

About the Poem

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Published in : 1667 (in 10 books; later expanded to 12 books)
(in 1674)

Form : Written into Blank Verse
(Unrhymed iambic pentameter)

Main Theme : The rebellion of Satan and his followers against God, which leads the ultimate fall of those Satan and his followers from Heaven.

Main Characters :

① Satan :

- The central character in Book-1
- Rebels against God out of pride and ambition

② Beelzebub

- Satan's closest companion
- Helps Satan in his rebel against God

③ The Fallen Angels (Legions of Hell)

- The Army of rebel angels who followed Satan in his revolt.

④ God

- Not physically present in Book 1, but central to the theme.

⑤ The Son (Christ) (mentioned)

- Represented as God's Son
- Represents divine obedience and justice opposite of Satan's disobedience

⑥ Muse/Heavenly Muse

- Interpreted as the Holy Spirit who inspires Milton to tell the story of man's fall truthfully and with divine guidance.

Paradise Lost Book-1

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- ① Book-1 begins with Poet's request to God being inspired by the Heavenly Muse (हवर्गित मूसा) to strengthen him (poet) to write the story of first sin committed by the man & destruction of man because of the very sin so that he (poet) may justify (point right) the ways (path) of God to man (ईश्वर के मार्ग से मनुष्य के मामले उचित ठहराना).
- ② The poet Milton begins his poetry in medias res (in the middle of the things) when Satan and his followers are thrown away from the heaven to the hell by the devils (God).
- ③ Satan and his followers are fallen in a fiery lake (आग का तालाब) in defeated and wounded manner.
- ④ Despite Satan remains defiant (विरोधी) and proud. Being determined to rebel against God, he awakens his companion Beelzebub, and together they plan while vowing never to knee down before God.
- ⑤ Satan declares:
"Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven".
- ⑥ Then Satan rallies (calls) all the fallen angels to revolt. Those very fallen angels like Moloch, Chemos, and Belial are known as the Pagan (प्राकृतिक) gods of Earth.
- ⑦ Satan, with all his followers build a magnificent building named "Pandemonium" in the hell. This Pandemonium is their main centre (मुख्यालय) where they plan against God as well as heaven that how can they reach heaven by throwing God out from there.
- ⑧ Book one ends with the devils entering the Pandemonium where Satan sits on the throne, ready to plan revenge against God, not by force but by deceit (व्यक्ति से) : By corrupting God new creation "Adam - Eve".

Paradise Lost Book-1

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Theme of Paradise Lost Book-1 :

The central theme of Book 1 of Paradise Lost is the fall of Satan and his followers after their rebellion against God, and the beginning of evil in the Universe. Milton also explores pride, ambition, disobedience, and the struggle between good and evil.

Important questions

- ① Summarise the poem "Paradise Lost".
- ② Analyse the poem "Paradise Lost".
- ③ What does the title "Paradise Lost" refer to?
- ④ Discuss "Paradise Lost" as an Epic poem.
- ⑤ Why is Satan transformed into a serpent?

Sem: 04, MAC: 07

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Lesson: 01

Paradise Lost - Book - 1

About the Poet:

- One of the greatest English poets and intellectuals of the 17th century.
- Best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost* which tells the story of the Fall of Man - How Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and expelled from the Garden of Eden.
- Birth: 9 December, 1608, in London, England
- Death: 8 November, 1674, in London
- Education: Studied at St. Paul's School and Christ's College Cambridge.
- He was also a political thinker and pamphleteer.
- He supported the Puritan cause and Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth.
- By 1652, Milton became completely blind, but he continued to write by dictating his works to assistants and his daughters.
- Milton, after his blindness, didn't lose his insight as he produced some of his greatest poetry during his blindness only;

- ① *Paradise Lost* (1667)
 - ② *Paradise Regained* (1671)
 - ③ *Samson Agonistes* (1671)
 - ④ *Anno Domini* (1644)
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