

## Paradise Lost

### BOOK 4

#### THE ARGUMENT

*Satan now in prospect of Eden, and nigh the place where he must now attempt the bold enterprize which he undertook alone against God and Man, falls into many doubts with himself, and many passions, fear, envy, and despare; but at length confirms himself in evil, journeys on to Paradise, whose outward prospect and scituation is discribed, overleaps the bounds, sits in the shape of a [Cormorant](#) on the Tree of life, as highest in the Garden to look about him. The Garden describ'd; Satans first sight of Adam and Eve; his wonder at thir excellent form and happy state, but with resolution to work thir fall; overhears thir discourse, thence gathers that the Tree of knowledge was forbidden them to eat of, under penalty of death; and thereon intends to found his Temptation, by seducing them to transgress: then leaves them a while, to know further of thir state by some other means. Mean while Uriel descending on a Sun-beam warns Gabriel, who had in charge the Gate of Paradise, that some evil spirit had escap'd the Deep, and past at Noon by his Sphere in the shape of a good Angel down to Paradise, discovered after by his [furious gestures](#) in the Mount. Gabriel promises to find him ere morning. Night coming on, Adam and Eve discourse of going to thir rest: thir Bower describ'd; thir Evening worship. Gabriel drawing forth his Bands of Night-watch to walk the round of Paradise, appoints two strong Angels to Adams Bower, least the evill spirit should be there doing some harm to Adam or Eve sleeping; there they find him at the ear of Eve, tempting her in a dream, and bring him, though unwilling, to Gabriel; by whom question'd, he scornfully answers, prepares resistance, but hinder'd by a Sign from Heaven, flies out of Paradise.*

O  
For that [warning voice](#), which he who saw  
Th' *Apocalyps*, heard cry in Heaven aloud,  
Then when the Dragon, put to second rout,  
Came furious down to be reveng'd on men,  
*Wo to the inhabitants on Earth!* that now, [ 5 ]  
[While time was](#), our first-Parents had bin warn'd  
The coming of thir secret foe, and [scap'd](#)  
[Haply](#) so scap'd his mortal snare; for now  
*Satan*, now first inflam'd with rage, came down,  
The Tempter ere th' Accuser of man-kind, [ 10 ]  
To [wreck](#) on innocent frail man his loss  
Of that first Battel, and his flight to Hell:  
Yet not rejoycing in his speed, though bold,  
Far off and fearless, nor with cause to boast,  
Begins his dire attempt, which nigh the birth [ 15 ]

Now [rowing](#), boiles in his tumultuous brest,  
And like a [devillish Engine](#) back recoiles  
Upon himself; horror and doubt distract  
His troubl'd thoughts, and from the bottom stirr  
The [Hell within him](#), for within him Hell [ 20 ]  
He brings, and round about him, nor from Hell  
One step no more then from himself can fly  
By change of place: Now conscience wakes despair  
That slumberd, wakes the bitter memorie  
Of what he was, what is, and what must be [ 25 ]  
Worse; of worse deeds worse sufferings must ensue.  
Sometimes towards [Eden](#) which now in his view  
Lay pleasant, his grievd look he fixes sad,  
Sometimes towards Heav'n and the full-blazing Sun,  
Which now sat high in his [Meridian Towre](#): [ 30 ]  
Then much [revolving](#), thus in sighs began.

O [thou that with surpassing Glory crown'd](#),  
Look'st from thy sole Dominion [like the God](#)  
Of this new World; at whose sight all the Starrs  
Hide thir diminisht heads; to thee I call, [ 35 ]  
But with no friendly voice, and add thy name  
O Sun, to tell thee how I hate thy beams  
That bring to my remembrance from what state  
I fell, how glorious once above thy Spheare;  
Till Pride and worse Ambition threw me down

[ 40 ]  
Warring in Heav'n against Heav'ns matchless  
King:  
Ah wherefore! he deservd no such return  
From me, [whom he created what I was](#)  
In that bright eminence, and with his good  
Upbraided none; nor was his service hard. [ 45 ]  
What could be less then to afford him praise,  
The easiest recompence, and pay him thanks,  
How due! yet all his good prov'd ill in me,  
And wrought but malice; lifted up so high  
I [sdeind](#) subjection, and thought one step higher

[ 50 ]  
Would set me highest, and in a moment [quit](#)  
The debt immense of endless gratitude,  
So burthensome, [still](#) paying, [still](#) to ow;  
Forgetful what from him I [still](#) receivd,  
And understood not that a grateful mind [ 55 ]  
By owing owes not, but still pays, at once  
Indebted and dischargd; what burden then?  
O had his powerful Destiny ordaind  
Me some inferiour Angel, I had stood  
Then happie; no unbounded hope had rais'd

[ 60 ]  
Ambition. Yet why not? som other Power  
As great might have aspir'd, and me though  
[mean](#)  
Drawn to his part; but other Powers as great  
Fell not, but stand unshak'n, from within  
Or from without, to all temptations arm'd. [ 65 ]  
Hadst thou the same free Will and Power to  
stand?

Thou hadst: whom hast thou then or what to  
accuse,  
But Heav'ns free Love [dealt equally](#) to all?  
Be then his Love accurst, since love or hate,  
To me alike, it deals eternal woe. [ 70 ]  
Nay curs'd be thou; since against his thy will  
[Chose freely](#) what it now so justly rues.  
Me miserable! which way shall I flie  
Infinite wrauth, and infinite despaire?  
Which way I flie is Hell; my self am Hell; [ 75 ]  
And in the lowest deep a lower deep  
Still threatning to devour me opens wide,  
To which the Hell I suffer seems a Heav'n.  
O then [at last relent](#): is there no place  
Left for Repentance, none for Pardon left? [ 80 ]  
None left but by submission; and that word  
*Disdain* forbids me, and my dread of shame  
Among the Spirits beneath, whom I seduc'd  
With other promises and other [vaunts](#)  
Then to submit, boasting I could subdue [ 85 ]  
Th' Omnipotent. Ay me, they little know  
How dearly I abide that boast so vaine,  
Under what torments inwardly I groane:  
While they adore me on the Throne of Hell,  
With Diadem and Sceptre high advanc'd [ 90 ]  
The lower still I fall, onely Supream  
In miserie; such joy Ambition findes.  
But say I could repent and could obtaine  
By Act of Grace my former state; how soon  
Would highth recall high thoughts, how soon  
unsay [ 95 ]  
What feign'd submission swore: ease would  
recant  
Vows made in pain, as violent and void.  
For never can true reconcilment grow  
Where wounds of deadly hate have peirc'd so  
deep:  
Which would but lead me to a worse relapse  
[ 100 ]  
And heavier fall: so should I purchase deare  
Short intermission bought with double smart.  
This knows my punisher; therefore as farr  
From granting hee, as I from begging peace:  
All hope excluded thus, behold in stead [ 105 ]  
Of us out-cast, exil'd, his new delight,  
[Mankind created](#), and for him this World.  
So farewell Hope, and with Hope farewell Fear,  
Farewel Remorse: all Good to me is lost;  
Evil be thou my Good; by thee at least [ 110 ]  
Divided Empire with Heav'ns King I hold  
By thee, and more then half perhaps will reigne;  
As Man ere long, and this new World shall know.