A NORTON CRITICAL EDITION

John Milton
PARADISE LOST

AUTHORITATIVE TEXT
SOURCES AND BACKGROUNDS
CRITICISM

Edited by
GORDON TESKEY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

W • W • NORTON & COMPANY • New York • London
### Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments  

**Introduction**  
The Life of John Milton  
On the Text of *Paradise Lost*  

**Paradise Lost**  
The Verse  
Book One  
Book Two  
Book Three  
Book Four  
Book Five  
Book Six  
Book Seven  
Book Eight  
Book Nine  
Book Ten  
Book Eleven  
Book Twelve  

**Sources and Backgrounds**  

**Selections from the Bible**  
Genesis 1–3, 11–12  
Exodus 14  
Psalms 104, 114, 148  
Isaiah 6, 9, 40  
Ezekiel 1  
Mark 13  
Acts 13  
1 Corinthians 15  
Revelation 12, 20–22  

**Selections from Milton's Prose**  
The Reason of Church Government  
Urged against Prelaty (Introduction to Book II)  
Areopagitica  

---

---
Criticism

CLASSIC CRITICISM OF PARADISE LOST

Andrew Marvell  •  On Mr. Milton's Paradise Lost 377
John Dryden  •  Epigram 378
  •  From Preface to Second Miscellany 379
Joseph Addison  •  From Spectator 297 (Feb. 9, 1712) 379
  •  From Spectator 303 (Feb. 16, 1712) 381
Voltaire  •  From Candide 382
  •  From Essay upon the Civil Wars of France . . . And also upon the Epick Poetry of the European Nations from Homer to Milton 383
Samuel Johnson  •  From Lives of the English Poets 384
François-René, Vicomte de Chateaubriand  •  From Sketches of English Literature 387
William Blake  •  From The Marriage of Heaven and Hell 389
William Wordsworth  •  London, 1802 390
Samuel Taylor Coleridge  •  From Lecture 4 390
  •  Unassigned Lecture Notes [Milton and Paradise Lost] 391
  •  From Table Talk [Milton's Egotism] 392
George Gordon, Lord Byron  •  From Don Juan 392
Percy Bysshe Shelley  •  From the preface to Prometheus Unbound 393
  •  From A Defence of Poetry 394
Walter Savage Landor  •  From Imaginary Conversations 395
Victor Hugo  •  From Cromwell 397
Alfred, Lord Tennyson  •  Milton 397
Matthew Arnold  •  From Milton 398
A. E. Housman  •  From Terence, this is stupid stuff 399
T. S. Eliot  •  From Milton I 399
  •  From Milton II 400

MODERN CRITICISM OF PARADISE LOST

On Satan

C. S. Lewis  •  From Satan 401
Balachandra Rajan  •  From The Problem of Satan 407
A. J. A. Waldock  •  From Satan and the Technique of Degradation 413
William Empson  •  From Satan 417
Kenneth Gross  •  From Satan and the Romantic Satan: A Notebook 420
William Flesch  •  From The Majesty of Darkness: Idol and Image in Milton 425
Regina M. Schwartz • *From “Yet Once More”: Re-Creation, Repetition, and Return* 427

**On God** 437

C. S. Lewis • *From the conclusion to A Preface to Paradise Lost* 437

William Empson • *From Critics* 439

Stanley Fish • *From The Milk of the Pure Word* 442

Northrop Frye • *From The Garden Within* 445

**On Adam and Eve** 449

E. M. W. Tillyard • *From Paradise Lost: The Conscious Meaning and The Unconscious Meaning* 449

C. S. Lewis • *The Fall* 453

A. J. A. Waldock • *From The Fall (II)* 455

Northrop Frye • *From Children of God and Nature* 458

Barbara K. Lewalski • *From “Higher Argument”: Completing and Publishing Paradise Lost* 466

**On Style and Versification** 476

Douglas Bush • *From The Restoration, 1660–74* 476

Christopher B. Ricks • *From Enhancing Suggestions* 481

Archie Burnett • *From “Sense Variously Drawn Out”: The Line in Paradise Lost* 484

**On Christian Ideology** 492

A. S. P. Woodhouse • *From Paradise Lost, I: Theme and Pattern* 492

Stanley Fish • *From With Mortal Voice: Milton Defends against the Muse* 498

**On Feminism** 501

Joseph A. Wittreich Jr. • *From Critiquing the Feminist Critique* 501

Mary Nyquist • *From The Genesis of Gendered Subjectivity in the Divorce Tracts and in Paradise Lost* 504

Julia M. Walker • *From Eve: The First Reflection* 516

**On the Poet Himself** 521

Helen Vendler • *From Milton’s Epic Poem* 521

Mary Ann Radzinowicz • *From How Milton Read the Book of Psalms: His Formal, Stylistic, and Thematic Analysis* 527

William Flesch • *From The Majesty of Darkness: Idol and Image in Milton* 531

**General Criticism** 534

E. M. W. Tillyard • *Paradise Lost: Possible Inconsistency* 534

A. J. A. Waldock • *From The Poet and the Theme* 538
CONTENTS

Stanley Fish • *From* Not so much a Teaching as an Intangling 542
Gordon Teskey • *From* Milton's Choice of Subject in the Context of Renaissance Critical Theory 545

Glossary of Names in *Paradise Lost* 549
Suggestions for Further Reading 589