

Paradise Lost - John Milton

① What is the central theme of Paradise Lost is an epic poem written by John Milton, a Puritan poet. This poem was first published in 1667. The poem explains the biblical story of the fall of man, especially about Adam and Eve. The poem also describes the temptation of Adam and Eve by the fallen angel Satan and their expulsion from Paradise, the garden of Eden. Milton in his book [Paradise Lost] brings out the central theme "to Justify the Ways of God to Men".

The main concept in Paradise Lost is the denial of God's laws. Satan also plans to destroy mankind. Satan is driven due to the evil deed. Paradise Lost is only concerned with the biblical story, the book of Genesis. Satan and his companions, the creation of Man and also about his act of disobedience and its consequences. Satan has been expelled with a third of the angels.

The poetic style of John Milton is called as Miltonic Verse, and it is also termed as Miltonic epic or Miltonic Blank verse.

P② Milton presents in Paradise Lost, a universe with Heaven at the top, Hell at the bottom and Chaos in between. Milton explains much of Paradise Lost in explaining the universal hierarchy and also order that these events upset. Disobedience and Revolt, Sin and Innocence, Free Will and Predestination, Love and Marriage, Jealousy, Revenge, Forgiveness, Love, Hate, Fall and Pride form the major themes of Paradise Lost.

ii. Explain the significance of the title Paradise Lost. The title of 'Paradise Lost' refers to the Biblical story of the fall of man. The temptation of Adam and Eve by the fallen angel Satan and their expulsion from the Paradise, i.e., the Garden of Eden.

After Satan's rebellion, Satan has motivated more by his envy of God than his jealousy of God true or false. Envy and jealousy are confused affairs. Theme of Jealousy in Paradise Lost Satan though fallen on account of his own deeds and pride, is only jealous of man since

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is enjoying all the fruits in Paradise.

There are many ways that Milton explores the theme of disobedience in Paradise Lost. Satan does not want to be in the control of God's influence, so Satan disobeyed God. Milton's purpose in writing Paradise Lost is to illustrate moral message to Humankind. So he presents the fact that God is often conversing about his plans with the Son of God.

ii) The Role of Satan in Paradise Lost. Satan is called as Lucifer, the first major character in Paradise Lost. Once Lucifer was the most beautiful of all angels. Now Satan is a tragic character and declares "Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven". Satan does not want to obey God's commands and says that angels are "self-begot, self-raised", and refused God as their Creator.

Satan is equally powerful like God. Satan is also cunning and deceptive. Satan's



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argument is that under the World as a tyrant.

Satan is considered as tragic or Hellenic hero

Satan has Hellenic qualities, i.e., his great

Courage and Satan causes both the downfall

of man and the eternal damnation of his fallen

angels. Satan exists only to combat God.

Satan is called the antagonist in the poem

Paradise Lost and God is considered as the

Protagonist instead. Satan's plan is to tempt the

creations of God and also to destroy the good

deeds in mankind. Satan always goes against God's

law and becomes corrupted. Satan says that he

and his fellow revolutionaries were self-created

and self-sustained and so Satan's position in the

rebellion is much like that of his own real

World Creator.

The Character of Adam. Adam, the first man created

by God needs a companion. Adam is more

gregarious than Eve and longs for her

company.

His infatuation with Eve is responsible for him to join her in disobedience to God by committing a sin against God's command by eating the forbidden fruit given by Eve. Milton's Adam leaves Paradise. He is also given a glimpse of the future of mankind by the Archangel Michael.

The role of Eve in Paradise Lost. Eve is the second human created by God, Almighty. Milton's Eve is not so submissive towards Adam. Though she is happy, she longs for knowledge, particularly for self-knowledge. Eve's aim is to ponder her own reflection and to turn away from Adam. Eve is beautiful and sometimes suffocated by his constant presence. In Book IV Eve instructs Adam to separate for a time and work in diverse parts of the garden. Only in Eve's solitude she is very well tempted by Satan, by eating forbidden fruit she <sup>has</sup> committed a sin and makes Adam also to commit the sin.

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The Son of God is considered only as the Spirit.  
Milton believed in the doctrine of Christology  
that Jesus regarded <sup>the son</sup> as the secondary character  
to the father. Milton's God in Paradise Lost refers  
to the son as "My word, my wisdom and effectual  
might". The son is the ultimate hero of the epic  
and defeats Satan and his followers, finally  
drives them into Hell. The God is the Judge, by  
redeeming the fall of Man through his sacrifice  
— by his Crucifixion and resurrection. A vision  
of salvation comes by the son of God and is revealed  
to Adam by Michael.