

Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam
Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)
P.G. Department of English
Maharaja College, Arrah
Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah

Topic :- Milton as a poet with special reference to Paradise Lost

John Milton is considered to be one of the most influential and important English authors of all time, behind William Shakespeare. His works had all the hallmarks of epic, classical poetry, with his crowning achievement the work 'Paradise Lost,' which has been considered, by many scholars to this day, as the greatest epic poem.

John Milton is arguably the premier epic poet of English literature. Paradise Lost was Milton's attempt to craft an epic for the Protestant Christian world just as Homer's Iliad.

Paradise Lost was a return to an earlier form of literature that few English writers had attempted since Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene, though Milton's unique Christian sensibility emphasized a different sort of heroism than that of other epic

heroes, whether pagan or Christian. Milton presents his villain in the form of a pagan hero: physically imposing, charismatic, and clever. By contrast, the actual heroic figures of the poem are God the Son, who offers to die for fallen humanity, and Adam and Eve, who choose to repent after sinning against God the Father. Here, Milton presents a radical form of Christian heroism, distinct even from the chivalrous figures in Spenser's work.

The influence of *Paradise Lost* cannot be understated. It has influenced and inspired artists, storytellers, and thinkers throughout the centuries, and it continues to do so. The English Romantic poets William Blake and Percy Shelley famously identified with Milton's rebellious Satan. Mary Shelley quotes and alludes to *Paradise Lost* in *Frankenstein*, linking the outcast creature with the exiled Satan. Modern authors such as Neil Gaiman, Salman Rushdie, and Philip Pullman have also alluded to or been inspired by Milton in their own work.

Milton's works are highly significant to the English canon due to their discussions of fairly radical beliefs of his time. Milton's political and religious beliefs made him a revolutionary and an outcast, and as a result, his reputation as a poet has lasted into the modern-day.

