

Paradise Lost by John Milton

- * Paradise Lost is an epic poem in blank verse.
- * It has been written by 17th century English poet John Milton. (1608-1674).
- * The first version, published in 1667, consists of ten books with over ten thousand lines of verse.
- * It is considered to be Milton's masterpiece, and it helped solidify his reputation as one of the greatest English poets of all time.
- * The epic concerns the biblical story of the fall of man and the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden.

Paradise Lost recreated the biblical story of the fall of man with the group of rebel angels in Heaven.

The poem begins with Satan, the "rebel Angel", cast into hell after rebelling against his Creator, God. Refusing to submit to what he calls "the tyranny of Heaven". Satan seeks revenge by tempting into Sin God's precious creation: man.

Milton gives a vivid account of "Man's first Disobedience to God" before offering a guide to Salvation.

Paradise Lost is a "fierce argument about God's justice" and that Milton's God has been deemed inflexible and cruel. By contrast, Satan has a dark charisma and a revolutionary demand for self determination. His speech is peppered with the language of democratic governance and he famously declares "Better to reign in Hell, than to serve in Heaven."

Although discussion of Paradise Lost is often dominated by political and theological arguments, the poem also contains a tender celebration of love. In Milton's version, Eve surrenders to temptation in part to be closer to Adam. When she does succumb, Adam chooses to join her: "to lose thee to lose myself he says."

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