



## The Fall of Adam and Eve in John Milton's Paradise Lost

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#### ABSTRACT

Paradise Lost is an epic poem written by John Milton (1608-1674) in blank verse in the Puritan Age. Milton was the 17<sup>th</sup> century English poet, pamphleteer, historian; and the most significant English author after William Shakespeare. Milton was writing in a period known as Late Renaissance. He is often called the last great Renaissance poet. Puritans believed that Bible is the true love of God. The puritans were English Protestants in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries who sought to purify the Church of England of Roman Catholic practices. Milton's Paradise Lost was written in two versions the first version of this poem was published in 1667 consists of ten books and the second edition came in 1674 with twelve books. Paradise Lost is based on the biblical tale of the fall of mankind, the moment when Adam and Eve tempted by Satan to eat from the Tree of Knowledge from the Garden of Eden. After eating from the Tree of Knowledge God exiled them from the Garden of Eden. This article helps us to show the temptation of man and the revenge of Satan against God through mankind.

Key words: Paradise lost, John Milton, Adam and Eve, Roman Catholic, Garden of Eden, Temptation, Satan, Bible

#### Introduction:

When Paradise Lost was published it was published in 10 books in 1667 and in 1674 two enlarged versions were published in around 12 books, 10th book has been extended into two books, book 11 and book 12. So, there are total twelve books.

It is Biblical in content. John Milton wanted to do something big that's why he was focusing on this story. As he told us in his Sonnet "On his 23rd birthday". It seems he is up to something big. He is writing something big and he is collecting material for something big.

Technically we know that he was preparing for Paradise Lost. He was writing on his hundred themes in his college days. It was mentioned that when he was in college he was working on 60 themes taken from the Bible, 33 themes taken from English Literature, 5 themes taken from Scottish literature and 2 different themes taken from Oriental Romances.

Edward Said A postcolonial thinker he wrote a famous work in 1978 and the name of his book is Orientalism dealing with the post colonial theory according to this book the world has been divided into two parts. First one is occidentals (the Western one's) and the second one is Orientalists (the Eastern one's) the Orientalists are those who were scavengers, tribal or of middle ages of India or of Japan belongs to Western side.

John Milton took references when he started writing this, he presented the same Biblical Story. A war between the God and the angels but when Paradise Lost starts it has formed the standard of "In Medias Res" (from in between). In short the story does not start from zero level it starts from the middle of the story and then there are flashbacks and details of the first story.

The basic story is that all the angels who are under the remembrance of God. They would lead by another Angel called Lucifer. Lucifer was the most beautiful and handsome Angel above all and he was the one who became the leader of a revolutionary group which revolted against God on the question of power, on the question of rule. He questioned God that what authority makes you the king of heaven and this was the reason that all the angels who were supported Lucifer they fought against God and immediately became the fallen Angels and Lucifer the head of those people he was later called Satan so remember his famous name was Lucifer and he was the most handsome Angel. He was the one who raised the war against God and when the war took place God defeated him using the special weapon called thunderstrike or thunderbolt and the special weapon that helps Satan and other people it will simply a weapon which was never revealed for all those people so using thunderstrike it made Satan and all his followers unconscious and all of sudden people were defeated and thrown to a place called hell means dark and disciple place.

They were all unconscious and they were in Hell now it has a lot of temperature and people were unhappy. Satan is the one who comes to consciousness he starts waking them up one by one he wakes up his commanders Mephistopheles then Moloch then Belial and others.

Here Lucifer says:

"Awake, arise or be forever fallen"

The way he talks to those people, the way he leads them and the way he encourages those people who are the defeated people this has made Satan is hero. Most of the people have learnt that Satan is the hero in paradise lost but a very few people know this fact that Satan is not a hero he has been represented as a hero. It is always upto the critic that how you perceive. So the word hero tradition that I am using here it's actually that we want a hero who actually fights against something big who never surrenders who has a standard to fight back and actually becomes the leader and raise the voice because of all the ground we say that Satan is a hero but remember that Milton was a devotee he never wanted Satan to be hero it is just unknowingly and moreover his psychology that made him support Satan was a hero because he felt that he was also having the same problem.

As we remember Milton being a Puritan and protested against Charles I. Satan being an angel protested against his God and the reason of fight was for Milton it was the same thing that why Kings are being the kings and why they are not the good king and for Satan the same thing it was that why God is God and others are not given the chance.

Milton assimilates himself with Satan and this is the reason that all the heroic quotes and all the heroic dialogues spoken by Satan are actually the voice of Milton for other Puritans. So the way he wakes them up he told them if you do not wake up and raise your voice you will always be degraded. Milton says to be weak is miserable. So, when they got up one by one, One of them says that we are in a bad state, it's a hell and we shouldn't have raise the war against God. We shouldn't have fought we were so happy enjoying the heaven under the command of God and after raising war we are kicked out of heaven which is a dark and decimal place.

Here Satan says, "It's better to reign in hell than serve into heaven."

Then The other devil sees that we have been defeated how to fight back what can we do now.

Satan replies one of the devils with these words, "What thou the field is lost all is not Lost". He says if you have been defeated at one time it does not mean that you have been defeated completely. We will fight back.

God has defeated us but not our will power or study of will.

Milton Says

All is not lost; the unconquerable will and the study of revenge, immortal hate, And courage never to submit or yield;

**One of the devils again says , we are in hell and here we are not even able to survive. What can we do now he says these words with extreme and regret but Satan has no regret infact he quotes here.** He states a famous quotes he says:

"The mind is it's own place and it itself can make a heaven of hell or a hell of heaven."

Satan appears like a comet or meteor Of fallen angel in the beginning the devil dig into the bowels of ground unearthing gold and other minerals. With their inhuman power they construct a great temple in a short time called pandemonium which means (all the demons) . All the demons make pandemonium as the meeting place. Being spirits they compact themselves and thousands of demons enter in the pandemonium. (Book I).

Beelzebub says that rumors have been circulated that a new world is to be created by God with the race called man. Whom God will favour more than Angels. All the devils plan destroy this new race and Satan volunteers himself to find out about this new world. Satan flies off to find Hells gate and he sees nine gates- there each of brass, iron and adamantite and two strange shapes guarding the Hell. Now they are ready to open the Hell's gate when they listen to the plan of Satan. Satan enters the dark Hell. He began to fall but was carried by a cloud of fire. There he meets chaos who tells the way to where Earth has recently been created. They make a bridge from Hell to Earth so that all evil scan travel to tempt mortals (Book II).

The scene is heaven where God has been watching all of the events in Hell with his son sitting at his right hand. The God sees everything past, present and future. God says that a sacrifice must be made someone worthy must offer to die to pay for men sin. Satan lands on earth in Mount Niphates ( now in china)

Satan sees an angel Uriel he changes himself to a Cherub (a low ranking Angel). After talking with Uriel, Satan flies off with dark intentions. (Book III)

Satan lands to Mount Niphates just north of paradise, the Garden of Eden. Uriel notices that Satan is not a Cherub from his facial expressions. Satan now reached Garden of Edams surrounded by a great thick wall. He sees there the tallest tree Tree of Life and next to it, is Forbidden Tree of Knowledge. He sits on the Tree of Life (highest in the garden )in the shape of a Cormorant.

Satan notices two creatures erected among the other animals they walk naked without shame and work pleasantly in the Garden of Eden. The erect creatures are Adam and Eve. Adam tells Eve about God blessings and asked her not to eat the fruit of Knowledge Tree. Uriel comes to Archangel Gabriel at the gate of Eden and tells him about the shape of changing spirit. Gabriel sends search party into the Garden. Two of his Angels find Satan, disguised as Toad ,whispering in the ear of Eve when she sleeps. Satan is brought in front of your Gabriel by the two Angels and Satan prepares to fight him. Their fight is stopped when they are see a sign from Heaven- The appearance in the sky of a pair of golden scales. Satan recognizes the sign, meaning as 'he could not' win and flies off. Book IV

Adam awakes with a peaceful sleep. Eve explained her dream in which she hears a voice and follows it to the Tree of Knowledge in heaven. God calls Archangel Raphael and ordered him to warm Adam and Eve. Raphael meets with Adam and Eve and explains the difference between heavenly food and earthly food. Further he describes the things that God created on earth . The highest substance is spirit which God put into humankind. All hierarchies

of Angels were obedient to God, One day father announces about birth of son. while God's announcement pleased most of the angels but among them one was angry so he lost his heavenly name and now called Satan. Satan erected his own throne in Heaven and told his followers that they should not allow themselves to be unjustly ruled. One of the follower of Satan named Abdiel he returns to God's side. Book V.

God appoints Gabriel and Michael the leaders of Heaven's army. The battle begins between Satan and God. God decides that there will be no fighting on the third day and said that war must now be end. Satan including rebel angels were driven out of the Gate of Heaven through a hole in Heaven's ground. They fall for 9 days through Chaos before landing in Hell. Raphael warns Adam that Satan has Begun a plot for the doom of mankind. Raphael explains to Adam that they must fear Satan and must not yield to his evil plot. Book VI.

Book VII, In this book Milton asks Urania to ensure his safe transition from relating the story of war in Heaven back to Raphael and Adam's conversation on Earth. Adam then asks about his creation and creation of the new world for which Raphael replies politely. Raphael replies that God decided to create Earth and humans with the idea that Earth and Heaven will eventually be joined together as one kingdom through mankind's obedience to God's divine will. Raphael further said that God sent his son down into Chaos to create Earth. The earth first formed out of chaos and given light and dark (day and night) in equal measure. The creation on earth took 6 days and Adam and Eve were created last. God gives Adam 1 command he must not eat the Fruit from the Knowledge Tree which gives knowledge of good and evil. Son, after finishing his work of creation, hanged Earth beneath Heaven by a chain. Pleased with the work of his son God takes rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day which then becomes known as Sabbath.

After Raphael finishes the story of creation. Adam asked him about the motions of the stars, sun and planets. Raphael mentions that it is not matter whether the earth moves or the sun moves around the earth. He warns Adam that he should be satisfied with the knowledge that God has made available and to resist the urge to gain Further understanding outside of the limit he has set. After Raphael finishes Adam tells him about his own creation. He explains that he desired to have a companion more like him with whom he can share his thoughts so, God created Eve from a rib in Adam's side while he slept. Adam instantly fell in love with Eve. Raphael says that while Eve is more beautiful from outside she is less worthy than Adam from inside. Her spirituality is weaker than Adam, her intellect is slightly less developed and her vanity is a serious weakness. Raphael again reiterates Adam to avoid temptations from Satan. Afterwards Raphael returns to Heaven and Adam goes for a sleep. (Book VIII)

Book IX, The actual disobedience of Adam and Eve takes place in this book. Milton asserts that the fall of mankind is more heroic than the tales of Virgil and Homer. Satan returns after 8 days when he got caught and banished by Gabriel. Satan feels jealous to see the beauty of earth that is even more beautiful than heaven. Satan enters in the body of a snake and becomes a serpent.

The next morning because of much work to do Adam and Eve decides to work separately. Satan speaks in a man's voice to Eve who surprises to see such creature. She asked the serpent about how he can speak and he tells it that it is all the magic of the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Eve is convinced and eat the Forbidden apple. Now Adam thinks that Eve alone will be punished by God now. So, he eats the apple too because he loved Eve so much.

The scene is heaven where God knows about the guilt of Adam and Eve and He sends his son to earth to pass judgement on the couple. In paradise Son calls Adams along with Eve. They are embarrassed by the nakedness. The Son condemns the the serpent for his evil act and order that all snakes will now have to crawl on their bellies and they can never be upright again.

Now Son gives punishment to couple Eve all women to follow will give birth in pain and must submit to the husband and for sin and death remain at the gate of hell we are settle left them sensing second his has succeeded the finish the linking bridge from hell to earth and travel towards Earth to meet him and death meet Saturn the congratulation and promise him that they will infect the earth. Death will corrupt all living things causing them to die and sin will corrupt thoughts and deeds of humankind. Satan returns to Hell and speaks about his triumph from Pandemonium. A grove of trees appears in Hell and when the snakes try to bite it, it turns to ashes. Sin and Death begin their work on earth. The God tells the Angels that he will allow Sin and Death until judgement day. after that they must return to Hell and will be locked forever along with Satan and other devils. God calls the Angel to alter the universe. They tilt the earth's axis or alter the path of sun, your extreme hot and cold season on the earth there was a fight between animals and to see that Adam reproaches himself and insult Eve's female nature. Eve urges Adam not to leave her and says that unity and love can save them in a fallen world and they decides to obey God and confess their sins and asks for forgiveness. (Book X)

God hears the prayers of Adam and Eve and asks his Son to act as an advocate for humankind. The father then calls all the angels together and tells about his plan. He commands Michael to go down to earth and escorts out Adam and Eve out of Paradise because now they can't live in a pure place because they are impure now. But after death they can be reunited. Adam reassures Eve that she will be able to take revenge on Satan by being the mother of humankind. Michael arrives and he asked Adam not to leave the paradise. Adam sees two men offering sacrifice and watches one of them killed the other. Michael explains that those men are Cain and Abel. The first sons of Adam and Eve. The angel shows him the other ways that will take lives of man i.e. disease, war and old age. Adam feels reassured by this story and its promise that virtue and obedience to god will continue on earth through Noah.(Book XI)

Michael continue relating the story of the future of humankind to Adam. After several generations later a leader arrives with proud and ungodly ambition this man is Nimrod, a tyrant who forced many under his rule. He constructs the Tower of Babel to reach to Heaven. Continuing his story Michael explains that God chooses Israel as the one nation to rise above the rest. Michael says that in Israel after many different rulers a king named David will appear and from his descendants with eventually comes a Messiah named as Jesus or Son who will bring together Heaven and Earth once again. Adam worries that the followers of the Jesus will be prosecuted. Michael replies that definitely they will be prosecuted but Messiah will send down Holy Spirit to provide spiritual protection. Aftermath Both Adam and Eve prepare to leave Paradise hand in hand with Michael. (Book XII)

John Milton ends this tale by saying,

“Of man’s first disobedience and the fruit Of that Forbidden tree whose mortal taste Brought Death into the world and all our woe With loss of Eden till one greater Man Restore us and regain the blissful seat.”

In short Paradise Lost tells us all about the disobedience of the first humankind Adam and Eve .It talks about the revenge of Satan from God through his creature. Moreover it shows Satan’s courage, pride, strength to entice into the Garden of Eden and how he easily convinced Eve to eat the forbidden fruit .This paper also helps us to understand how God punished Satan and all the devils and Adam and Eve also for their disobedience . This article has been written in simple and easy words and in this paper I have mentioned a brief summary of all 12 books.

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