

Balkin
comments: is hope feeling or action?
- either way, what are
its bounds?

11-19

A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION

John Milton
PARADISE LOST

- use Authorized (KJV)
or Geneva for
Milton citations



AUTHORITATIVE TEXT
SOURCES AND BACKGROUNDS
CRITICISM

- find first
illustrated
editions - f
P.L.

Edited by
GORDON TESKEY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- Milton uses/profers Geneva Bible



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Lured with the smell of infant blood to dance
 With Lapland witches while the laboring moon
 Eclipses at their charms. The other shape

(If shape it might be called that shape had none
 Distinguishable in member, joint, or limb,
 Or substance might be called that shadow seemed,
 For each seemed either): black it stood as night,

Fierce as ten furies, terrible as Hell
 And shook a dreadful dart. What seemed his head
 The likeness of a kingly crown had on.

Satan was now at hand and from his seat
 The monster moving onward came as fast
 With horrid strides. Hell trembled as he strode!

Th' undaunted Fiend what this might be admired,
 Admired, not feared. God and his Son except, *is this including God & Son
 as created, or excluding them?*
Created thing naught valued he, nor shunned,

And with disdainful look thus first began:

Satan 'Whence and what art thou, execrable shape,
 That dar'st though grim and terrible advance

Thy miscreated front athwart my way
 To yonder gates? Through them I mean to pass,
 That be assured, without leave asked of thee.

Retire, or taste thy folly and learn by proof,
 Hell-born, not to contend with spirits of Heav'n!"

To whom the goblin full of wrath replied:

ML 'Art thou that traitor angel, art thou he
 Who first broke peace in Heav'n and faith, till then
 Unbroken, and in proud rebellious arms

Drew after him the third part of Heav'n's sons
 Conjured against the High'st for which both thou
 And they outcast from God are here condemned

To waste eternal days in woe and pain?

And reckon'st thou thyself with spirits of Heav'n, ✱
 Hell-doomed, and breath'st defiance here and scorn

Where I reign king, and to enrage thee more,
Thy king and lord? Back to thy punishment,

False fugitive, and to thy speed add wings
 Lest with a whip of scorpions I pursue

** Compare to use of Rehoboth
 as example in Tenness!*

665. *laboring moon*: the moon going into eclipse, struggling to survive.

669–70. I.e., If it can be called a substance, since it appeared instead to be a shadow, although its very shadowiness seemed substantial.

677. *admired*: wondered. Latin *admiror*, "to wonder at, to be astonished at."

679. *he*: Satan.

686. *folly* and *and* are elided, with a total of two syllables: 'foll-yand.'

691. *rebellious* has three syllables: 'ree-bell-yus.'

Thy ling'ring or with one stroke of this dart
Strange horror seize thee and pangs unfelt before!"

So spake the grisly terror and in shape,
So speaking and so threat'ning, grew tenfold 705

More dreadful and deform. On th' other side
Incensed with indignation Satan stood

Unterrified and like a comet burned
That fires the length of Ophiucus huge

In th' arctic sky and from his horrid hair
Shakes pestilence and war. Each at the head 710

Levelled his deadly aim: their fatal hands
No second stroke intend. And such a frown

Each cast at th' other as when two black clouds
With heav'n's artill'ry fraught come rattling on 715

Over the Caspian, then stand front to front
Hov'ring a space till winds the signal blow

To join their dark encounter in mid air.
So frowned the mighty combatants that Hell

Grew darker at their frown. So matched they stood,
[For never but once more was either like 720

• To meet so great a foe. And now great deeds
Had been achieved whereof all Hell had rung,

Had not the snaky sorceress that sat
Fast by Hell gate and kept the fatal key 725

Ris'n and with hideous outcry rushed between:
"O Father, what intends thy hand, she cried,

*Sin
signifying*

'Against thy only son? What fury, O Son,
Possesses thee to bend that mortal dart

Against thy father's head? And know'st for whom?
For Him who sits above and laughs the while 730

At thee ordained His drudge to execute *ex-ec-ute*.
Whate'er His wrath (which He calls "justice") bids,

His wrath which one day will destroy ye both!"
She spake and at her words the hellish pest 735

Forbore. Then these to her Satan returned:
"So strange thy outcry and thy words so strange

Satan

703. *seize, thee, and and* are elided: 'seas-thand.'

710. *horrid hair*: bristling like the hair of an enraged animal, such as a boar. The word *comet* is from Greek *komê*, "the hair," and *komêtês*, "long-haired." Comets were thought to be the portents or even the causes of disasters such as *pestilence* and *war*.

☹

711-13. Satan and Death are at a Mexican standoff.

715. *artillery* has three syllables ('artill-ree'), and *rattling* has two.

722. *so great a foe*: the Son. "For he [Christ] must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. And the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).

726. *hideous* has two syllables: 'hid-jus.'

735. *pest*: not Satan but his adversary.

737-40. I.e., Your words are so strange that they delay my (usually undelaying) hand from proclaiming, in the language of deeds, what it intends to do.

Thou interposest that my sudden hand
 Prevented spares to tell thee yet by deeds
 What it intends till first I know of thee 740
 What thing thou art thus double-formed and why
In this infernal vale first met thou call'st
Me "father" and that phantasm call'st my son. *another cheap shadow*
 I know thee not nor ever saw till now *of God, but now nearing*
 Sight more detestable than him and thee. " *Dualism?* 745
 T' whom thus the portress of Hell gate replied:
 Hast thou forgot me then and do I seem
 Now in thine eyes so foul, once deemed so fair
 In Heav'n when at th' assembly and in sight
 Of all the seraphim with thee combined 750
 In bold conspiracy 'gainst Heaven's King?
 All on a sudden miserable pain
 Surprised thee: dim thine eyes and dizzy swum
 In darkness while thy head flames thick and fast
 Threw forth till on the left side op'ning wide, 755
 Likest to thee in shape and count'nance bright
 (Then shining Heav'nly fair) a goddess armed
Out of thy head I sprung! Amazement seized
 All th' host of Heav'n. Back they recoiled afraid
 At first and called me "Sin" and for a sign 760
 Portentous held me. But familiar grown
 I pleased and with attractive graces won
 The most averse (thee chiefly) who full oft
 Thyself in me thy perfect image viewing
 Becam'st enamoured and such joy thou took'st 765
With me in secret that my womb conceived
A growing burden. Meanwhile war arose
 And fields were fought in Heav'n wherein remained
 (For what could else) to our almighty Foe
 Clear victory, to our part loss and rout 770
 Through all the empyréan. Down they fell
 Driv'n headlong from the pitch of Heaven, down
 Into this deep and in the general fall
 I also, at which time this pow'ful key
 Into my hand was giv'n with charge to keep 775
 These gates for ever shut which none can pass
Without my op'ning. Pensive here I sat
 Alone, but long I sat not till my womb—
 Pregnant by thee and now excessive grown—

743. *phantasm* has two syllables: 'fan-tazm.'

755-58. Like Athena, goddess of wisdom, who burst out of Zeus's head.

773. *general* has two syllables: 'jen-ral.'

Prodigious motion felt and rueful throes.

780

At last this odious offspring whom thou seest,

sin & pain in
childbirth?

Thine own begotten, breaking violent way

Tore through my entrails, that with fear and pain

Distorted all my nether shape thus grew

Transformed. But he my inbred enemy

785

Forth issued brandishing his fatal dart

Made to destroy. I fled and cried out "Death!"

Hell trembled at the hideous name and sighed

From all her caves and back resounded "Death!"

I fled but he pursued (though more, it seems,

790

Inflamed with lust than rage) and swifter far

Me overtook, his mother, all dismayed,

And in embraces forcible and foul

Engend'ring with me of that rape begot

These yelling monsters that with ceaseless cry

795

Surround me as thou saw'st, hourly conceived

And hourly born with sorrow infinite

To me. For when they list, into the womb

That bred them they return and howl and gnaw

800

My bowels, their repast, then bursting forth

Afresh with conscious terrors vex me round

That rest or intermission none I find.

Before mine eyes in opposition sits

Grim Death, my son and foe, who sets them on

And me his parent would full soon devour

805

For want of other prey but that he knows

His end with mine involved and knows that I

Should prove a bitter morsel and his bane

Whenever that shall be: so Fate pronounced.

But thou, O Father, I forewarn thee, shun

810

19 His deadly arrow. Neither vainly hope

To be invulnerable in those bright arms,

Though tempered Heav'nly, for that mortal dint,

Save He who reigns above, none can resist."

She finished and the subtle Fiend his lore

815

Soon learned, now milder, and thus answered smooth:

Satan "Dear Daughter, since thou claim'st me for thy sire

And my fair son here show'st me (the dear pledge

Of dalliance had with thee in Heav'n and joys

Then sweet, now sad to mention through dire change

820

Befall'n us unforeseen, unthought of), know

I come no enemy but to set free

782. *thine own begotten*: recalling the Son as the only begotten of the Father.

812. *invulnerable* has four syllables: 'in-vuln-rab-le.'

From out this dark and dismal house of pain
 Both him and thee and all the Heav'nly host
 Of spirits that in our just pretenses armed 825
 Fell with us from on high. From them I go
 This uncouth errand sole and one for all
 Myself expose with lonely steps to tread
 Th' unfounded deep and through the void immense
 To search with wand'ring quest a place foretold 830
 Should be (and by concurring signs, ere now
 Created, vast and round) a place of bliss
 In the purlieus of Heav'n and therein placed
 A race of upstart creatures to supply
 Perhaps our vacant room, though more removed, 835
 Lest Heav'n surcharged with potent multitude
Might hap to move new broils. Be this or aught
 Than this more secret now designed I haste
 To know and this once known shall soon return
 And bring ye to the place where thou and Death 840
 Shall dwell at ease and up and down unseen
 Wing silently the buxom air, embalmed
 With odors. There ye shall be fed and filled
Immeasurably: all things shall be your prey!
 He ceased, for both seemed highly pleased, and Death 845
 Grinned horrible a ghastly smile to hear
 His famine should be filled and blest his maw *would this carry a double valence of Ma?*
 Destined to that good hour. No less rejoiced
 His mother bad and thus bespake her sire:
 "The key of this infernal pit by due 850
 And by command of Heav'n's all-powerful King
 I keep, by Him forbidden to unlock
 These adamantine gates. Against all force
 Death ready stands to interpose his dart,
 Fearless to be o'ermatched by living might. 855
 But what owe I to His commands above
Who hates me and hath hither thrust me down
Into this gloom of Tartarus profound
To sit in hateful office here confined,
Inhabitant of Heav'n and Heav'nly-born, 860

830-32. He seeks the created universe, which was foretold by prophecy in heaven, and which by reading other signs Satan knows has now been created.

833. *purlieus*: neighborhood. More precisely, a piece of land on the edge of a royal forest, which might be turned over to private use under some restrictions; a fairly precise word for the legal status of the world Adam and Eve are given.

842. *embalmed*: made odorous, as with balm. The practice of embalming corpses may also be suggested.

844. *immeasurably* has four syllables: 'imm-mesj-rab-ly.'