

## Characters

<b>God (M/F)</b>	God. Kindly, but ultimately disappointed.
<b>Eve (M/F)</b>	Intelligent, organizing, a bit of a blue stocking.
<b>Adam (M/F)</b>	Pushes boundaries; has some complaints and dissatisfactions.
<b>Angel (M/F)</b>	An oracle. *Can be doubled.
<b>Serpent (M/F)</b>	A bitter fallen angel. Rebellious. Grown crafty and wily. Makes some sinuous hypnotic movements, and has a few snake-like sounds in voice. Gives an occasional hiss.
<b>Son of God (M/F)</b>	An oracle.
<b>Archangel Michael (M/F)</b>	Who pronounces judgement.
<b>Narrators 1 (M/F)</b>	Storyteller.
<b>Narrator 2 (M/F)</b>	Storyteller.

**\*More narrators can be used if wished with text shared.**

**\*There is scope for children as a selection of God's creatures (mimed), within first few pages of text, or as director wishes.\***

## Scene 1

**(MUSIC: Jazz- 'It's a Wonderful World'.)**

**Adam:**

**(Relate to audience seated.)**

For man to tell how human Life began  
Is hard; for who himself beginning knew?  
Desire with thee still longer to converse  
Induc'd me. As new wak't from soundest sleep  
Soft on the flow'ry herb I found me laid  
In balmy Sweat, which with his Beams the Sun  
Soon dri'd, and on the reeking moisture fed.  
Straight toward Heav'n my wond'ring Eyes I turn'd,  
And gaz'd awhile the ample Sky, till rais'd  
By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,  
**(Spring up.)** As thitherward endeavouring, and upright  
Stood on my feet; about me round I saw

**(Looks around in awe and wonder.)**

Hill, Dale, and shady Woods, and sunny Plains,  
And liquid Lapse of murmuring Streams; by these,  
Creatures that liv'd, and mov'd, and walked, or flew,  
Birds on the branches warbling; all things smil'd,  
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.

**(Inspects himself as if new born. Runs a few steps joyfully here and there.)**

Myself I then perus'd, and Limb by Limb  
Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran  
With supple joints, as lively vigour led:  
But who I was, or where, or from what cause,  
Knew not; to speak I tri'd, and forthwith spake,  
My Tongue obey'd and readily could name  
Whate'er I saw.

**(Gestures, implores.)**

'Thou Sun,' said I, 'fair Light,  
And thou enlight'n'd Earth, so fresh and gay,  
Ye Hills and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods, and Plains,  
And ye that live and move, fair Creatures, tell,  
Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?  
Not of myself; by some great Maker then,  
In goodness and in power pre-eminent;  
Tell me, how may I know him, how adore,  
From whom I have that thus I move and live,  
And feel that I am happier than I know.'

While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,  
From where I first drew Air, and first beheld

This happy Light, when answer none return'd,  
On a green shady Bank profuse of Flow'rs

**(Sit and close eyes.)** Pensive I sat me down; there gentle sleep  
First found me, and with soft oppression seiz'd  
My drowsed sense, untroubl'd, though I thought  
I then was passing to my former stage  
Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve:  
When suddenly stood at my Head a dream,  
Whose inward apparition gently mov'd  
My Fancy to believe I yet had being,  
And liv'd: one came, methought, of shape Divine, And said,

**God:** **(Enter. Beckons to Adam. Takes him by hand and raises him.)**  
thy Mansion wants thee, Adam, rise,  
First Man, of Men innumerable ordain'd  
First Father, call'd by thee I come thy Guide  
To the Garden of bliss, thy seat prepar'd.

**Adam:** So saying, by the hand he took me rais'd  
And over Fields and Waters, as in Air  
Smooth sliding without step, last led me up  
A woody Mountain; whose high top was plain,  
A Circuit wide, enclos'd, with goodliest Trees  
Planted, with Walks, and Bowers, that what I saw  
Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd. Each Tree  
Load'n with fairest Fruit, that hung to the Eye

**(Explores alone.)** Tempting, stirr'd in me sudden appetite  
To pluck and eat; whereat I wak'd, and found  
Before mine Eyes all real, as the dream  
Had lively shadow'd: Here had new begun  
My wandering, had not hee who was my Guide  
Up hither, from among the Trees appear'd,  
Presence Divine. Rejoicing, but with awe

**(Falls at God's feet.)** In adoration at his feet I fell  
Submiss: he rear'd me, and

**God:** **(Indicates wonders of earth – and utters a dreadful warning.)**  
Whom thou sought'st I am,  
Author of all this thou seest  
Above, or round about thee or beneath.  
This Paradise I give thee, count it thine  
To Till and keep, and of the Fruit to eat:  
Of every Tree that in the Garden grows  
Eat freely with glad heart; fear here no dearth:  
But of the Tree whose operation brings

Knowledge of good and ill, which I have set  
The Pledge of thy Obedience and thy Faith,  
Amid the Garden by the Tree of Life,  
Remember what I warn thee, shun to taste,  
And shun the bitter consequence: for know  
The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command  
Transgress, inevitably thou shalt die;  
From that day mortal, and this happy State  
Shalt lose, expell'd from hence into a World of woe and sorrow.

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**Adam:** Sternly he pronounc'd  
The rigid interdiction, which resounds  
Yet dreadful in mine ear, though in my choice  
Not to incur; but soon his clear aspect  
Returned and gracious purpose thus renew'd

**God:** **(Gesturing.)** Not only these fair bounds, but all the Earth  
To thee and to thy Race I give; as Lords  
Possess it, and all things that therein live,  
Or live in Sea, or air, Beast, Fish, and Fowl.  
In sign whereof each Bird and Beast behold  
After their kinds; I bring them to receive  
From thee their Names, and pay thee fealty  
With low subjection; understand the same  
Of Fish within their wat'ry residence,  
Not hither summon'd, since they cannot change  
Their Element to draw the thinner Air.

**Adam:** As thus he spake, each Bird and Beast behold  
Approaching two and two, These cōw'ring low  
With blandishment, each Bird stoop'd on his wing.  
I named them, as they pass'd, and understood  
Their Nature, with such knowledge God undu'd  
My sudden apprehension: but in these  
I found not what methought I wanted still;  
And to the Heav'nly vision thus presum'd,

**(Questions his solitary state.)**

Oh by what Name, for thou above all these,  
Above mankind, or aught than mankind higher,  
Surpassest far my naming, how may I  
Adore thee, Author of this Universe,  
And all this good to man, for whose well-being

So amply, and with hands so liberal  
Thou hast provided all things: but with mee  
I see not who partakes. In solitude  
What happiness, who can enjoy alone,  
Or all enjoying, what contentment find?  
Thus I presumptuous; and the vision bright,  
As with a smile more bright'n'd, thus repli'd.

**God:** **(Explains that Adam is not alone on the earth.)**

What call'st thou solitude, is not the Earth  
With various living creatures, and the Air  
Replenisht, and all these at thy command  
To come and lay before thee, know'st thou not  
Their language and their ways, they also know,  
And reason not contemptibly; with these  
Find pastime, and bear rule; thy Realm is large.

**Adam:** **(An observation and a complaint.)**

So spake the Universal Lord, and seem'd  
So ordering. I with leave of speech implor'd,  
And humble deprecation thus repli'd.  
'Let not my words offend thee, Heav'nly Power,  
My Maker, be propitious while I speak.  
Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,  
And these inferior far beneath me set?

**(Suggests God has made an omission.)**

Among unequals what society  
Can sort, what harmony or true delight?  
Which must be mutual, in proportion due  
Giv'n and receiv'd; but in disparity  
The one intense, the other still remiss  
Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove  
Tedious alike: Of fellowship I speak  
Such as I seek, fit to participate  
All rational delight, wherein the brute  
Cannot be human consort; they rejoice  
Each with their kind, Lion with Lioness;  
So fitly them in pairs thou has combin'd:  
Much less can Bird with Beast, or Fish with Fowl  
So well converse, nor with the Ox the Ape;  
Worse then can Man with Beast, and least of all.'  
Whereto th'Almighty answer'd, not displeas'd.

**God:** **(Nods conversationally.)** A nice and subtle happiness I see

Thou to thyself proposes, in the choice  
Of thy Associates, Adam, and wilt taste  
No pleasure, thou in pleasure, solitary.

What think'st thou then of mee, and this my State,  
Seem I to thee sufficiently possess  
Of happiness, or not? Who am alone  
From all Eternity, for none I know  
Second to me or like, equal much less.

**(A slight grumble.)** Who have I then with whom to hold converse  
Save with the Creatures which I made, and those  
To me inferior, infinite descents  
Beneath what other Creatures are to thee?

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**Adam:** He ceas'd, I lowly answer'd. 'To attain  
The height and depth of thy Eternal ways  
All human thoughts come short, Supreme of things;  
Thou in thyself art perfect, and in thee  
Is no deficiency found; not so is Man,  
But in degree, the cause of his desire  
By conversation with his like to help,

**(Reverentially.)** Or solace his defects. No need that thou  
Should'st propagate, already infinite;  
And through all numbers absolute, though One;  
But Man by number is to manifest  
His single imperfection, and beget  
Like of his like, his Image multipli'd,  
In unity defective, which requires  
Collateral love, and dearest amity.  
The answer from the gracious voice Divine.

**God:** **(Gently closes Adam's eyes. Makes action of removing one of Adam's ribs)**  
Thus far to try thee, Adam, I was pleas'd,  
And find thee knowing not of Beasts alone,  
Which thou hast rightly nam'd, by of thyself,  
Expressing well the spirit within thee free,  
My Image, not imparted to the Brute,  
Whose fellowship therefore unmet for thee  
Good reason was thou freely should'st dislike,  
And be so minded still; I, ere thou spak'st,  
Knew it not good for Man to be alone,  
And no such company as then thou saw'st  
Intended thee, for trial only brought,  
To see how thou should'st judge of fit and meet:  
What next I bring shall please thee, be assur'd,

Thy likeness, thy fit help, thy other self,  
Thy wish, exactly to thy heart's desire.

**Adam:** Hee ended, or I heard no more, for now  
My earthly by his Heav'nly overpower'd,  
Which it had long stood under, strain'd to the heighth  
In that celestial Colloquy sublime,  
As with an object that excels the sense,  
Dazzl'd and spent, sunk down, and sought repair  
Of sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd  
By Nature as in aid, and clos'd mine eyes.

Mine eyes he clos'd, but op'n left the Cell  
Of Fancy my internal sight, by which  
Abstract as in a trance methought I saw,  
Though sleeping where I lay, and saw the shape  
Still glorious before whom awake I stood;  
Who stooping op'n'd my left side, and took  
From thence a Rib, with cordial spirits warm,  
And Life-blood streaming fresh; wide was the wound,  
But suddenly with flesh fill'd up and heal'd:  
The Rib he form'd and fashion'd with his hands;  
Under his forming hands a Creature grew.

**(Eve enters & moves to God.)**

**Adam:** **(Looks wonderingly at Eve.)** Manlike,  
but different sex, so lovely fair,  
That what seem'd fair in all the World, seem'd now Mean,  
or in her sum'd up, in her contain'd  
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd  
Sweetness into my heart,  
unfelt before,  
And into all things from her Air inspir'd  
The spirit of love and amorous delight.

**(MUSIC Jazz – 'Ain't She Sweet.')**

**(God and Eve move away and stand in frozen tableau.)**

**Adam:** She disappear'd, and left me dark, I wak'd  
To find her, or for ever to deplore  
Her loss, and other pleasures all adjure:  
When out of hope, behold her, not far off,  
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd  
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow  
To make her amiable: On she came,  
Led by her Heav'nly Maker, though unseen,

And guided by his voice, nor uninform'd  
Of nuptial Sanctity and marriage Rites:

**(God & Eve return. God joins Adam and Eve's hands together, as if performing a marriage ceremony.)**

**Adam:** **(Overjoyed.)** Grace was in all her steps, Heav'n in her Eye,  
In every gesture dignity and love.  
I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud.  
This turn hath made amends; thou hast fulfill'd  
Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign,  
Giver of all thy gifts, nor enviest I now see  
**(A pledge, serious and romantic.)** Bone of my Bone, Flesh of my Flesh, my Self  
Before me; Woman is her Name, of Man  
Extracted; for this cause he shall forgo  
Father and Mother, and to his Wife adhere;  
And they shall be one Flesh, one Heart, one Soul.'

**(God exits.)**

**Adam:** She heard me thus, and though divinely brought  
Yet Innocence and Virgin Modesty,  
Her virtue and her conscience of her worth,  
That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,  
Not obvious, nor obtrusive, but retir'd,  
The more desirable, or to say all,  
Nature herself, though pure of sinful thought,  
Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd;  
I follow'd her, she what was Honour knew,  
And with obsequious Majesty approv'd  
My pleaded reason. To the Nuptial Bow'r

**(Walk hand in hand lovingly with Eve.)** I led her blushing like the Morn: all Heav'n  
And Happy Constellations on that hour  
Shed their selected influence; the Earth  
Gave sign of gratulation, and each Hill:

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**(A small kiss. Dances slowly with Eve; gently romantically.)**  
Joyous the Birds; fresh Gales and gentle Airs  
Whisper'd it to the Woods, and from their wings  
Flung Rose, flung Odours from the spicy Shrub,  
Disporting, till the amorous Bird of Night  
Sung Spousal, and bid haste the Ev'ning Star  
On his Hill top, to light the bridal Lamp.



**(To audience.)** Thus I have told thee all my State, and brought  
My Story to the sum of earthly bliss  
Which I enjoy, and must confess to find  
In all things else delight indeed, but such  
As us'd or not, works in the mind no change,

Nor vehement desire, these delicacies  
I mean of Taste, Sight, Smell,  
Herbs, Fruits, and Flow'rs,

Walks, and the melody of Birds; but here  
Far otherwise, transported I behold,  
Transported touch; here passion first I felt,

Commotion strange, in all enjoyments else  
Superior and unmov'd, here only weak  
Against the charm of Beauty's powerful glance.

**(Eve walks away from Adam, inspecting garden.)**

**Adam:** **(A sudden premonition.)** Or Nature fail'd in mee, and left some part  
Not proof enough such Object to sustain,  
Or from my side subducting, took perhaps  
More than enough; at least on her bestow'd  
Too much of Ornament, in outward show  
Elaborate, of inward less exact.

**(Adam and Eve. Throw each other loving glances.)**

**Adam:** **(Patriarchally.)** For well I understand in the prime end  
Of Nature her th' inferior, in the mind  
And inward Faculties, which most excel,  
In her outward also her resembling less  
**(In thrall.)** His Image who made both, and less expressing  
The character of that Dominion giv'n  
O'er other Creatures; yet when I approach  
Her loveliness, so absolute she seems  
And in herself complete, so well to know  
Her own, that what she wills to do or say  
Seems wisest, virtuous, discreetest, best;  
**(Conscious that he is totally besotted with Eve.)**  
All higher knowledge in her presence falls  
Degraded, Wisdom in discourse with her  
Loses discount'nanc't, and like folly shows;  
Authority and Reason on her wait,  
As one intended first, not after made  
Occasionally; and to consummate all,

Greatness of mind and nobleness their seat  
Build in her loveliest, and create an awe  
About her, as a guard Angelic plac't.  
To whom the Angel with contracted brow.

**(Angel enters.)**

**Angel:**

**(Addresses Adam reprovingly. Offers words of wisdom.)**

Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part;  
Do thou but thine, and be not diffident  
Of Wisdom, she deserts thee not, if thou  
Dismiss not her, when most thou need'st her nigh,  
By attributing overmuch to things  
Less excellent, as thou thyself perceiv'st.

For what admir'st thou, what transports thee so,  
An outside? Fair no doubt, and worthy well  
Thy cherishing, thy honouring, and thy love,  
Not thy subjection: weigh with her thyself;  
Then value: Oft time nothing profits more  
Than self-esteem, grounded on just and right  
Well manag'd; of that skill the more thou know'st,  
The more she will acknowledge thee her Head,  
And to realities yield all her shows;

Made so adorn for they delight the more,  
So awful, that with honour thou may'st love  
Thy mate, who sees when thou art seen least wise,

But if the sense of touch whereby mankind  
Is propagated seem such dear delight  
Beyond all other, think the same vouchsaf't  
To Cattle and each Beast; which would not be  
To them made common and divulg'd if aught  
Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue  
The Soul of Man, or passion in him move.

What higher in her society thou find'st  
Attractive, human, rational, love still;

In loving though dost well, in passion not,  
Wherein true Love consists not, love refines  
The thoughts, and heart enlarges, hath his seat  
In Reason, and is judicious, is the scale  
By which to heav'nly Love thou may'st ascend,

**(Warning.)** Not sunk in carnal pleasure, for which cause

Among the Beasts no Mate for thee was found.

**Narrator 1:** To whom thus half-abash't Adam replied.

**Adam:** **(Lost again in love. He is losing objectivity.)**  
Neither her outside form'd so fair, nor aught  
In procreation common to all kinds  
(Though higher of the genial Bed by far,  
And with mysterious reverence I deem)  
So much delights me, as those graceful acts,  
Those thousand decencies that daily flow  
From all her words and actions, mixt with Love  
And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd  
Union of Mind, or in us both one Soul;

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**(Eve returns to Adam's side.)**

**Angel:** **(To Adam and Eve.)** Harmony to behold in wedded pair  
More grateful than harmonious sound to the ear.  
Yet these subject not; I to thee disclose  
What inward thence I feel, not therefore foil'd,  
Who meet with various objects, from the sense  
Variously representing; yet still free  
Approve the best, and follow what I approve.

**Adam:** **(To Angel. A bit tetchy.)** To love thou blam'st me not, for love thou say'st  
Leads up to Heav'n, is both the way and guide;  
Bear with me then, if lawful what I ask;  
Love not the heav'nly Spirits, and how their Love  
Express they, by looks only, or do they mix  
Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?

**Narrator 1:** To whom the Angel with a smile that glow'd  
Celestial rosy red, Love's proper hue, answer'd,

**Angel:** **(Smiles, teasing.)** Let it suffice thee that thou know'st  
Us happy, and without Love no happiness.  
Whatever pure thou in the body enjoy'st  
(And pure thou were created) we enjoy  
In eminence, and obstacle find none  
Of membrane, joint, or limb, exclusive bars:

**(Farewell.)** Easier than Air with Air, if Spirits embrace,

Total they mix, Union of Pure with Pure  
Desiring; nor restrain'd conveyance need  
As Flesh to mix with Flesh, or Soul with Soul.  
But I can now no more; the parting Sun  
Beyond the Earth's green Cape and verdant Isles  
Hesperian sets, my Signal to depart.

**(Raises an arm. A wish for happiness – and a warning.)**

Be strong, live happy, and love, but first of all  
Him whom to love is to obey, and keep  
His great command; take heed lest Passion sway  
Thy Judgement to do aught, which else free Will  
Would not admit; thine and of all thy Sons  
The weal or woe in thee is plac't; beware.

**Narrator 1:** So saying, he arose; whom Adam thus  
Follow'd with benediction.

**Adam:** Since to part,  
Go heav'nly Guest, Ethereal Messenger,  
Sent from whose Sovran goodness I adore.  
Gentle to me and affable hath been  
Thy condescension, and shall be honour'd ever  
With grateful Memory: thou to mankind  
Be good and friendly still, and oft return.

**(Adam and Eve hand in hand, wave farewell to Angel. Angel exits.)**

**Narrator 1:** So parted they, the Angel up to Heav'n  
From the thick shade, and Adam to his Bow'r.

**Narrator 2:** *BOOK 9: It is morning and Adam and Eve go about their work. Eve is insistent upon dividing their labour to get the work done more efficiently, but Adam argues against this, being forewarned of an enemy. Eventually he relents and it is in the garden alone that the serpent finds Eve.*

**(MUSIC: Jazz- 'It Ain't Necessarily So.')**

**Narrator 1:** No more of talk where God or angel Guest  
With Man, as with his Friend, familiar us'd  
To sit indulgent, and with him partake  
Rural repast, permitting him the while  
Venial discourse unblam'd: I now must change  
Those Notes to Tragic; foul distrust, and breach  
Disloyal on the part of Man, revolt,  
And disobedience: On the part of Heav'n  
Now alienated, distance and distaste,  
Anger and just rebuke, and judgement giv'n,

That brought into this World a world of woe,  
Sin and her shadow Death, and Misery Death's Harbinger.

The Sun was sunk, and after him the Star  
Of Hesperus, whose Office is to bring  
Twilight upon the Earth, short Arbiter  
'Twixt Day and Night, and now from end to end  
Night's Hemisphere had veil'd the Horizon round:  
When Satan who late fled before the threats  
Of Gabriel out of Eden, now improv'd  
In meditated fraud and malice, bent  
On man's destruction, maugre what might hap  
Of heavier on himself, fearless return'd.

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By Night he fled, and at Midnight return'd  
From compassing the Earth, cautious of day,  
Since Uriel Regent of the Sun descri'd  
His entrance, and forewarn'd the Cherubim  
That kept their watch; thence full of anguish  
The space of seven continu'd Nights he rode  
With darkness, thrice the Equinoctial Line

He circl'd, four times cross'd the Car of Night  
From Pole to Pole, traversing each Colure;  
On the eighth return'd, and on the Coast averse  
From entrance or Cherubic Watch, by stealth  
Found unsuspected way. There was a place,  
Now not, though Sin, not time, first wrought the change,  
Where Tigris at the foot of Paradise  
Into a Gulf shot under ground, till part  
Rose up a Fountain by the Tree of Life;  
In with the River sunk, and with it rose  
Satan involv'd in rising Mist, then sought  
Where to lie hid;

Him after long debate, irresolute  
Of thoughts revolv'd, his final sentence chose  
Fit Vessel, fittest Imp of fraud, in whom  
To enter, and his dark suggestions hid  
From sharpest sight: for in the wily Snake,  
Whatever sleights none would suspicious mark,  
As from his wit and native subtlety  
Proceeding, which in other Beasts observ'd

Doubt might beget of Diabolic pow'r  
Active within beyond the sense of brute.

Thus he resolv'd, but first from inward grief  
His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd:

**Serpent:**

**(Enters. Looks around. Sneers.)**

Oh Earth, how like to Heav'n, if not preferr'd  
More justly, Seat worthier of Gods, as built  
With second thoughts, reforming what was old!  
For what God after better worse would build?

**(Can't help admiring Paradise.)**

Terrestrial Heav'n, danc't round by other Heav'ns  
That shine, yet bear their bright officious Lamps,  
Light above Light, for thee alone, as seems,  
In thee concentrating all their precious beams  
Of sacred influence: As God in Heav'n  
Is Center, yet extends to all, so thou  
Cent'ring receiv'st from all those Orbs; in thee,  
Not in themselves, all their known virtue appears  
Productive in Herb, Plant, and nobler birth  
Of Creatures animate with gradual life  
Of Growth, Sense, Reason, all summ'd up in Man.

**(Bitterly.)**

With what delight could I have walkt thee round  
If I could joy in aught, sweet interchange  
Of Hill and Valley, Rivers, Woods and Plains,

**(Aggrieved.)** Now Land, now Sea, and Shores with Forest crown'd,  
Rocks, Dens, and Caves; but I in none of these  
Find place or refuge; and the more I see  
Pleasures about me, so much more I feel  
Torment within me, as from the hateful siege  
Of contraries; all good to me becomes  
Base, and in Heav'n much worse would be my state.

**(Wretched.)** But neither here seek I, no nor in Heav'n  
To dwell, unless by mast'ring Heav'n's Supreme;  
Nor hope to be myself less miserable  
By what I seek, but others to make such  
As I, though thereby worse to me redound:

**(Full of venom.)** For only in destroying I find ease  
To my relentless thoughts: and him destroy'd,  
Or won to what may work his utter loss,  
For whom all this was made, all this will soon

Follow, as to him linkt in weal or woe,

In woe then; that destruction wide may range;  
To mee shall be the glory sole among

**(Boasting.)** The infernal Powers, in one day to have marr'd  
What he Almighty styl'd, six Nights and Days  
Continu'd making, and who knows how long  
Before had been contriving, though perhaps  
Not longer than since I in one Night freed  
From servitude inglorious wellnigh half  
Th'Angelic Name, and thinner left the throng  
Of his adorers: hee to be aveng'd,  
And to repair his numbers thus impair'd

Whether such virtue spent of old now fail'd  
More Angels to Create, if they at least  
Are his Created or to spite us more,  
Determin'd to advance into our room  
A Creature form'd of Earth, and him endow,  
Exalted from so base original,  
With Heav'nly spoils, our spoils:

**(Angrily gestures.)** What he decreed  
He effected; Man he made, and for him built  
Magnificent this World, and Earth his seat,  
Him Lord pronounc'd, and O indignity!  
Subjected to his service Angel wings,  
And flaming Ministers to watch and tend  
Their earthy Charge:

Of these the vigilance  
I dread, and to elude, thus wrapt in mist  
Of midnight vapour glide obscure, and pry  
In every Bush and Brake, where hap may find  
The Serpent sleeping, in whose mazy folds

**(Retreats.)** To hide me, and the dark intent I bring.

**Narrator 2:**

Now when as sacred Light began to dawn  
In Eden on the humid Flow'rs, that breath'd  
Their morning Incense, when all things that breathe,  
From th'Earth's great Altar send up silent prase  
To the Creator, and his Nostrils fill  
With grateful Smell, forth came the human pair  
And join'd their vocal Worship to the Choir  
Of Creatures wanting voice, that done, partake  
The season, prime for sweetest Scents and Airs:

Then commune how that day they best may ply  
Their growing work: for much their work outgrew  
The hand's dispatch of two Gard'ning so wide.  
And Eve first to her Husband thus began.

**(Adam enters in relaxed mode, wearing a sunhat and carrying a garden implement. Eve enters in organizing mood; carrying a garden trug and trowel. Possibly wearing a lanyard bearing her name.)**

**Eve:** **(Addresses Adam.)** Adam, well may we labour still to dress  
This Garden, still to tend Plant, Herb and Flow'r,  
Our pleasant task enjoin'd, but till more hands  
Aid us, the work under our labour grows,  
Luxurious by restraint; what we by day  
Lop overgrown, or prune, or prop, or bind,  
One night or two with wanton growth derides  
Tending to wild.

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**(Gestures briskly to Adam.)** Thou therefore now advise  
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts present,  
Let us divide our labours, thou where choice  
Leads thee, or where most needs, whether to wind  
The Woodbine round this Arbour, or direct  
The clasping Ivy where to climb, while I  
In yonder Spring of Roses intermixt  
With Myrtle, find what to redress till Noon:

**(Looks at Adam. Reasons with him – all play and no work!)**  
For while so near each other thus all day  
Our task we choose, what wonder if so near  
Looks intervene and smiles, or object new  
Casual discourse draw on, which intermits  
Our day's work brought to little, though begun  
Early, and th'hour of Supper comes unearn'd.

**Narrator 2:** To whom mild answer Adam thus return'd.

**Adam:** **(Replies somewhat condescendingly. Tickles Eve under chin.)**  
Sole Eve, Associate sole, to me beyond  
Compare above all living Creatures dear,  
Well hast thou motion'd, well thy thoughts employ'd  
How we might best fulfil the work which here  
God hath assign'd for us, nor of me shalt pass



Unprais'd: for nothing lovelier can be found  
In woman, than to study household good,  
And good works in her Husband to promote.

**Adam:**

**(Resistant to Eve's suggestion to work separately.)**

Yet not so strictly hath our Lord impos'd  
Labour, as to debar us when we need  
Refreshment, whether food, or talk between,  
Food of the mind, or this sweet intercourse  
Of looks and smiles, for smiles from Reason flow,  
To brute deni'd, and are of Love the food,  
Love not the lowest end of human life.

**(To Eve.)** For not to irksome toil, but to delight  
He made us, and delight to Reason join'd.  
These paths and Bow'rs doubt not but our joint hands  
Will keep from Wilderness with ease, as wide  
As we need walk, till younger hands erelong  
Assist us: But if much converse perhaps

**(Moves close romantically. Strokes Eve's hand.)**

Thee satiate, to short absence I could yield.  
For solitude sometimes is best society,  
And short retirement urges sweet return.

**(Suddenly assailed by doubts. Speaks in stage whisper as if fearing an unknown foe may be listening.)**

But other doubt possesses me, lest harm  
Befall thee sever'd from me; for thou know'st  
What hath been warn'd us, what malicious Foe  
Envyng our happiness, and of his own  
Despairing, seeks to work us woe and shame  
By sly assault, and somewhere nigh at hand  
Watches, no doubt, with greedy hope to find  
His wish and best advantage, us asunder,  
Hopeless to circumvent us join'd, where each  
To other speedy aid might lend at need;

**Narrator 2:**

To whom the Virgin Majesty of Eve,  
With sweet austere composure thus repli'd.

**Eve:**

**(Offended by Adam's apparent lack of trust. Replies crossly and rather brusquely. Their first argument.)**

Offspring of Heav'n and Earth, and all Earth's Lord,  
That such an Enemy we have, who seeks  
Our ruin, both by thee inform'd I learn,  
And from the parting Angel overheard,  
But that thou should'st my firmness therefore doubt  
To God or thee, because we have a foe  
May tempt it, I expected not to hear

Thy equal fear that my firm Faith and Love

**(Turns away upset. Dabs away a tear.)** Can by his fraud be shak'n or seduc't;  
Thoughts, which how found they harbour in thy breast,  
Adam misthought of her to thee so dear?

**Narrator 2:** To whom with healing words Adam repli'd.

**Adam:** **(Explaining that he is protecting her.)** Daughter of God and Man, immortal Eve,  
For such thou art, from sin and blame entire:  
Not diffident of thee do I dissuade  
Thy absence from my sight, but to avoid  
Th'attempt itself, intended by our Foe.

**Narrator 2:** Thus her reply with accent sweet renew'd.

**Eve:** **(Somewhat sarcastically.)** If this be our condition, thus to dwell  
In narrow circuit strait'n'd by a Foe,  
Subtle or violent, we not endu'd  
Single with like defence, wherever met,  
How are we happy, still in fear of harm?  
But harm precedes not sin: only our Foe  
Tempting affronts us with his foul esteem  
Of our integrity.

**Narrator 2:** To whom thus Adam fervently repli'd.

**Adam:** **(Explaining seriously to Eve.)** Of God ordain'd them, his creating hand  
Nothing imperfect or deficient left  
Of all that he Created, much less Man,  
Or aught that might his happy State secure,  
The danger lies, yet lies within his power:

But God left free the Will, for what obeys  
Reason, is free, and Reason he made right,  
But bid her well beware, and still erect,  
Lest by some fair appearing good surpris'd  
She dictate false, and misinform the Will  
To do what God expressly hath forbid.

**(Romantic again.)** Not then mistrust, but tender love enjoins,  
That I should mind thee oft, and mind thou me.

**Narrator 2:** So spake the Patriarch of Mankind, but Eve  
Persisted, yet submiss, though last, repli'd.

**Eve:** **(Persistent.)** With thy permission then, and thus forewarn'd.

**Narrator 2:** Repeated, shee to him as oft engag'd  
To be return'd by Noon amid the Bow'r,  
And all things in best order to invite  
Noontide repast, or Afternoon's repose.

**(Eve exits, waving to Adam somewhat primly. Adam: (Smiles and blows kisses to Eve. Stands a few moments in reflection. Exits.)**

**Narrator 2:** Oh much deceiv'd, much failing, hapless Eve,  
Of thy presum'd return! Event perverse!  
Thou never from that hour in Paradise  
Found'st either sweet repast, or sound repose;  
Such ambush hid among sweet Flow'rs and Shades  
Waited with hellish rancour imminent  
To intercept thy way, or send thee back

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Despoil'd of Innocence, of Faith of Bliss.  
For now, and since first break of dawn the Fiend,  
Mere Serpent in appearance, forth was come.

**(MUSIC: Jazz- 'Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat.')**

**(Eve enters. Mimes doing a little gardening. Snipping, pruning, tidying Paradise. Serpent enters, watches Eve with pleasure and fascination.)**

**Narrator 2:** Such Pleasure took the Serpent to behold  
This Flow'ry Plat, the sweet recess of Eve  
Thus early, thus alone; her Heav'nly form  
Angelic, but more soft, and Feminine,  
Her graceful Innocence, her every Air  
Of gesture or least action overaw'd  
His Malice, and with rapine sweet bereav'd  
His fierceness of the fierce intent it brought:  
That space the Evil one abstracted stood  
From his own evil, and for the time remain'd  
Stupidly good, of enmity disarm'd,  
Of guile, of hate, of envy, of revenge;

**Narrator 1:** But the hot Hell that always in him burns,  
Though in mid Heav'n, soon ended his delight,  
And tortures him now more, the more he sees  
Of pleasure not for him ordain'd: then soon  
Fierce hate he recollects, and all his thoughts

Of mischief, gratulating, thus excites.

**Serpent:** **(Reminds self of his objective.)** Thoughts, whither have ye led me, with what sweet  
Compulsion thus transported to forget  
The way which to her ruin now I tend.

**Narrator 1:** **(Dramatically.)** So spake the Enemy of Mankind, enclos'd  
In Serpent, Inmate bad, and toward Eve  
Address'd his way, not with indented wave  
Prone on the ground, as since, but on his rear,  
Circular base of rising folds, that tow'r'd  
Fold above fold a surging Maze, his Head  
Crested aloft, and Carbuncle his Eyes;  
With burnish Neck of verdant Gold, erect  
Amidst his circling Spires, that on the grass  
Floated redundant: pleasing was his shape and lovely.  
His fraudulent temptation thus began.

**Serpent:** **(Bows elaborately. Flatters Eve.)** Fairest resemblance of thy Maker fair,  
Thee all things living gaze on, all things thine  
By gift, and thy Celestial Beauty adore  
With ravishment beheld, there best beheld  
Where universally admir'd; but here  
In this enclosure wild, these Beasts among  
Beholders rude, and shallow to discern  
Half what in thee is fair, one man except,  
Who sees thee? (and what is one?) who shouldst be seen  
A Goddess among Gods, ador'd and serv'd  
By angels numberless, thy daily Train.

**Narrator 1:** So glaz'd the Tempter and his Proem tun'd;  
Into the Heart of Eve his words made way.

**Eve:** **(Amazed.)** Thee, Serpent, subtlest beast of all the field  
I knew, but not with human voice endu'd;  
How cam'st thou speakable of mute, and how  
To me so friendly grown above the rest  
Of brutal kind, that daily are in sight?

**Narrator 1:** To whom the guileful Tempter thus repli'd.

**Serpent:** **(Obsequious.)** Empress of this fair World, resplendent Eve,  
Easy for mee it is to tell thee all  
What thou command'st, and right thou shouldst be obey'd:  
I was at first as other Beasts that graze  
The trodden Herb, of abject thoughts and low,  
As was my food, nor aught but food discern'd  
Or Sex, and apprehended nothing high:

Till on a day roving the field, I chanc'd  
A goodly Tree far distant to behold  
Loaden with fruit of fairest colours mixt,  
Ruddy and Gold: I nearer drew to gaze;

**Serpent:**

When from the boughs a savoury odour blown,  
Grateful to appetite, more pleas'd my sense Than smell of sweetest Fennel, or the Teats  
Of Ewe or Goat dropping with Milk at Ev'n,  
Unsuckt of Lamb or Kid, that tend their play.  
To satisfy the sharp desire I had

Of tasting those fair Apples I resolv'd.  
All other Beasts that saw, with like desire  
Longing and envying stood, but could not reach.  
Amid the Tree now got, where plenty hung  
Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill  
I spar'd not, for such pleasure till that hour  
At Feed or Fountain never had I found.  
Sated at length, erelong I might perceive  
Strange alteration in me, to degree  
Of Reason in my inward Powers, and Speech  
Wanted not long, though to this shape retain'd.

**Narrator 1:**

So talk'd the spirited sly Snake; and Eve  
Yet more amaz'd unwary thus repli'd.

**Eve:**

**(A little suspiciously but curiosity winning her over.)**  
Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt  
The virtue of that Fruit, in thee first prov'd:  
But say, where grows the Tree, from hence how far?

**Narrator 1:**

To whom the wily Adder, blithe and glad.

**Serpent:**

**(Replies slyly.)** Empress. The way is ready, and not long,  
Beyond a row of Myrtles, on a Flat,  
Fast by a Fountain, one small Thicket past  
Of blowng Myrrh and Balm; if thou accept  
My conduct, I can bring thee thither soon.

**Eve:**

Lead then,

**(Serpent leads Eve to tree of knowledge.)**

**Narrator 1:**

said Eve.  
Hee leading swiftly roll'd  
In tangles, and made intricate seem straight,  
To mischief swift.  
So glister'd the dire Snake, and into fraud

Led Eve our credulous Mother, to the Tree  
Of prohibition, root of all our woe;  
Which when she saw, thus to her guide she spake.

**Eve:** **(Sighs, regretfully.)** Serpent, we might have spar'd our coming hither,  
Fruitless to me, though Fruit be here to excess,  
The credit of whose virtue rest with thee,  
Wondrous indeed, if cause of such effects.

But of this Tree we may not taste nor touch;  
God so commanded, and left that Command  
Sole Daughter of his voice; the rest, we live  
Law to ourselves, our Reason is our Law.

**Narrator 1:** To whom the Tempter guilefully repli'd.

**Serpent:** **(Scratches head acting as if puzzled.)** Indeed? Hath God then said that of the Fruit  
Of all these Garden Trees ye shall not eat,  
Yet Lords declar'd of all in Earth or Air?

**Narrator 1:** To whom thus Eve yet sinless

**Eve:** **(Speaks as if by rote.)** Of the Fruit  
Of each Tree in the Garden we may eat,  
But of the Fruit of this fair Tree amidst  
The Garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat  
Thereof, nor shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

**Narrator 1:** She scarce had said, though brief, when now more bold  
The Tempter, but with show of Zeal and Love

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**Serpent:** **(Smoothly, almost musically.)** O Sacred, Wise, and Wisdom giving Plant  
Mother of Science, Now I feel thy Power  
Within me clear, not only to discern  
Things in their Causes, but to trace the ways  
Of highest Agents, deem'd however wise.  
Queen of this Universe, do not believe  
Those rigid threats of Death: ye shall not Die:  
How should ye? By the Fruit? It gives you Life  
Mee who have touch'd and tasted, yet both live,

**(Mocking.)** And life more perfect have attain'd than Fate  
Meant mee, by vent'ring higher than my Lot.

**(Persuasively. Taps nose knowingly.)** Why then was this forbid? Why but to awe  
His worshippers; he knows that in the day  
Ye Eat thereof, your Eyes that seem so clear,  
Yet are but dim, shall perfectly be then  
Op'n'd and clear'd, and ye shall be as Gods,  
Knowing both Good and Evil as they know.  
So ye shall die perhaps, by putting off  
Human, to put on Gods, death to be wish't,  
Though threat'n'd, which no worse than this can bring.  
And what are Gods that man may not become  
As they, participating God-like food?

The Gods are first, and that advantage use  
On our belief, that all from them proceeds;  
What can your knowledge hurt him, or this Tree  
Impart against his will if all be his?  
Or is it envy, and can envy dwell  
In heav'nly breasts? These, these and many more  
Causes import your need of this fair Fruit.  
Goddess humane, reach then, and freely taste.

**Narrator 1:** Pausing awhile, thus to herself she mus'd.

**Eve:** **(Looking at tree.)** Great are thy Virtues, doubtless, best of Fruits,  
Though kept from man, and worthy to be admir'd,  
Whose taste, too long forborne, at first assay  
Gave elocution to the mute, and taught  
The Tongue not made for Speech to speak thy praise:

**(Mulls things over to self.)** Thy praise hee also who forbids thy use,  
Conceals not from us, naming thee the Tree  
Of Knowledge, knowledge both of good and evil;  
Forbids us then to taste, but his forbidding  
Commends thee more, while it infers the good  
By thee communicated, and our want:  
For good unknown, sure is not had, or had  
And yet unknown, it is not had at all.

**(Looks at serpent, as if for answer.)** In plain then, what forbids he but to know  
Forbids us good, forbids us to be wise?  
Such prohibitions bind not. But if Death  
Bind us with after bands, what profits then  
Our inward freedom? In the day we eat  
Of this fair Fruit, our doom is, we shall die.  
How dies the Serpent? Hee hath eat'n and lives,  
And knows, and speaks, and reasons, and discerns,  
Irrational till then. For us alone

Was death invented?

**(Eve's hand hovers near apple, then she plucks and mimes taking a tentative bite. Then mimes taking a larger bite.)**

**Narrator 2:**

So saying, her rash hand in evil hour  
Forth reaching to the Fruit, she pluck'd, she ate:  
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat  
Sighing through all her Works gave signs of woe  
That all was lost. Back to the Thicket slunk  
The guilty Serpent, and well might, for Eve  
Intent now wholly on her taste, naught else  
Regarded, such delight till then, as seem'd,  
In Fruit she never tasted, whether true  
Or fancied so, through expectation high  
Of knowledge, nor was Godhead from her thought.  
Greedily she ingorg'd without restraint,  
And knew not eating Death:

**(Serpent slinks away, sated with satisfaction.)**

**Eve:**

**(Speaks to serpent, unaware that she is now deserted.)**

In knowledge, as the Gods who all things know;  
Though others envy what they cannot give;  
For had the gift been theirs, it had not here  
Thus grown. Experience, next to thee I owe,  
Best guide; not following thee, I had remain'd

**(Looks around for serpent, puzzled.)** In ignorance, thou op'n'st Wisdom's way,  
And giv'st access, though secret she retire.

**(Doubts, worries.)** And I perhaps am secret; Heav'n is high,  
High and remote to see from thence distinct  
Each thing on Earth; and other care perhaps  
May have diverted from continual watch  
Our great Forbidder, safe with all his Spies  
About him. But to Adam in what sort  
Shall I appear? Shall I to him make known  
As yet my change, and give him to partake  
Full happiness with mee, or rather not,

**(Debating with self.)** But keep the odds of Knowledge in my power  
Without Copartner? So to add what wants

In Female Sex, the more to draw his Love,

**(Admiring of equality.)** And render me more equal, and perhaps,

A thing not undesirable, sometime

Superior; for inferior who is free?



**(Troubled.)** This may be well: but what if God have seen,  
And Death ensue? Then I shall be no more,  
And Adam wedded to another Eve,  
Shall live with her enjoying, I extinct;

**(Decisive.)** A death to think. Confirm'd then I resolve,  
Adam shall share with me in bliss or woe:

**(Looks around. Emotionally.)** So dear I love him, that with him all deaths  
I could endure, without him live no life.

**Narrator 2:** To him she hasted, in her face excuse  
Came Prologue, and Apology to prompt,  
Which with bland words at will she thus address.

**(Adam enters with garland of flowers for Eve.)**

**Eve:** **(Pours out her news of the wondrous tree, with more enthusiasm than she feels.)**  
Hast thou not wonder'd, Adam, at my stay?  
Thee I have misst, and thought it long, depriv'd  
Thy presence, agony of love till now  
Not felt, nor shall be twice, for never more  
Mean I to try, what rash untri'd I sought,  
The pain of absence from thy sight. But strange  
Hath been the cause, and wonderful to hear:  
This Tree is not as we are told, a Tree  
Of danger tasted, nor to evil unknown  
Op'ning the way, but of Divine effect  
To open Eyes, and make them Gods who taste.

**Narrator 2:** Thus Eve with Count'nance blithe her story told;  
On th'other side, Adam, soon as he heard  
The fatal Trespass done by Eve, amaz'd,  
Astonied stood and Blank, while horror chill  
Ran through his veins, and all his joints relax'd;  
From his slack hand the Garland wreath'd for Eve  
Down dropp'd, and all the faded Roses shed:  
Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length  
First to himself he inward silence broke.

**Adam:** **(Drops garland in dismay.)** O fairest of Creation, last and best  
How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost,  
Defac't, deflow'r'd, and now to Death devote?

**(Angrily to Eve.)** Rather how hast thou yielded to transgress  
The strict forbiddance, how to violate  
The sacred Fruit forbidd'n! some cursed fraud  
Of enemy hath beguil'd thee, yet unknown,

**(Sad and distraught.)** And mee with thee hath ruin'd, for with thee  
Certain my resolution is to Die;

**(Torn apart by loyalties.)** How can I live without thee, how forgo  
Thy sweet Converse and Love so dearly join'd,  
To live again in these wild Woods forlorn?

Should God create another Eve, and I  
Another Rib afford, yet loss of thee  
Would never from my heart; no, no, I feel  
The Link of Nature draw me: Flesh of Flesh,  
Bone of my Bone thou art, and from thy State  
Mine never shall be parted, bliss or woe.

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**(Eve silently and tenderly proffers Adam an apple.)**

**Narrator 2:** From the bough she gave him of that fair enticing Fruit  
With liberal hand; he scrupl'd not to eat  
Against his better knowledge, not deceiv'd,

**(Adam takes a bite of the apple.)**

**Narrator 2:** But fondly overcome with Female charm.  
Earth trembl'd from her entrails, as again  
In pangs, and Nature gave a second groan,  
Sky lour'd and muttering Thunder, some sad drops  
Wept at completing of the mortal Sin  
Original; while Adam took no thought,  
Eating his fill, nor Eve to iterate  
Her former trespass fear'd, the more to soothe  
Him with her lov'd society, that now  
As with new Wine intoxicated both  
They swim in mirth, and fancy that they feel  
Divinity within them breeding wings

**(Adam and Eve look around as if with newly opened eyes, feeling like gods. Then they eye each other, with animal passion.)**

**Narrator 2:** Wherewith to scorn the Earth: but that false Fruit  
For other operation first display'd,  
Carnal desire inflaming, hee on Eve  
Began to cast lascivious Eyes, she him

As wantonly repaid; in Lust they burn:

**(Adam and Eve dance with each other sexily.)**

**(MUSIC: Jazz- Discordant – ‘What a Wonderful World.’)**

**Narrator 1:** Till Adam, though not less than Eve abasht,  
At length gave utterance to these words constrain’d,

**Adam:** **(Pushes Eve away from him.)** Oh Eve, in evil hour thou didst give ear  
To that false Worm, of whomsoever taught  
To counterfeit Man’s voice, true in our Fall,

**(Overcome with remorse and anguish.)** False in our promis’d Rising; since our Eyes  
Op’n’d we find indeed, and find we know  
Both Good and Evil, Good lost, and Evil got,  
Bad Fruit of Knowledge, if this be to know,

**(Looks down upon himself with distress.)**  
Which leaves us naked thus, of Honour void,  
Of Innocence, of Faith, of Purity,  
Our wonted Ornaments now soil’d and stain’d,

To shame obnoxious, and unseemliest seen,  
Some Tree whose broad smooth Leaves together sew’d,  
And girded on our loins, may cover round  
Those middle parts, that this newcomer, Shame,  
There sit not, and reproach us as unclean.

**Narrator 1:** So counsell’d hee, and both together went  
Into the thickest Wood, there soon they chose  
The Figtree,  
Thus fenc’t, and as they thought, their shame in part  
Cover’d, but not at rest or ease of Mind,  
They sat them down to weep, nor only Tears

Rain’d at their Eyes, but high Winds worse within  
Began to rise, high Passions, Anger, Hate,  
Mistrust, Suspicion, Discord, and shook sore  
Their inward State of Mind, calm Region once  
And full of Peace, now tost and turbulent:

**(Adam and Eve mime an angry argument – pointing at each other accusingly.  
Exit, troubled.)**

**Narrator 1:** In **Book 10** Man’s transgression known, the Guardian Angels forsake Paradise, and  
return to Heaven. God declares that the entrance of Satan could not by them be

prevented and sends his Son to judge the Transgressors. God's son descends and gives Sentence accordingly, then in pity clothes them both.

Meanwhile the heinous and spiteful act  
Of Satan done in Paradise, and how  
Hee in the Serpent had perverted Eve,  
Her Husband shee, to taste the fatal fruit,  
Was known in Heav'n; for what can 'scape the Eye  
Of God All-seeing, or deceive his Heart.  
Amidst in Thunder utter'd thus his voice.

**(Angel enters. Stands near God.)**

**God:** **(Enters. Speaks regretfully.)** Assembl'd angels, and ye Powers return'd  
From unsuccessful charge, be not dismay'd,  
Nor troubl'd at these tidings from the Earth,  
Which your sincerest care could not prevent,  
Foretold so lately what would come to pass,  
When first this Tempter cross'd the Gulf from Hell.  
I told ye then he should prevail and speed  
On his bad Errand Man should be seduc't  
And flatter'd out of all, believing lies  
Against his Maker; no Decree of mine  
Concurring to necessitate his Fall,  
Or touch with lightest moment of impulse  
His free will, to her own inclining left  
In ev'n scale. But fall'n he is, and now  
What rests, but that the mortal Sentence pass

But whom send I to judge them? Whom but thee  
Vicegerent Son, to thee I have transferr'd  
All Judgement, whether in Heav'n, or Earth, or Hell.  
Easy it might be seen that I intend  
Mercy colleague with Justice, sending thee  
Man's Friend, his Mediator, his design'd  
Both Ransom and Redeemer voluntary  
And destin'd Man himself to judge Man fall'n.

**(God retreats to stand in background. Angel retreats to stand in background with God.)**

**Narrator 1:** Down he descended straight; the speed of gods  
Time counts not, though with swiftest minutes wing'd.  
Now was the Sun in Western cadence low  
From Noon, and gentle airs due at their hour  
To fan the Earth now wak'd, and usher in  
The Ev'ning cool when he from wrath more cool  
Came the mild Judge and Intercessor both

To sentence Man: the voice of God they heard  
Now walking in the Garden, by soft winds  
Brought to their Ears, while day declin'd they heard,  
And from his presence hid themselves among  
The thickest Trees, both Man and Wife, till God  
Approaching, thus to Adam call'd aloud.

**Son of God:** Where art thou Adam, wont with joy to meet  
My coming seen far off?

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**(Adam and Eve enter separately and troubled.)**

**Narrator 1:** When Adam falt'ring long, thus answer'd brief

**Adam:** I heard thee in the Garden,  
And of thy voice  
Afraid, being naked, hid myself.  
Oh Heav'n in evil strait this day I stand  
Before my Judge, either to undergo  
Myself the total Crime, or to accuse  
My other self, the partner of my life;

**(Blames Eve, points.)** This woman whom thou mad'st to be my help,  
And gav'st me as thy perfect gift, so good,  
So fit, so acceptable, so Divine  
That from her hand I could suspect no ill,  
Shee gave me of the Tree, and I did eat.

**Narrator 1:** To whom the Sovran Presence thus repli'd

**Son of God:** Was shee thy God that her thou didst obey before his voice

**Narrator 1:** So having said, he thus to Eve in few:

**Son of God:** Say Woman, what is this which thou hast done?

**Narrator 1:** To whom sad Eve with shame nigh over-whelm'd  
Confessing soon, yet not before her  
Judge Bold or Loquacious, thus abasht repli'd.

**Eve:** **(Hangs head.)** The Serpent me beguil'd and I did eat.

**(Serpent enter. Sneering.)**

**Narrator 1:** Which when the Lord God heard, without delay  
The Judgement he proceeded on th'accused  
To Satan first in sin his doom appli'd,  
Thou in mysterious terms, judg'd as then best:

**Son of God:** **(Pronounces judgement.)** And on the Serpent thus has curse let fall.  
Because thou hast done this, thou art accurst  
Above all Cattle, each Beast of the Field;  
Upon thy Belly grovelling thou shalt go,  
And dust shall eat all the days of thy Life.  
Between Thee and the Woman I will put  
Enmity, and between thine and her Seed;  
Her Seed shall bruise thy head, thou bruise his heel.

**(Serpent slinks away hissing.)**

**Narrator 2:** So spake this Oracle, then verifi'd  
When Jesus son of Mary second Eve,  
Saw Satan fall like Lightning down from Heav'n,  
And to the Woman thus his Sentence turn'd.

**(Adam and Eve look same way heavenward, as if to watch Satan fall from sky.)**

**Son of God:** **(To Adam and Eve.)** Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply  
By thy Conception; Children thou shalt bring  
In sorrow forth, and to thy Husband's will  
Thine shall submit, hee over thee shall rule.

**Narrator 2:** On Adam last thus judgement he pronounc'd.

**Son of God:** **(Sentencing.)** Because thou hast heark'n'd to the voice of thy Wife,  
And eaten of the Tree concerning which  
I charg'd thee, saying: Thou shalt not eat thereof,  
Curs'd is the ground for thy sake, thou in sorrow  
Shalt eat thereof all the days of thy Life;  
Thorns also and thistles it shall bring thee forth  
Unbid, and thou shalt eat th'Herb of the Field,  
In the sweat of thy Face shalt thou eat Bread,  
Till thou return unto the ground, for thou  
Out of the ground wast taken, know thy Birth,  
For dust thou art, and shalt to dust return.

**Narrator 2:** So judg'd he Man, both Judge and Saviour sent,  
And th' instant stroke of Death denounc't that day  
Remov'd far off; then pitying how they stood  
Before him naked to the air, that now  
Must suffer change, disdain'd not to begin

Thenceforth the form of servant to assume,  
As when he wash'd his servant's feet, so now  
As Father of his Family he clad  
Their nakedness with Skins of Beasts, or slain,  
Or as the Snake with youthful Coat repaid;  
And thought not much to clothe his enemies:  
Nor hee their outward only with the Skins  
Of Beasts, but inward nakedness, much more  
Opprobrious, with his robe of righteousness,  
Arraying cover'd from his Father's sight.

**(Son of God hands Adam and Eve invisible clothes. Adam and Eve mime putting on invisible clothes.)**

**Narrator 2:** To him with swift ascent he up return'd,  
Into his blissful bosom reassum'd  
In glory as of old, to him appeas'd  
All, though all-knowing, what had past with Man  
Recounted, mixing Intercession sweet.

**(Son of God exits.)**

**(Adam and Eve exit crestfallen, hand in hand.)**

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**Narrator 2:** In **Book 11**, The Son of God presents to his Father the Prayers of our first Parents now repenting, and intercedes for them; God accepts them, but declares that they must no longer abide in Paradise. He sends Michael with a Band of Cherubim to dispossess them. The Angel is also charged with revealing the consequences of Adam's sin, to be perpetuated through all their sons.

**(Archangel Michael enters. God comes forward from background to speak. Angel comes forward with God and stands beside him.)**

**God:** **(Ruefully.)** O Sons, like one of us Man is become  
To know both Good and Evil, since his taste  
Of that defended Fruit; but let him boast  
His knowledge of Good lost, and Evil got,  
Happier, had it suffic'd him to have known  
Good by itself, and Evil not at all.  
He sorrows now, repents, and prays contrite,  
My motions in him, longer than they move,  
His heart I know, how variable and vain  
Self-left. Lest therefore his now bolder hand

Reach also of the Tree of Life, and eat,  
And live for ever, dream at least to live  
For ever, to remove him I decree,  
And send him from the Garden forth to Till  
The Ground whence he was taken, fitter soil.

**God:** (To Michael. Briskly.) Michael, this my behest have thou in charge,  
Take to thee from among the Cherubim  
Thy choice of flaming Warriors, lest the Fiend  
Or in behalf of Man, or to invade  
Vacant possession some new trouble raise:  
Haste thee, and from the Paradise of God  
Without remorse drive out the sinful Pair,  
From hallow'd ground th'unholy, and denounce  
To them and to their Progeny from thence  
Perpetual banishment. Yet lest they faint  
At the sad Sentence rigorously urg'd,  
For I behold them soft'n'd and with tears  
Bewailing their excess, all terror hide.  
If patiently thy bidding they obey,

**God:** (Softening.) Dismiss them not disconsolate; reveal  
To Adam what shall come in future days,  
As I shall thee enlighten, intermix  
My Cov'nant in the Woman's seed renew'd;  
So send them forth, thou sorrowing, yet in peace:

(God exits. Angel moves to stand near Archangel Michael. Adam and Eve enter separately.)

**Narrator 2:** Adam scarce recovering words his plaint renew'd.

**Adam:** (Anguished.) O miserable Mankind, to what fall  
Degraded, to what wretchd state reserv'd!  
Better end here unborn. Why is life giv'n  
To be thus wrested from us? Rather why  
Obtruded on us thus? Who if we knew  
What we receive, would either not accept  
Like offer'd, or soon beg to lay it down,  
Glad to be so dismiss'd in peace.

Can thus  
Th'Image of God in man created once  
So goodly and erect, though faulty since,  
To such unsightly sufferings be debas't  
Under inhuman pains? Why should not Man,  
Retaining still Divine similitude  
In part, from such deformities be free,



And for his Maker's Image sake except?  
Their Maker's Image,

**Narrator 2:** Answer'd Michael, then  
Forsook them, when themselves they vilifi'd  
To serve ungovern'd appetite, and took  
His Image whom they serv'd, a brutish vice,  
Inductive mainly to the sin of Eve.  
Therefore so abject is their punishment,  
Disfiguring not God's likeness, but their own,  
Or if his likeness, by themselves defact't  
While they pervert pure Nature's healthful rules  
To loathsome sickness, worthily, since they  
God's Image did not reverence in themselves.

**(Archangel Michael looking at pair as if pronouncing.)**

**Adam:** I yield it just,  
and submit,  
**(Looks at Eve, and takes her hand in his.)** But is there yet no other way, besides  
These painful passages, how we may come  
To Death, and mix with our connatural dust?

**Archangel Michael:** **(Gives advice to Adam and Eve.)** There is  
If thou well observe  
The rule of not too much, by temperance taught  
In what thou eat'st and drink'st, seeking from thence  
Due nourishment, not gluttonous delight,  
Till many years over thy head return:  
For may'st thou live, till like ripe Fruit thou drop  
Into thy Mother's lap, or be with ease  
Gather'd, not harshly pluckt, for death mature:  
This is old age; but then thou must outlive  
Thy youth, thy strength, thy beauty, which will change  
To wither'd weak and gray; thy Senses then  
Obtuse, all taste of pleasure must forgo  
To what thou hast, and for the Air of youth  
Hopeful and cheerful, in thy blood *will* reign  
A melancholy damp of cold and dry  
To weigh thy spirits down, and last consume  
The Balm of Life.

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**Narrator 1:** To whom our Ancestor,

**Adam:** **(With resignation.)** Henceforth I fly not Death, nor would prolong  
Life much, bent rather how I may be quit  
Fairest and easiest of this cumbrous charge,  
Which I must keep till my appointed day  
Of rend'ring up, and patiently attend  
My dissolution.

**Narrator 1:** Michael repli'd.

**Michael:** **(Offers kindly advice, whilst pointing the pair the way out of Paradise.)**  
Nor love thy Life, nor hate; but what thou liv'st  
Live well, how long or short permit to Heav'n:

**(Angel also pointing way out of Paradise. Adam and Eve exit Paradise as 'Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory' is played. God, Son of God, Archangel Michael, Angel, Adam and Eve, Narrators and any other cast (e.g. animals), line up to take bow. All Bow together. Exit in character.)**

**(MUSIC – Jazz 'Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory' finishing with few lines of 'It's a Wonderful World')**

**THE END**