *Eve*, and I  
 Another Rib afford, yet loss of thee  
 Would never from my heart; no no, I feel  
 The Link of Nature draw me: Flesh of Flesh,  
 Bone of my Bone thou art, and from thy State [ 915 ]  
 Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe.  
 So having said, as one from sad dismay  
 Recomforted, and after thoughts disturbd

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Submitting to what seemd remediless,  
 Thus in calm mood his Words to *Eve* he turnd. [ 920 ]  
     Bold deed thou hast presum'd, adventurous *Eve*  
 And peril great provok't, who thus hath dar'd  
 Had it been onely coveting to Eye  
 That sacred Fruit, sacred to abstinence,  
 Much more to taste it under banne to touch. [ 925 ]  
 But past who can recall, or don undoe?  
 Not God Omnipotent, nor Fate, yet so  
 Perhaps thou shalt not Die, perhaps the Fact  
 Is not so hainous now, foretasted Fruit,  
 Profan'd first by the Serpent, by him first [ 930 ]  
 Made common and unhallowd ere our taste;  
 Nor yet on him found deadly, he yet lives,  
 Lives, as thou saidst, and gaines to live as Man  
 Higher degree of Life, inducement strong  
 To us, as likely tasting to attaine [ 935 ]  
 Proportional ascent, which cannot be  
 But to be Gods, or Angels Demi-gods.  
 Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,  
 Though threatning, will in earnest so destroy  
 Us his prime Creatures, dignifi'd so high, [ 940 ]  
 Set over all his Works, which in our Fall,  
 For us created, needs with us must faile,  
 Dependent made; so God shall uncreate,  
 Be frustrate, do, undo, and labour loose,  
 Not well conceav'd of God, who though his Power [ 945 ]  
 Creation could repeate, yet would be loath  
 Us to abolish, least the Adversary  
 Triumph and say; Fickle their State whom God  
 Most Favors, who can please him long; Mee first  
 He ruind, now Mankind; whom will he next? [ 950 ]  
 Matter of scorne, not to be given the Foe,  
 However I with thee have fixt my Lot,  
 Certain to undergoe like doom, if Death  
 Consort with thee, Death is to mee as Life;  
 So forcible within my heart I feel [ 955 ]  
 The Bond of Nature draw me to my owne,  
 My own in thee, for what thou art is mine;  
 Our State cannot be severd, we are one,  
 One Flesh; to loose thee were to loose my self.  
     So *Adam*, and thus *Eve* to him repli'd. [ 960 ]  
 O glorious trial of exceeding Love,  
 Illustrious evidence, example high!  
 Ingaging me to emulate, but short

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Of thy perfection, how shall I attaine,  
*Adam*, from whose deare side I boast me sprung, [ 965 ]  
 And gladly of our Union heere thee speak,  
 One Heart, one Soul in both; whereof good prooff  
 This day affords, declaring thee resolv'd,  
 Rather then Death or aught then Death more dread  
 Shall separate us, linkt in Love so deare, [ 970 ]  
 To undergoe with mee one Guilt, one Crime,  
 If any be, of tasting this fair Fruit,  
 Whose vertue, for of good still good proceeds,  
 Direct, or by occasion hath presented  
 This happie trial of thy Love, which else [ 975 ]  
 So eminently never had bin known.  
 Were it I thought Death menac't would ensue  
 This my attempt, I would sustain alone  
 The worst, and not perswade thee, rather die  
 Deserted, then oblige thee with a fact [ 980 ]  
 Pernicious to thy Peace, chiefly assur'd  
 Remarkably so late of thy so true,  
 So faithful Love unequald; but I feel  
 Farr otherwise th' event, not Death, but Life  
 Augmented, op'nd Eyes, new Hopes, new Joyes, [ 985 ]  
 Taste so Divine, that what of sweet before  
 Hath toucht my sense, flat seems to this, and harsh.  
 On my experience, *Adam*, freely taste,  
 And fear of Death deliver to the Windes.

So saying, she embrac'd him, and for joy [ 990 ]  
 Tenderly wept, much won that he his Love  
 Had so enobl'd, as of choice to incurr  
 Divine displeasure for her sake, or Death.  
 In recompence (for such compliance bad  
 Such recompence best merits) from the bough [ 995 ]  
 She gave him of that fair enticing Fruit  
 With liberal hand: he scrupl'd not to eat  
 Against his better knowledge, not deceav'd,  
 But fondly overcome with Femal charm.  
 Earth trembl'd from her entrails, as again [ 1000 ]  
 In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan,  
 Skie lowr'd, and muttering Thunder, som sad drops  
 Wept at compleating of the mortal Sin  
 Original; while *Adam* took no thought,  
 Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate [ 1005 ]  
 Her former trespass fear'd, the more to soothe  
 Him with her lov'd societie, that now  
 As with new Wine intoxicated both

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They swim in mirth, and fansie that they feel  
 Divinitie within them breeding wings [ 1010 ]  
 Wherewith to scorne the Earth: but that false Fruit  
 Farr other operation first displaid,  
 Carnal desire enflaming, hee on *Eve*  
 Began to cast lascivious Eyes, she him  
 As wantonly repaid; in Lust they burne: [ 1015 ]  
 Till *Adam* thus 'gan *Eve* to dalliance move,  
     *Eve*, now I see thou art exact of taste,  
 And elegant, of Sapience no small part,  
 Since to each meaning savour we apply,  
 And Palate call judicious; I the praise [ 1020 ]  
 Yeild thee, so well this day thou hast purvey'd.  
 Much pleasure we have lost, while we abstain'd  
 From this delightful Fruit, nor known till now  
 True relish, tasting; if such pleasure be  
 In things to us forbidden, it might be wish'd, [ 1025 ]  
 For this one Tree had bin forbidden ten.  
 But come, so well refresh't, now let us play,  
 As meet is, after such delicious Fare;  
 For never did thy Beautie since the day  
 I saw thee first and wedded thee, adorn'd [ 1030 ]  
 With all perfections, so enflame my sense  
 With ardor to enjoy thee, fairer now  
 Then ever, bountie of this vertuous Tree.  
     So said he, and forbore not glance or toy  
 Of amorous intent, well understood [ 1035 ]  
 Of *Eve*, whose Eye darted contagious Fire.  
 Her hand he seis'd, and to a shadie bank,  
 Thick overhead with verdant roof imbowl'd  
 He led her nothing loath; Flours were the Couch,  
 Pansies, and Violets, and Asphodel, [ 1040 ]  
 And Hyacinth, Earths freshest softest lap.  
 There they thir fill of Love and Loves disport  
 Took largely, of thir mutual guilt the Seale,  
 The solace of thir sin, till dewie sleep  
 Oppress'd them, wearied with thir amorous play. [ 1045 ]  
 Soon as the force of that fallacious Fruit,  
 That with exhilerating vapour bland  
 About thir spirits had plaid, and inmost powers  
 Made erre, was now exhal'd, and grosser sleep  
 Bred of unkindly fumes, with conscious dreams [ 1050 ]  
 Encumberd, now had left them, up they rose  
 As from unrest, and each the other viewing,  
 Soon found thir Eyes how op'nd, and thir minds

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How dark'nd; innocence, that as a veile  
 Had shadow'd them from knowing ill, was gon, [ 1055 ]  
 Just confidence, and native righteousness  
 And honour from about them, naked left  
 To guiltie shame hee cover'd, but his Robe  
 Uncover'd more, so rose the Danite strong  
*Herculean Samson* from the Harlot-lap [ 1060 ]  
 Of *Philistean Dalilah*, and wak'd  
 Shorn of his strength, They destitute and bare  
 Of all thir vertue: silent, and in face  
 Confounded long they sate, as struck'n mute,  
 Till *Adam*, though not less then *Eve* abasht, [ 1065 ]  
 At length gave utterance to these words constraind.  
 O *Eve*, in evil hour thou didst give eare  
 To that false Worm, of whomsoever taught  
 To counterfet Mans voice, true in our Fall,  
 False in our promis'd Rising; since our Eyes [ 1070 ]  
 Op'nd we find indeed, and find we know  
 Both Good and Evil, Good lost, and Evil got,  
 Bad Fruit of Knowledge, if this be to know,  
 Which leaves us naked thus, of Honour void,  
 Of Innocence, of Faith, of Puritie, [ 1075 ]  
 Our wonted Ornaments now soild and staid,  
 And in our Faces evident the signes  
 Of foul concupiscence; whence evil store;  
 Even shame, the last of evils; of the first  
 Be sure then. How shall I behold the face [ 1080 ]  
 Henceforth of God or Angel, earst with joy  
 And rapture so oft beheld? those heav'nly shapes  
 Will dazle now this earthly, with thir blaze  
 Insufferably bright. O might I here  
 In solitude live savage, in some glade [ 1085 ]  
 Obscur'd, where highest Woods impenetrable  
 To Starr or Sun-light, spread thir umbrage broad,  
 And brown as Evening: Cover me ye Pines,  
 Ye Cedars, with innumerable boughs  
 Hide me, where I may never see them more. [ 1090 ]  
 But let us now, as in bad plight, devise  
 What best may for the present serve to hide  
 The Parts of each from other, that seem most  
 To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen,  
 Some Tree whose broad smooth Leaves together sowl, [ 1095 ]  
 And girded on our loyns, may cover round  
 Those middle parts, that this new commer, Shame,  
 There sit not, and reproach us as

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unclean[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/pl/book\\_9/notes.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/notes.shtml) - line1098.

So counsel'd hee, and both together went  
Into the thickest Wood, there soon they chose [ 1100 ]  
The Figtree, not that kind for Fruit renown'd,  
But such as at this day to *Indians* known  
In *Malabar* or *Decan* spreads her Armes  
Braunching so broad and long, that in the ground  
The bended Twigs take root, and Daughters grow [ 1105 ]  
About the Mother Tree, a Pillard shade  
High overarch't, and echoing Walks between;  
There oft the *Indian* Herdsman shunning heate  
Shelters in coole, and tends his pasturing Herds  
At Loopholes cut through thickest shade: Those Leaves [ 1110 ]  
They gatherd, broad as Amazonian Targe,  
And with what skill they had, together sowl,  
To gird thir waste, vain Covering if to hide  
Thir guilt and dreaded shame; O how unlike  
To that first naked Glorie. Such of late [ 1115 ]  
*Columbus* found th' American so girt  
With featherd Cincture, naked else and wilde  
Among the Trees on Iles and woodie Shores.  
Thus fenc't, and as they thought, thir shame in part  
Coverd, but not at rest or ease of Mind, [ 1120 ]  
They sate them down to weep, nor onely Teares  
Raind at thir Eyes, but high Winds worse within  
Began to rise, high Passions, Anger, Hate,  
Mistrust, Suspicion, Discord, and shook sore  
Thir inward State of Mind, calm Region once [ 1125 ]  
And full of Peace, now tost and turbulent:  
For Understanding rul'd not, and the Will  
Heard not her lore, both in subjection now  
To sensual Appetite, who from beneath  
Usurping over sovrain Reason claimd [ 1130 ]  
Superior sway: From thus distemperd brest,  
*Adam*, estrang'd in look and alterd stile,  
Speech intermitted thus to *Eve* renewd.

Would thou hadst heark'nd to my words, and stai'd  
With me, as I besought thee, when that strange [ 1135 ]  
Desire of wandring this unhappie Morn,  
I know not whence possessd thee; we had then  
Remaind still happie, not as now, despoild  
Of all our good, sham'd, naked, miserable.  
Let none henceforth seek needless cause to approve [ 1140 ]

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Page 26 of 41

The Faith they owe; when earnestly they seek  
Such proof, conclude, they then begin to faile.

To whom soon mov'd with touch of blame thus *Eve*.

What words have past thy Lips, *Adam* severe,  
Imput'st thou that to my default, or will [ 1145 ]  
Of wandring, as thou call'st it, which who knows  
But might as ill have happ'nd thou being by,  
Or to thy self perhaps: hadst thou been there,  
Or here th' attempt, thou couldst not have discern'd  
Fraud in the Serpent, speaking as he spake; [ 1150 ]  
No ground of enmitie between us known,  
Why hee should mean me ill, or seek to harme.  
Was I to have never parted from thy side?  
As good have grown there still a liveless Rib.  
Being as I am, why didst not thou the Head [ 1155 ]  
Command me absolutely not to go,  
Going into such danger as thou saidst?  
Too facil then thou didst not much gainsay,  
Nay, didst permit, approve, and fair dismiss.  
Hadst thou bin firm and fixt in thy dissent, [ 1160 ]  
Neither had I transgress'd, nor thou with mee.

To whom then first incenst *Adam* repli'd,  
Is this the Love, is this the recompence  
Of mine to thee, ingrateful *Eve*, exprest  
Immutable when thou wert lost, not I, [ 1165 ]  
Who might have liv'd and joyd immortal bliss,  
Yet willingly chose rather Death with thee:  
And am I now upbraided, as the cause  
Of thy transgressing? not enough severe,  
It seems, in thy restraint: what could I more? [ 1170 ]  
I warn'd thee, I admonish'd thee, foretold  
The danger, and the lurking Enemie  
That lay in wait; beyond this had bin force,  
And force upon free Will hath here no place.  
But confidence then bore thee on, secure [ 1175 ]  
Either to meet no danger, or to finde  
Matter of glorious trial; and perhaps  
I also err'd in overmuch admiring  
What seemd in thee so perfet, that I thought  
No evil durst attempt thee, but I rue [ 1180 ]  
That errour now, which is become my crime,  
And thou th' accuser. Thus it shall befall  
Him who to worth in Women overtrusting  
Lets her Will rule; restraint she will not brook,

And left to her self, if evil thence ensue, [ 1185 ]  
Shee first his weak indulgence will accuse.

Thus they in mutual accusation spent  
The fruitless hours, but neither self-condemning,  
And of thir vain contest appear'd no end.

### *The End of the Ninth Book.*

Notes:

*venial*. Mistaken; erroneous without being blameworthy or sinful. For example, in book 8, Raphael tells Adam it is a mistake to be overconcerned with matters of no concern to him, but this mistake is nevertheless blameless (8.65-75 and 167-178). Error, in Paradise, is not equivalent to sin. Sin is disobedience.

*Tragic*. Milton wrote a short essay called "Of that sort of Dramatic Poem which is call'd Tragedy" and printed it with *Samson Agonistes* in 1671. See also Aristotle's *Poetics* 1449b on tragedy.

*into this World a world of woe*. This line echoes the early lines of book 1, which in turn echo fairly closely Virgil's narrative voice in *Aeneid* book 4, announcing that death and woe followed the ersatz nuptials of Aeneas and Dido:

To the same cave come Dido and the Trojan chief. Primal earth and nuptial Juno give the sign; fires flashed in heaven, the witness to their bridal, and on the mountain-top screamed the Nymphs. That day was the first day of death, that the first cause of woe. (Trans. H. Rushton Fairclough in *Virgil* vol. 1 [Cambridge, MA: Havard University Press, 1935] 407)

See also the Perseus Project edition of this passage.

*argument*. Subject.

*the wrath*. The wrath of Achilles is the epic theme announced at the beginning of Homer's *Iliad*.

*his Foe*. Hector: Achilles pursued Hector around the walls of Troy ( *Iliad* 22).

*Turnus for Lavinia*. A major theme of Virgil's *Aeneid* is the rage of Turnus for the loss to Aeneas of his beloved Lavinia ( *Aeneid* 7).

*the Greek*. Odysseus; his wandering at sea was caused by Neptune's (Poseidon's) anger ( *Odyssey* 1.19-20).

*Cytherea's son*. Aeneas; Milton alludes to two classical heroes hated and persecuted by Gods — Odysseus by Neptune and Aeneas by Juno ( *Aeneid* 1 )

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Page 28 of 41

*answerable*. Appropriate, adequate.

*Celestial Patroness*. Urania, traditionally the muse of astronomy, but adapted by Milton as a figure for both the Holy Spirit (1.1) and his own spiritual inspiration (7.1).

*beginning late*. Milton wrote *Paradise Lost* almost seventeen years after he made his earliest sketches of it, originally intended as part of a drama (Orgel & Goldberg). He probably started the epic form of the poem late in life, perhaps as late as age 59.

*sedulous*. Eager.

*Lines 29-31*. Milton once again claims that his epic subject is unlike any before, and is more rather than less heroic than they. This echoes earlier boasts (see 1.16) in which Milton refers to the opening lines of Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*. Milton makes the point repeatedly in *Paradise Lost* that the true Hero is not the warrior of pagan epics but the warrior who fights by resisting temptation, a sort of "spiritual heroism." See, for example, the angel hero Abdiel in 5.805 and following.

*tilting Furniture*. Equipment used in jousting (sometimes also called tilting).

*Impreses quaint*. Imprezas are heraldic symbols on the shields of knights.

*Bases*. Cloth coverings worn by horses in battle.

*Sewers and seneschals*. "Sewer" literally means "seater" but also refers to waiter-like servants. A seneschal was the chief steward of a medieval household.

*skill of Artifice*. Milton implies that his poem is not chiefly a matter of art, but of divine inspiration. Art is a "mean" employment compared to that of divine revelation and prophecy.

*cold Climate or Years*. Milton refers to the traditional belief that human talents were maimed by cold damp climates and by age. Hughes makes the interesting point that Milton was apparently concerned that "our climate" (Preface to Book 2 of *Reason of Church Government*) would hinder his ability to write his great epic, an allusion to Aristotle's claim that northern races lacked intelligence (*Politics* 1327b).

*Hesperus*. Venus, the evening star.



*improv'd*. Increased in knowledge; Satan has learned much from spying on Adam and Eve.

*Uriel*. Uriel earlier spotted Satan in Eden and warned the heavenly host of his presence (4.555-576). Uriel was introduced in the Argument to book 3.

*Cherubim*. Plural of cherub, one of the chief ranks of angels. See 1.387.

*Carr of Night*. Night as it moves around the earth. Satan circled the earth at the equator, staying ahead of the sun and therefore staying in night for "The space of seven continu'd nights." He also crossed the entire breadth of night's shadow from "Pole to Pole."

*Colure*. "Each of two great circles which intersect each other at right angles at the poles, and divide the equinoctial and the ecliptic into four equal parts. One passes through the equinoctial points, the other through the solstitial points, of the ecliptic" (OED2).

*averse*. Opposite.

*Tigris*. According to Josephus (Antiquities 1.1.3) the Tigris is related to the river which "went out of Eden to water the Garden" (Genesis 2:10).

*Pontus*. The Black Sea was named *Pontus Euxinus* on some Latin maps.

*Pool Mæotis*. The Sea of Azov lies just north of the Black Sea.

*River Ob*. A river, the world's fourth largest, in the Siberian arctic.

*Orontes*. River in Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey.

*barr'd*. Bounded; see this use of the term in Job 38:10.

*Darien*. The s, a narrow strip of land linking Central and South America.

*Orb*. The globe of Earth.

*Suttlest beast of all*. "The serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord made" (Genesis 3:1).

*Doubt*. Suspicion.

*how like to Heav'n*. Satan unintentionally echoes Raphael's observation from 5.574.

*second thoughts.* The argument that things created second or last must be better or more perfect was a salient feature of the defences of women in popular songs and tracts of the early 17th century. See Esther Sowerham's *Ester Hath Hang'd Haman* (1617) Chapter VIII:

Let no man think much if women compare,  
That in their creation they much better are:  
More blessings therein to women doe fall,  
Then vnto mankinde haue been giuen at all.  
Women were the last worke, and therefore the best,  
For what was the end, excelleth the rest.  
Milton puts this sort of argument in Satan's mouth.

*officious.* Dutiful.

*for thee alone.* See Eve's similar supposition and Adam's response in 4.657-77.

*weligh half.* Satan appears to exaggerate; he seduced only one third of heaven's host: 2.692.

*vertue.* Power.

*if they at least.* Satan stumbles a bit here. Earlier, in argument with Abdiel, he had claimed to be self-created (5.853-63); now he implicitly acknowledges the Father created angels like himself, then he backpedals with this "if" clause. At 4.43 Satan acknowledges in soliloquy that he was created by God.

*into our room.* Satan meditates on the indignity of earthly creatures taking his place. See 2.835; 4.359; and 7.190.

*our spoils.* The notion of spoils recalls the Israelites' spoliation of Egypt as they fled Pharaoh; see the story in Exodus 3.

*incarnate and imbrute.* Satan's incarnation as a beast is "in emulation opposite" to the Son's incarnation as a man.

*Obnoxious.* Exposed, see *OED2*.

*envie.* Envy is Satan's motivating force. He begins with envy of the Son (5.783) and concludes with envy of man.

*Spite.* Satan and Beelzebub pledged to do all they could to "spite/ the great Creator" (2.384-85) "The phrasing here resembles Prometheus's declaration of enmity against Zeus (*Prometheus Bound* [909-926])" (Hughes).

*Nor nocent.* Innocent, not yet harmful.

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*close*. Secretly.

*whenas*. When.

*wanting*. Lacking.

*hear*. 1674 has "bear" here; probably a printer's error. 1667 had "hear."

*Spring*. Grove.

*which intermits*. Eve's words here stand in sharp contrast to her alleged reasons for leaving Adam and Raphael at the beginning of book 8. There she left the two males in conversation because she preferred (said the narrator) to hear the matter from Adam himself who, unlike Raphael, would intermix his discourse with caresses, kisses, and such (8.50-57). Why now does she want to avoid such conversation with Adam?

*unearn'd*. Labor is not alien to Milton's Paradise; rather it is considered proper to human dignity and its performance made food, drink and rest more pleasurable (4.328). The notion of earning one's supper by work does, however, seem at odds with paradise; Adam was quite ready to take an afternoon off to entertain Raphael.

*motion'd*. Suggested.

*Wilderness*. Wildness.

*satiate*. The idea that Eve could be sated with conjugal conversation, the purpose for which she was created (4.440-49), seems odd. For his part, Adam said he could never get enough conversation with Raphael (8.210-16), for it made him feel "in heaven" (see Philippians 3:20).

*best societie*. A reference to Cicero's comment that Africanus was never so little alone as when he was by himself (Hughes) (*De Republica* 1.7.27). But we also recall that Eve was created because God knew it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2: 18).

*Virgin*. Innocent of sin? Most readers believe that Milton represents the couple as copulating in book 4.741-749, so Eve would not technically be a virgin, but see Thomas H. Luxon's "Milton's Wedded Love: Not about Sex (as we know it)."

*Lines 274-278*. These lines indicate that Eve overheard some part of the conversation between Adam and Raphael, most likely from 8.633 forward. This means she has heard Raphael's parting warning to beware of passion's power

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Page 32 of 41

over free will. It seems less likely that we are meant to think she overheard Adam confess that the passion prompted by touching Eve's beauty makes him feel that Eve is superior to him (8.530-559), even though he knows she is not (8.540-546), and she has heard Raphael's rebuke to Adam on this score (8.561-575). Perhaps something she heard motivates her desire to prove herself apart from Adam?

*misstought*. Misjudged.

*entire*. Entirely free.

*Access*. Increase. Perhaps a reference to Phaedrus's suggestion in Plato's *Symposium* 178e that an army of lovers would be invincible since one would never behave shamefully in the sight of one's beloved.

*strait'nd*. Limited.

*Front*. Brow.

*Virtue unassaid*. Eve's question here reminds one of Milton's point about "a fugitive and cloistered virtue" in *Areopagitica*.

*Nothing imperfet*. This may be true of Adam only after Eve also was created to mitigate his "single imperfection," loneliness; see 8.422-427.

*free the Will*. See the Father's discourse on free will in 3.99 and following.

*erect*. Alert.

*specious*. *OED2*: "Having a fair or attractive appearance or character, calculated to make a favourable impression on the mind, but in reality devoid of the qualities apparently possessed." The serpent will be such a creature with Satan inside. What's more, the Serpent will claim he has eaten the forbidden fruit, but he hasn't.

*Approve*. Prove.

*done his part*. Adam echoes here Raphael's words to him in 8.561.

*though last*. That is, having the last word which might appear to us less than "submiss."

*the weaker*. Eve, though eager throughout this discussion to prove herself constant and capable as Adam to resist the Foe, acknowledges herself "the weaker," echoing 1 Peter 3:7.

*from her Husbands hand.* In book 4, Adam first teaches Eve to admire "manly grace and wisdom" by seizing her hand (4.488-491).

*submiss.* Submissively.

*Oread or Dryad.* Mountain or wood nymph.

*Delia.* Diana: called Delia from her birthplace, Delos. Her train refers to the nymphs who attend her.

*Deport.* Deportment, bearing.

*Pales.* Goddess of flocks and pastures.

*Pomona.* Goddess of orchards or fruit: Ovid tells the story of Pomona being wooed by Vertumnus who eventually succeeds (*Metamorphoses* 14.628).

*Ceres.* Ovid says that Ceres was the first to teach men to use the plow before the birth of Proserpina (*Metamorphoses* 5.341).

*desiring more her stay.* In book 8, Eve's "winning graces" are said to prompt all to "wish her still in sight" (8.61-63).

*Mere serpent.* Not a demi-woman as the tempter was sometimes portrayed. It is interesting that Milton chose not to use the popular image of a feminized serpent. It would seem a tempting association to make since submission to bodily desire is characterized by Milton as effeminate, and rational management of such desires is manly.

*tendance.* Object of attendance and care.

*voluable.* Rolling upon itself, undulating.

*Lines 439-441.* Milton implies that Paradise was even more beautiful than the Garden of Adonis, to which it was commonly compared, as well as the gardens of Alcinous and the Hesperides.

*Laertes' son.* Odysseus, who visited the Garden of Alcinous in *Odyssey* 7.

*not Mystic.* The garden of Alcinous is mythological but the garden of the "Sapient King," Solomon, was real. Solomon married an Egyptian princess and brought her back to his garden. See Song of Solomon 6:2.

*tedded.* Cut and scattered in preparation for hay making.

*Plat.* Plot of ground.

*and Feminine.* "Angelic" is here assumed to be a masculine state, though angels, like any spiritual being, may assume any form or sex (1.423-426). See also 10.888-890.

*Stupidly good.* Eve's beauty apparently exercises enormous power. Perhaps there is also a hint here that her beauty is enhanced by the power of chastity, or innocence; compare to *A Mask* 450-52.

*higher intellectual.* Many critics hold this to be only Satan's opinion, but the poem in general supports this notion of male intellectual superiority. See 4.296-99; 4.489-91; and Eve's preference for physical conversation (8.52-57) and Adam's for intellectual or heavenly conversation (8.210-16).

*Exempt from wound.* This contrasts with Satan's discovery of pain during the battle in heaven (6.327).

*tour'd.* Towered.

*Spires.* Loops or coils (Latin). Milton imagines that the serpent, before it is cursed, looked like a serpent but traveled in a more elaborate, and more erect, manner.

*chang'd.* The narrator alludes to Ovid's story of the metamorphosis of Cadmus and Harmonia into serpents (*Metamorphoses* 4.563-603).

*The God.* Æsculapius, the god of healing, appeared in his temple in Epidaurus in the body of a serpent (*Metamorphoses* 15.669-74).

*Lines 507-510.* Macedonian legend held that Olympias, mother of Alexander the Great, was visited by Zeus in the form of a serpent, and thus conceived the hero her son (Pausanias *Description of Greece* 4.14.7). Romans told similar stories about the conception of Scipio Africanus the Elder.

*Lines 510-514.* The first letters of these lines, read vertically from top to bottom (beginning with the italicized S of "Scipio"), spell S A T A N.

*Herd disguis'd.* A reference to Circe's victims (See *Odyssey* 10.238), whom she turned into groveling swine.

*Organic.* Being used as an organ or instrument. Satan, in the serpent's form, was forced to use his tongue as a vocal instrument because snakes lack vocal chords and so have no physical capacity for human speech.

*Fairest resemblance of thy Maker.* See 8.543-545 and Raphael's confirmation that Adam, not Eve, is the closest version of God's image. The serpent, though not Satan, may be presumed not yet to have seen Adam. Also see Eve's remark below at lines 615-616.

*gloz'd.* Lied.

*Proem.* Preamble in verse or song.

*demurre.* Entertain doubts about. God told Adam that beasts "know" and reason "not contemptibly" (8.373-74).

*apprehended nothing high.* Animals (like children) were generally thought incapable of higher pleasures than those of the body (*Nicomachean Ethics* 1099b and 1100a).

*Fennel...teats.* Tradition held that fennel and milk sucked directly from the teats of goats and sheep were favorite foods of snakes. Another legend held that lactating livestock that went dry had been sucked by demons.

*but could not reach.* Birds, squirrels, and chipmunks are just a few animals that certainly could reach any fruit in a tree. We may take this as evidence that the serpent is lying (he never did eat the fruit of that tree) and Eve should (shouldn't she?) notice the deceit.

*to degree.* Satan implies that the serpent first received a degree of mental reason, then the gift of speech. Neither, of course, ever happened. The serpent came by the appearance of reason and speech by, in a sense, swallowing Satan, not the fruit.

*Middle.* The air between Earth and Heav'n.

*spirited.* Spirit possessed.

*thy overpraising.* Is Eve being coyly modest here? Or does she truly recognize that the serpent overpraises her above all creatures in heaven — God, Adam and angels included. If the latter, then why does she not detect deceit? Are we supposed to think her dangerously vain?

*thir provision.* Meaning that men would grow up in numbers proportional to the plenty provided for them.

*Bearth.* Birth; a spelling that appears appropriate for describing trees that "bear" fruit.



*Blowing.* Blooming.

*wand'ring Fire.* *Ignis fatuus* or "Foolish Fire," swamp gas which spontaneously combusts. This is possibly a reference to John Swan's *Speculum Mundi* (1643) 88-89, which refers to the "much terrified, ignorant and stupid people" who mistake such lights for "walking spirits. They are no spirits, and yet lead out of the way, because those who see them are amazed, and look so earnestly after them that they forget their way: and then...wander to and fro...sometimes to waters, pits and other dangerous places" (K. Svendsen quoted in Hughes).

*Fruitless.* An allusion to Spenser's similar pun on fruit and fruitless in the *Faerie Queene* 2.7.55.

*Law to ourselves.* Similar to Paul's remark that virtuous Gentiles lived outside Hebrew law but were a "law unto themselves" (Romans 2:14).

*som Orator.* Satan plays the role of a democratic orator of Athens, whom Milton admired and referred to in *Paradise Regain'd* 4.269, but abuses the role by using it to deceive. "Free Rome" refers to republican, rather than imperial Rome.

*brooking.* Not allowing; that is, not waiting for any preface or proem.

*Science.* Knowledge.

*highest Agents.* Perhaps a subtly ironic reference to Satan's own act of hubris. "Highest Agents" would be the highest angels or possibly God. This, especially followed by "deem'd however wise," would seem to highlight Satan's aspirations to godhead. Satan here reminds one of the bombastic wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*, with the addition of malice.

*ye shall not Die.* Quotes Genesis 3:4-5 " And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die."

*to Knowledge.* Eventuating in knowledge. 1674 has a question mark after "Knowledge" and a comma after "Threatner;" taking this to be a transposition, I have reversed them.

*removes the feare.* Serpentine logic. The poem has a poor opinion of Eve's intellectual acuity, since she falls for this, combined with flattery that she detects but hardly resists. See below: "too easie entrance won" (735-39).

*Internal Man.* Satan implies that the serpent has become man internally but his physical features remain unchanged. This is, of course, untrue.

*participating God-like food.* This is, as Raphael suggested (5.496-501), sort of true, but only if they remain "obedient." Eve cannot do that and eat from this tree.

*If they.* "Produced" is understood.

*too easie entrance.* Not unlike Satan's entrance into the garden itself (4.180-92).

*impregn'd.* Impregnated.

*inclinable.* Easily inclined.

*In plain.* In clear language.

*Author unsuspect.* Authority apparently unsuspecting.

*her rash hand.* See William Blake's 1808 watercolor illustration of these lines.

*Knew not eating death.* She did not know she was eating death.

*boon.* Jovial, jolly, convivial; see OED2.

*To Sapience.* Able to produce knowledge. There is a pun here on the etymological meaning of sapience, "taste" (Orgel & Goldberg). Eve now addresses the tree in language once reserved for addressing Adam or God.

*Infam'd.* Misreputed, slandered.

*secret.* Hidden, unseen.

*inferior who is free?* This line makes an interesting contrast to 5.792-793. Again Milton puts familiar early feminist discourse into the mouth of a fallen being.

*sciential.* Endowed with knowledge.

*divine.* Foreseeing.

*Came Prologue.* A personified excuse in the role of a prologue. See much the same figure of speech in Shakespeare's Macbeth 1.3.

*agonie of love.* Milton anticipates Eve's punishment. According to Genesis 3: 16, Eve's punishment is twofold: pain in childbirth and simultaneously to desire her husband.

*rash untri'd.* Because she (Eve) was rash and the separation was unfamiliar.

*tasted*. "If" is understood.

*tasted*. Proven by tasting.

*Not dead*. With some of the sense of "un-dead," like Satan who is devoted to death but never dies.

*Tedious, unshar'd with thee*. Eve apparently experiences the characteristically masculine desire for company for the first time. See Adam's description of this lack in 8.363-366. In *Tetrachordon*, Milton tries to argue that Adam's desire for companionship is a desire for specifically female companionship, though not principally for sex (*Tetrachordon* Genesis places).

*last and best*. Human beings are the "last and best" creation; Adam may refer here to Eve's loss of humanness, the loss of the image of God in her. If we also hear him endorsing the early feminist notion that Eve was superior because created last, then he and the narrator are at odds; see above and Milton's opinion on the matter in *Tetrachordon*.

*devote*. Doomed.

*bliss or woe*. Echoes marriage vows: for better or for worse. Milton makes the point clearly that Adam was not deceived, but instead made a choice in favor of Eve. Augustine outlined this distinction in (*City of God* 12.11). See also 1 Timothy 2: 14.

*Adversary*. Literal sense of "Satan." See 1.361 and 6.282.

*Certain*. Resolved. The phrase ironically echoes Aeneas's opposite declaration, *certus eundi*, announcing his intention to leave Carthage and Dido (*Aeneid* 4.554).

*oblige*. Keeps its Latin force of "involve in guilt."

*fact*. Deed , crime.

*compliance bad*. The narrator's condemnation of Adam's actions here seems clear, though many seasoned readers refuse to see it. Admiring Adam for his love and devotion here is not an inaccurate response, but it is quite beside the point of the poem.

*Line 999*. This line sums up Adam's fall. He understands reason but turns away from it in favor of the desires of the body, desires that Eve tries to ennoble with a discourse of sacrificial love. What was earlier described as "mysterious" rites (4.741), Adam now refers to as the "Link" or "Bond of Nature"

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Page 39 of 41

(above 914 and 956). What was once a spiritual bond is now merely carnal: "Flesh of flesh" without mystery. Milton is not known as a numerologist, but he depicts Adam's fall at line 999, an inversion of 666, the line in book 2 at which Milton introduces the character, Death--2.666.

*in Lust they burne*. As opposed to the rational burning Milton defined in *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* 1.4 and imagined in 4.742-49.

*Line 1019*. 1674 misprints "me" here for 1667's "we".

*Eye darted contagious Fire*. Compare this description to that in 8.61-63.

*he seis'd*. Milton invites us to remember the first time Adam "seis'd" Eve's hand, to what end and with what effect (4.488-491).

*Lines 1037-1045*. Similar to the scene between Zeus and Hera in *Iliad* 14.292-353.

*bland*. Pleasing to the senses (*OED2*).

*grosser sleep*. We recall Adam's "Aerie" light sleep in 5.4.

*unkindly*. Unnatural.

*conscious*. Guilty; conscious of error and sin.

*hee cover'd*. Echoes Psalm 6:10: "Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame." See also *Samson Agonistes* 841-42.

*Danite*. Samson (Judges 16) was a Danite who was betrayed by his Philistine lover Delilah when she cut off his hair, the secret source of his strength, and then delivered him to the Philistines. The Samson simile at first invites us to think of Adam as a Samson figure, but the "They" of line 1062 makes both Adam and Eve appear Samson-like as they rise from post-coital sleep. In his tragic drama *Samson Agonistes* (1671), Milton imagines Dalila and Samson as wife and husband.

*Line 1092*. 1674 switches the "for" of this line with the "from" of the next line; I have switched them back.

*obnoxious, and unseemliest*. What now seem obnoxious and unseemly were once decried as "mysterious parts" (4.312). This shift is in perfect analogy to their conjugal conversation, which was once "Rites mysterious" (4.743) and now is "Flesh of flesh."

*Line 1098.* 1674 misprints a comma at the end of this line; I have changed it to a period.

*not that kind for Fruit.* The lines appear to describe a banyan tree, but banyan leaves are not nearly large enough to be compared to Amazonian shields as in line 1111. Perhaps banyan gets confused with banana?

*Amazonian Targe.* Amazons' shields.

*th' American so girt.* Milton quite expectedly challenges the notion gaining popularity in his day that the New World natives are innocent like Adam in Eden, or noble upright savages. Milton explicitly compares them to the newly-fallen, lust-driven, shameful Adam.

*Usurping over sovran Reason.* Milton reckons that this interior usurpation accounts for all tyrannous usurpations that follow throughout history. See 12.87-104 and *Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*.

*Head.* See 4.443 where Eve refers to Adam as her Head. See also 1 Corinthians 11:3.

*err'd in overmuch admiring.* Precisely what Raphael warned Adam about in the closing lines of book 8.561-570.

*Women.* The accusatory tone makes this otherwise orthodox antifeminist remark sound mean and cruel, verging on the popular misogynist claim that women first brought sin into the world. When Adam tries a similar line of talk in God's presence, he is rebuked by the more orthodox antifeminism of Milton's God (10.146-156). Adam repeats an even stronger, more clearly misogynistic, version of this remark in conversation with the archangel Michael in book 11 and Michael takes care to distinguish the antifeminist principle of female inferiority from the misogynist slur that blames women in general for the advent of sin (11.632-36). I use the word antifeminist here to mean "a person who is hostile to sexual equality or to the advocacy of women's rights" (*OED2*) even though it may appear to some an anachronistic usage.

Paradise Lost is the outcome of a Puritan's deep reflections on the Bible. And though Milton accepts the whole of biblical history as genuine and sacred, he takes great liberty in interpreting it. The outcome is a ceaseless conflict between his faith and his temperament — a universe, with its wealth of epic similes which keeps us charmed all the way through. The poet's great achievement lies not only in the portrayal of the majestic figure of Books I and II but in the slow and steady degeneration of the "arch fiend" into a slimy, deceitful serpent. The portrayal of Satan in the first two Books is such that a controversy has cropped up about the hero of this epic. Many critics have taken Satan to be the hero. The John Milton Reading Room Paradise Lost. Paradise Lost. Paradise Regain'd. Satan having compassed the Earth, with meditated guile returns as a mist by Night into Paradise, enters into the Serpent sleeping. Adam and Eve in the Morning go forth to their labours, which Eve proposes to divide in several places, each labouring apart: Adam consents not, alledging the danger, lest that Enemy, of whom they were forewarn'd, should attempt her found alone: Eve loath to be thought not circumspect or firm enough, urges her going apart, the rather desirous to make trial of. Paradise Lost: Book I. Milton, John (1608 - 1674). Original Text: John Milton, Paradise Lost. 2nd edn. 1674. Lines 32-41 of Book IV were composed about 1642, and were intended for the opening speech of this drama. After a long interruption he re-commenced the poem in epic form, perhaps about 1657, and completed it by 1663 or 1665. It was published in ten books in 1667; it was subsequently revised and redivided into twelve books for the "Second Edition" published in 1674.