

## Paradise Lost: Book Five

1. Now Morn, her rosy steps in the eastern clime  
2. Advancing, sowed the earth with orient pearl,  
3. When Adam waked, so custom'd; for his sleep  
4. Was airy-light, from pure digestion bred,  
5. And temperate vapours bland, which the only sound  
6. Of leaves and fuming rills, Aurora's fan,  
7. Lightly dispersed, and the shrill matin song  
8. Of birds on every bough; so much the more  
9. His wonder was to find unwakened Eve  
10. With tresses discomposed, and glowing cheek,  
11. As through unquiet rest: He, on his side  
12. Leaning half raised, with looks of cordial love  
13. Hung over her enamoured, and beheld  
14. Beauty, which, whether waking or asleep,  
15. Shot forth peculiar graces; then with voice  
16. Mild, as when Zephyrus on Flora breathes,  
17. Her hand soft touching, whispered thus. Awake,  
18. My fairest, my espoused, my latest found,  
19. Heaven's last best gift, my ever new delight!  
20. Awake: The morning shines, and the fresh field  
21. Calls us; we lose the prime, to mark how spring  
22. Our tender plants, how blows the citron grove,  
23. What drops the myrrh, and what the balmy reed,  
24. How nature paints her colours, how the bee  
25. Sits on the bloom extracting liquid sweet.  
26. Such whispering waked her, but with startled eye  
27. On Adam, whom embracing, thus she spake.

• sole in whom my thoughts find all repose,  
28. My glory, my perfection! glad I see  
29. Thy face, and morn returned; for I this night  
30. (Such night till this I never passed) have dreamed,  
31. If dreamed, not, as I oft am wont, of thee,  
32. Works of day past, or morrow's next design,  
33. But of offence and trouble, which my mind  
34. Knew never till this irksome night: Methought,  
35. Close at mine ear one called me forth to walk  
36. With gentle voice; I thought it thine: It said,  
37. Why sleepest thou, Eve? now is the pleasant time,  
38. The cool, the silent, save where silence yields  
39. To the night-warbling bird, that now awake  
40. Tunes sweetest his love-laboured song; now reigns  
41. Full-orbed the moon, and with more pleasing light  
42. Shadowy sets off the face of things; in vain,  
43. If none regard; Heaven wakes with all his eyes,

44. Whom to behold but thee, Nature's desire?  
45. In whose sight all things joy, with ravishment  
46. Attracted by thy beauty still to gaze.  
47. I rose as at thy call, but found thee not;  
48. To find thee I directed then my walk;  
49. And on, methought, alone I passed through ways  
50. That brought me on a sudden to the tree  
51. Of interdicted knowledge: fair it seemed,  
52. Much fairer to my fancy than by day:  
53. And, as I wondering looked, beside it stood  
54. One shaped and winged like one of those from Heaven  
55. By us oft seen; his dewy locks distilled  
56. Ambrosia; on that tree he also gazed;  
57. And 'O fair plant,' said he, 'with fruit surcharged,  
58. Deigns none to ease thy load, and taste thy sweet,  
59. Nor God, nor Man? Is knowledge so despised?  
60. Or envy, or what reserve forbids to taste?  
61. Forbid who will, none shall from me withhold  
62. Longer thy offered good; why else set here?  
63. This said, he paused not, but with venturous arm  
64. He plucked, he tasted; me damp horror chilled  
65. At such bold words vouched with a deed so bold:  
66. But he thus, overjoyed; 'O fruit divine,  
67. Sweet of thyself, but much more sweet thus cropt,  
68. Forbidden here, it seems, as only fit  
69. For Gods, yet able to make Gods of Men:  
70. And why not Gods of Men; since good, the more  
71. Communicated, more abundant grows,  
72. The author not impaired, but honoured more?  
73. Here, happy creature, fair angelick Eve!  
74. Partake thou also; happy though thou art,  
75. Happier thou mayest be, worthier canst not be:  
76. Taste this, and be henceforth among the Gods  
77. Thyself a Goddess, not to earth confined,  
78. But sometimes in the air, as we, sometimes  
79. Ascend to Heaven, by merit thine, and see  
80. What life the Gods live there, and such live thou!  
81. So saying, he drew nigh, and to me held,  
82. Even to my mouth of that same fruit held part  
83. Which he had plucked; the pleasant savoury smell  
84. So quickened appetite, that I, methought,  
85. Could not but taste. Forthwith up to the clouds  
86. With him I flew, and underneath beheld  
87. The earth outstretched immense, a prospect wide  
88. And various: Wondering at my flight and change  
89. To this high exaltation; suddenly

90. My guide was gone, and I, methought, sunk down,  
91. And fell asleep; but O, how glad I waked  
92. To find this but a dream! Thus Eve her night  
93. Related, and thus Adam answered sad.  
94. Best image of myself, and dearer half,  
95. The trouble of thy thoughts this night in sleep  
96. Affects me equally; nor can I like  
97. This uncouth dream, of evil sprung, I fear;  
98. Yet evil whence? in thee can harbour none,  
99. Created pure. But know that in the soul  
100. Are many lesser faculties, that serve  
101. Reason as chief; among these Fancy next  
102. Her office holds; of all external things  
103. Which the five watchful senses represent,  
104. She forms imaginations, aery shapes,  
105. Which Reason, joining or disjoining, frames  
106. All what we affirm or what deny, and call  
107. Our knowledge or opinion; then retires  
108. Into her private cell, when nature rests.  
109. Oft in her absence mimick Fancy wakes  
110. To imitate her; but, misjoining shapes,  
111. Wild work produces oft, and most in dreams;  
112. Ill matching words and deeds long past or late.  
113. Some such resemblances, methinks, I find  
114. Of our last evening's talk, in this thy dream,  
115. But with addition strange; yet be not sad.  
116. Evil into the mind of God or Man  
117. May come and go, so unreprieved, and leave  
118. No spot or blame behind: Which gives me hope  
119. That what in sleep thou didst abhor to dream,  
120. Waking thou never will consent to do.  
121. Be not disheartened then, nor cloud those looks,  
122. That wont to be more cheerful and serene,  
123. Than when fair morning first smiles on the world;  
124. And let us to our fresh employments rise  
125. Among the groves, the fountains, and the flowers  
126. That open now their choisest bosomed smells,  
127. Reserved from night, and kept for thee in store.  
128. So cheered he his fair spouse, and she was cheered;  
129. But silently a gentle tear let fall  
130. From either eye, and wiped them with her hair;  
131. Two other precious drops that ready stood,  
132. Each in their crystal sluice, he ere they fell  
133. Kissed, as the gracious signs of sweet remorse  
134. And pious awe, that feared to have offended.  
135. So all was cleared, and to the field they haste.

136. But first, from under shady arborous roof  
137. Soon as they forth were come to open sight  
138. Of day-spring, and the sun, who, scarce up-risen,  
139. With wheels yet hovering o'er the ocean-brim,  
140. Shot parallel to the earth his dewy ray,  
141. Discovering in wide landskip all the east  
142. Of Paradise and Eden's happy plains,  
143. Lowly they bowed adoring, and began  
144. Their orisons, each morning duly paid  
145. In various style; for neither various style  
146. Nor holy rapture wanted they to praise  
147. Their Maker, in fit strains pronounced, or sung  
148. Unmeditated; such prompt eloquence  
149. Flowed from their lips, in prose or numerous verse,  
150. More tuneable than needed lute or harp  
151. To add more sweetness; and they thus began.  
152. These are thy glorious works, Parent of good,  
153. Almighty! Thine this universal frame,  
154. Thus wonderful fair; Thyself how wonderful then!  
155. Unspeakable, who sitst above these heavens  
156. To us invisible, or dimly seen  
157. In these thy lowest works; yet these declare  
158. Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine.  
159. Speak, ye who best can tell, ye sons of light,  
160. Angels; for ye behold him, and with songs  
161. And choral symphonies, day without night,  
162. Circle his throne rejoicing; ye in Heaven  
163. On Earth join all ye Creatures to extol  
164. Him first, him last, him midst, and without end.  
165. Fairest of stars, last in the train of night,  
166. If better thou belong not to the dawn,  
167. Sure pledge of day, that crownest the smiling morn  
168. With thy bright circlet, praise him in thy sphere,  
169. While day arises, that sweet hour of prime.  
170. Thou Sun, of this great world both eye and soul,  
171. Acknowledge him thy greater; sound his praise  
172. In thy eternal course, both when thou climbest,  
173. And when high noon hast gained, and when thou fallest.  
174. Moon, that now meetest the orient sun, now flyest,  
175. With the fixed Stars, fixed in their orb that flies;  
176. And ye five other wandering Fires, that move  
177. In mystic dance not without song, resound  
178. His praise, who out of darkness called up light.  
179. Air, and ye Elements, the eldest birth  
180. Of Nature's womb, that in quaternion run  
181. Perpetual circle, multiform; and mix

182. And nourish all things; let your ceaseless change  
183. Vary to our great Maker still new praise.  
184. Ye Mists and Exhalations, that now rise  
185. From hill or steaming lake, dusky or gray,  
186. Till the sun paint your fleecy skirts with gold,  
187. In honour to the world's great Author rise;  
188. Whether to deck with clouds the uncoloured sky,  
189. Or wet the thirsty earth with falling showers,  
190. Rising or falling still advance his praise.  
191. His praise, ye Winds, that from four quarters blow,  
192. Breathe soft or loud; and, wave your tops, ye Pines,  
193. With every plant, in sign of worship wave.  
194. Fountains, and ye that warble, as ye flow,  
195. Melodious murmurs, warbling tune his praise.  
196. Join voices, all ye living Souls: Ye Birds,  
197. That singing up to Heaven-gate ascend,  
198. Bear on your wings and in your notes his praise.  
199. Ye that in waters glide, and ye that walk  
200. The earth, and stately tread, or lowly creep;  
201. Witness if I be silent, morn or even,  
202. To hill, or valley, fountain, or fresh shade,  
203. Made vocal by my song, and taught his praise.  
204. Hail, universal Lord, be bounteous still  
205. To give us only good; and if the night  
206. Have gathered aught of evil, or concealed,  
207. Disperse it, as now light dispels the dark!  
208. So prayed they innocent, and to their thoughts  
209. Firm peace recovered soon, and wonted calm.  
210. On to their morning's rural work they haste,  
211. Among sweet dews and flowers; where any row  
212. Of fruit-trees over-woody reached too far  
213. Their pampered boughs, and needed hands to check  
214. Fruitless embraces: or they led the vine  
215. To wed her elm; she, spoused, about him twines  
216. Her marriageable arms, and with him brings  
217. Her dower, the adopted clusters, to adorn  
218. His barren leaves. Them thus employed beheld  
219. With pity Heaven's high King, and to him called  
220. Raphael, the sociable Spirit, that deigned  
221. To travel with Tobias, and secured  
222. His marriage with the seventimes-wedded maid.  
223. Raphael, said he, thou hearest what stir on Earth  
224. Satan, from Hell 'scaped through the darksome gulf,  
225. Hath raised in Paradise; and how disturbed  
226. This night the human pair; how he designs  
227. In them at once to ruin all mankind.

228. Go therefore, half this day as friend with friend  
229. Converse with Adam, in what bower or shade  
230. Thou findest him from the heat of noon retired,  
231. To respite his day-labour with repast,  
232. Or with repose; and such discourse bring on,  
233. As may advise him of his happy state,  
234. Happiness in his power left free to will,  
235. Left to his own free will, his will though free,  
236. Yet mutable; whence warn him to beware  
237. He swerve not, too secure: Tell him withal  
238. His danger, and from whom; what enemy,  
239. Late fallen himself from Heaven, is plotting now  
240. The fall of others from like state of bliss;  
241. By violence? no, for that shall be withstood;  
242. But by deceit and lies: This let him know,  
243. Lest, wilfully transgressing, he pretend  
244. Surprisal, unadmonished, unforewarned.  
245. So spake the Eternal Father, and fulfilled  
246. All justice: Nor delayed the winged Saint  
247. After his charge received; but from among  
248. Thousand celestial Ardours, where he stood  
249. Veiled with his gorgeous wings, up springing light,  
250. Flew through the midst of Heaven; the angelick quires,  
251. On each hand parting, to his speed gave way  
252. Through all the empyreal road; till, at the gate  
253. Of Heaven arrived, the gate self-opened wide  
254. On golden hinges turning, as by work  
255. Divine the sovran Architect had framed.  
256. From hence no cloud, or, to obstruct his sight,  
257. Star interposed, however small he sees,  
258. Not unconformed to other shining globes,  
259. Earth, and the garden of God, with cedars crowned  
260. Above all hills. As when by night the glass  
261. Of Galileo, less assured, observes  
262. Imagined lands and regions in the moon:  
263. Or pilot, from amidst the Cyclades  
264. Delos or Samos first appearing, kens  
265. A cloudy spot. Down thither prone in flight  
266. He speeds, and through the vast ethereal sky  
267. Sails between worlds and worlds, with steady wing  
268. Now on the polar winds, then with quick fan  
269. Winnows the buxom air; till, within soar  
270. Of towering eagles, to all the fowls he seems  
271. A phoenix, gazed by all as that sole bird,  
272. When, to enshrine his reliques in the Sun's  
273. Bright temple, to Egyptian Thebes he flies.

274. At once on the eastern cliff of Paradise  
275. He lights, and to his proper shape returns  
276. A Seraph winged: Six wings he wore, to shade  
277. His lineaments divine; the pair that clad  
278. Each shoulder broad, came mantling o'er his breast  
279. With regal ornament; the middle pair  
280. Girt like a starry zone his waist, and round  
281. Skirted his loins and thighs with downy gold  
282. And colours dipt in Heaven; the third his feet  
283. Shadowed from either heel with feathered mail,  
284. Sky-tinctured grain. Like Maia's son he stood,  
285. And shook his plumes, that heavenly fragrance filled  
286. The circuit wide. Straight knew him all the bands  
287. Of Angels under watch; and to his state,  
288. And to his message high, in honour rise;  
289. For on some message high they guessed him bound.  
290. Their glittering tents he passed, and now is come  
291. Into the blissful field, through groves of myrrh,  
292. And flowering odours, cassia, nard, and balm;  
293. A wilderness of sweets; for Nature here  
294. Wantoned as in her prime, and played at will  
295. Her virgin fancies pouring forth more sweet,  
296. Wild above rule or art, enormous bliss.  
297. Him through the spicy forest onward come  
298. Adam discerned, as in the door he sat  
299. Of his cool bower, while now the mounted sun  
300. Shot down direct his fervid rays to warm  
301. Earth's inmost womb, more warmth than Adam needs:  
302. And Eve within, due at her hour prepared  
303. For dinner savoury fruits, of taste to please  
304. True appetite, and not disrelish thirst  
305. Of nectarous draughts between, from milky stream,  
306. Berry or grape: To whom thus Adam called.  
307. Haste hither, Eve, and worth thy sight behold  
308. Eastward among those trees, what glorious shape  
309. Comes this way moving; seems another morn  
310. Risen on mid-noon; some great behest from Heaven  
311. To us perhaps he brings, and will vouchsafe  
312. This day to be our guest. But go with speed,  
313. And, what thy stores contain, bring forth, and pour  
314. Abundance, fit to honour and receive  
315. Our heavenly stranger: Well we may afford  
316. Our givers their own gifts, and large bestow  
317. From large bestowed, where Nature multiplies  
318. Her fertile growth, and by disburthening grows  
319. More fruitful, which instructs us not to spare.

320. To whom thus Eve. Adam, earth's hallowed mould,  
321. Of God inspired! small store will serve, where store,  
322. All seasons, ripe for use hangs on the stalk;  
323. Save what by frugal storing firmness gains  
324. To nourish, and superfluous moist consumes:  
325. But I will haste, and from each bough and brake,  
326. Each plant and juciest gourd, will pluck such choice  
327. To entertain our Angel-guest, as he  
328. Beholding shall confess, that here on Earth  
329. God hath dispensed his bounties as in Heaven.  
330. So saying, with dispatchful looks in haste  
331. She turns, on hospitable thoughts intent  
332. What choice to choose for delicacy best,  
333. What order, so contrived as not to mix  
334. Tastes, not well joined, inelegant, but bring  
335. Taste after taste upheld with kindest change;  
336. Bestirs her then, and from each tender stalk  
337. Whatever Earth, all-bearing mother, yields  
338. In India East or West, or middle shore  
339. In Pontus or the Punick coast, or where  
340. Alcinous reigned, fruit of all kinds, in coat  
341. Rough, or smooth rind, or bearded husk, or shell,  
342. She gathers, tribute large, and on the board  
343. Heaps with unsparing hand; for drink the grape  
344. She crushes, inoffensive must, and meaths  
345. From many a berry, and from sweet kernels pressed  
346. She tempers dulcet creams; nor these to hold  
347. Wants her fit vessels pure; then strows the ground  
348. With rose and odours from the shrub unfumed.  
349. Mean while our primitive great sire, to meet  
350. His God-like guest, walks forth, without more train  
351. Accompanied than with his own complete  
352. Perfections; in himself was all his state,  
353. More solemn than the tedious pomp that waits  
354. On princes, when their rich retinue long  
355. Of horses led, and grooms besmeared with gold,  
356. Dazzles the croud, and sets them all agape.  
357. Nearer his presence Adam, though not awed,  
358. Yet with submissive approach and reverence meek,  
359. As to a superiour nature bowing low,  
360. Thus said. Native of Heaven, for other place  
361. None can than Heaven such glorious shape contain;  
362. Since, by descending from the thrones above,  
363. Those happy places thou hast deigned a while  
364. To want, and honour these, vouchsafe with us  
365. Two only, who yet by sovran gift possess



366. This spacious ground, in yonder shady bower  
367. To rest; and what the garden choicest bears  
368. To sit and taste, till this meridian heat  
369. Be over, and the sun more cool decline.  
370. Whom thus the angelick Virtue answered mild.  
371. Adam, I therefore came; nor art thou such  
372. Created, or such place hast here to dwell,  
373. As may not oft invite, though Spirits of Heaven,  
374. To visit thee; lead on then where thy bower  
375. O'ershades; for these mid-hours, till evening rise,  
376. I have at will. So to the sylvan lodge  
377. They came, that like Pomona's arbour smiled,  
378. With flowerets decked, and fragrant smells; but Eve,  
379. Undecked save with herself, more lovely fair  
380. Than Wood-Nymph, or the fairest Goddess feigned  
381. Of three that in mount Ida naked strove,  
382. Stood to entertain her guest from Heaven; no veil  
383. She needed, virtue-proof; no thought infirm  
384. Altered her cheek. On whom the Angel Hail  
385. Bestowed, the holy salutation used  
386. Long after to blest Mary, second Eve.  
387. Hail, Mother of Mankind, whose fruitful womb  
388. Shall fill the world more numerous with thy sons,  
389. Than with these various fruits the trees of God  
390. Have heaped this table!--Raised of grassy turf  
391. Their table was, and mossy seats had round,  
392. And on her ample square from side to side  
393. All autumn piled, though spring and autumn here  
394. Danced hand in hand. A while discourse they hold;  
395. No fear lest dinner cool; when thus began  
396. Our author. Heavenly stranger, please to taste  
397. These bounties, which our Nourisher, from whom  
398. All perfect good, unmeasured out, descends,  
399. To us for food and for delight hath caused  
400. The earth to yield; unsavoury food perhaps  
401. To spiritual natures; only this I know,  
402. That one celestial Father gives to all.  
403. To whom the Angel. Therefore what he gives  
404. (Whose praise be ever sung) to Man in part  
405. Spiritual, may of purest Spirits be found  
406. No ingrateful food: And food alike those pure  
407. Intelligential substances require,  
408. As doth your rational; and both contain  
409. Within them every lower faculty  
410. Of sense, whereby they hear, see, smell, touch, taste,  
411. Tasting concoct, digest, assimilate,

412. And corporeal to incorporeal turn.  
413. For know, whatever was created, needs  
414. To be sustained and fed: Of elements  
415. The grosser feeds the purer, earth the sea,  
416. Earth and the sea feed air, the air those fires  
417. Ethereal, and as lowest first the moon;  
418. Whence in her visage round those spots, unpurged  
419. Vapours not yet into her substance turned.  
420. Nor doth the moon no nourishment exhale  
421. From her moist continent to higher orbs.  
422. The sun that light imparts to all, receives  
423. From all his alimential recompence  
424. In humid exhalations, and at even  
425. Sups with the ocean. Though in Heaven the trees  
426. Of life ambrosial fruitage bear, and vines  
427. Yield nectar; though from off the boughs each morn  
428. We brush mellifluous dews, and find the ground  
429. Covered with pearly grain: Yet God hath here  
430. Varied his bounty so with new delights,  
431. As may compare with Heaven; and to taste  
432. Think not I shall be nice. So down they sat,  
433. And to their viands fell; nor seemingly  
434. The Angel, nor in mist, the common gloss  
435. Of Theologians; but with keen dispatch  
436. Of real hunger, and concoctive heat  
437. To transubstantiate: What redounds, transpires  
438. Through Spirits with ease; nor wonder; if by fire  
439. Of sooty coal the empirick alchemist  
440. Can turn, or holds it possible to turn,  
441. Metals of drossiest ore to perfect gold,  
442. As from the mine. Mean while at table Eve  
443. Ministered naked, and their flowing cups  
444. With pleasant liquours crowned: O innocence  
445. Deserving Paradise! if ever, then,  
446. Then had the sons of God excuse to have been  
447. Enamoured at that sight; but in those hearts  
448. Love unlibidinous reigned, nor jealousy  
449. Was understood, the injured lover's hell.  
450. Thus when with meats and drinks they had sufficed,  
451. Not burdened nature, sudden mind arose  
452. In Adam, not to let the occasion pass  
453. Given him by this great conference to know  
454. Of things above his world, and of their being  
455. Who dwell in Heaven, whose excellence he saw  
456. Transcend his own so far; whose radiant forms,  
457. Divine effulgence, whose high power, so far

458. Exceeded human; and his wary speech  
 459. Thus to the empyreal minister he framed.  
 460. Inhabitant with God, now know I well  
 461. Thy favour, in this honour done to Man;  
 462. Under whose lowly roof thou hast vouchsafed  
 463. To enter, and these earthly fruits to taste,  
 464. Food not of Angels, yet accepted so,  
 465. As that more willingly thou couldst not seem  
 466. At Heaven's high feasts to have fed: yet what compare  
 467. To whom the winged Hierarch replied.  
 • Adam, One Almighty is, from whom  
 468. All things proceed, and up to him return,  
 469. If not depraved from good, created all  
 470. Such to perfection, one first matter all,  
 471. Endued with various forms, various degrees  
 472. Of substance, and, in things that live, of life;  
 473. But more refined, more spiritous, and pure,  
 474. As nearer to him placed, or nearer tending  
 475. Each in their several active spheres assigned,  
 476. Till body up to spirit work, in bounds  
 477. Proportioned to each kind. So from the root  
 478. Springs lighter the green stalk, from thence the leaves  
 479. More aery, last the bright consummate flower  
 480. Spirits odorous breathes: flowers and their fruit,  
 481. Man's nourishment, by gradual scale sublimed,  
 482. To vital spirits aspire, to animal,  
 483. To intellectual; give both life and sense,  
 484. Fancy and understanding; whence the soul  
 485. Reason receives, and reason is her being,  
 486. Discursive, or intuitive; discourse  
 487. Is ofttest yours, the latter most is ours,  
 488. Differing but in degree, of kind the same.  
 489. Wonder not then, what God for you saw good  
 490. If I refuse not, but convert, as you  
 491. To proper substance. Time may come, when Men  
 492. With Angels may participate, and find  
 493. No inconvenient diet, nor too light fare;  
 494. And from these corporal nutriments perhaps  
 495. Your bodies may at last turn all to spirit,  
 496. Improved by tract of time, and, winged, ascend  
 497. Ethereal, as we; or may, at choice,  
 498. Here or in heavenly Paradises dwell;  
 499. If ye be found obedient, and retain  
 500. Unalterably firm his love entire,  
 501. Whose progeny you are. Mean while enjoy  
 502. Your fill what happiness this happy state

503. Can comprehend, incapable of more.  
 504. To whom the patriarch of mankind replied.  
 • favourable Spirit, propitious guest,  
 505. Well hast thou taught the way that might direct  
 506. Our knowledge, and the scale of nature set  
 507. From center to circumference; whereon,  
 508. In contemplation of created things,  
 509. By steps we may ascend to God. But say,  
 510. What meant that caution joined, If ye be found  
 511. Obedient? Can we want obedience then  
 512. To him, or possibly his love desert,  
 513. Who formed us from the dust and placed us here  
 514. Full to the utmost measure of what bliss  
 515. Human desires can seek or apprehend?  
 516. To whom the Angel. Son of Heaven and Earth,  
 517. Attend! That thou art happy, owe to God;  
 518. That thou continuest such, owe to thyself,  
 519. That is, to thy obedience; therein stand.  
 520. This was that caution given thee; be advised.  
 521. God made thee perfect, not immutable;  
 522. And good he made thee, but to persevere  
 523. He left it in thy power; ordained thy will  
 524. By nature free, not over-ruled by fate  
 525. Inextricable, or strict necessity:  
 526. Our voluntary service he requires,  
 527. Not our necessitated; such with him  
 528. Finds no acceptance, nor can find; for how  
 529. Can hearts, not free, be tried whether they serve  
 530. Willing or no, who will but what they must  
 531. By destiny, and can no other choose?  
 532. Myself, and all the angelick host, that stand  
 533. In sight of God, enthroned, our happy state  
 534. Hold, as you yours, while our obedience holds;  
 535. On other surety none: Freely we serve,  
 536. Because we freely love, as in our will  
 537. To love or not; in this we stand or fall:  
 538. And some are fallen, to disobedience fallen,  
 539. And so from Heaven to deepest Hell; O fall  
 540. From what high state of bliss, into what woe!  
 541. To whom our great progenitor. Thy words  
 542. Attentive, and with more delighted ear,  
 543. Divine instructor, I have heard, than when  
 544. Cherubic songs by night from neighbouring hills  
 545. Aereal music send: Nor knew I not  
 546. To be both will and deed created free;  
 547. Yet that we never shall forget to love

548. Our Maker, and obey him whose command  
549. Single is yet so just, my constant thoughts  
550. Assured me, and still assure: Though what thou tellest  
551. Hath passed in Heaven, some doubt within me move,  
552. But more desire to hear, if thou consent,  
553. The full relation, which must needs be strange,  
554. Worthy of sacred silence to be heard;  
555. And we have yet large day, for scarce the sun  
556. Hath finished half his journey, and scarce begins  
557. His other half in the great zone of Heaven.  
558. Thus Adam made request; and Raphael,  
559. After short pause assenting, thus began.  
560. High matter thou enjoimest me, O prime of men,  
561. Sad task and hard: For how shall I relate  
562. To human sense the invisible exploits  
563. Of warring Spirits? how, without remorse,  
564. The ruin of so many glorious once  
565. And perfect while they stood? how last unfold  
566. The secrets of another world, perhaps  
567. Not lawful to reveal? yet for thy good  
568. This is dispensed; and what surmounts the reach  
569. Of human sense, I shall delineate so,  
570. By likening spiritual to corporal forms,  
571. As may express them best; though what if Earth  
572. Be but a shadow of Heaven, and things therein  
573. Each to other like, more than on earth is thought?  
574. As yet this world was not, and Chaos wild  
575. Reigned where these Heavens now roll, where Earth now rests  
576. Upon her center poised; when on a day  
577. (For time, though in eternity, applied  
578. To motion, measures all things durable  
579. By present, past, and future,) on such day  
580. As Heaven's great year brings forth, the empyreal host  
581. Of Angels by imperial summons called,  
582. Innumerable before the Almighty's throne  
583. Forthwith, from all the ends of Heaven, appeared  
584. Under their Hierarchs in orders bright:  
585. Ten thousand thousand ensigns high advanced,  
586. Standards and gonfalons 'twixt van and rear  
587. Stream in the air, and for distinction serve  
588. Of hierarchies, of orders, and degrees;  
589. Or in their glittering tissues bear imblazed  
590. Holy memorials, acts of zeal and love  
591. Recorded eminent. Thus when in orbs  
592. Of circuit inexpressible they stood,  
593. Orb within orb, the Father Infinite,

594. By whom in bliss imbosomed sat the Son,  
595. Amidst as from a flaming mount, whose top  
596. Brightness had made invisible, thus spake.  
597. Hear, all ye Angels, progeny of light,  
598. Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers;  
599. Hear my decree, which unrevoked shall stand.  
600. This day I have begot whom I declare  
601. My only Son, and on this holy hill  
602. Him have anointed, whom ye now behold  
603. At my right hand; your head I him appoint;  
604. And by myself have sworn, to him shall bow  
605. All knees in Heaven, and shall confess him Lord:  
606. Under his great vice-gerent reign abide  
607. United, as one individual soul,  
608. For ever happy: Him who disobeys,  
609. Me disobeys, breaks union, and that day,  
610. Cast out from God and blessed vision, falls  
611. Into utter darkness, deep ingulfed, his place  
612. Ordained without redemption, without end.  
613. So spake the Omnipotent, and with his words  
614. All seemed well pleased; all seemed, but were not all.  
615. That day, as other solemn days, they spent  
616. In song and dance about the sacred hill;  
617. Mystical dance, which yonder starry sphere  
618. Of planets, and of fixed, in all her wheels  
619. Resembles nearest, mazes intricate,  
620. Eccentric, interwolved, yet regular  
621. Then most, when most irregular they seem;  
622. And in their motions harmony divine  
623. So smooths her charming tones, that God's own ear  
624. Listens delighted. Evening now approached,  
625. (For we have also our evening and our morn,  
626. We ours for change delectable, not need;)  
627. Forthwith from dance to sweet repast they turn  
628. Desirous; all in circles as they stood,  
629. Tables are set, and on a sudden piled  
630. With Angels food, and rubied nectar flows  
631. In pearl, in diamond, and massy gold,  
632. Fruit of delicious vines, the growth of Heaven.  
633. On flowers reposed, and with fresh flowerets crowned,  
634. They eat, they drink, and in communion sweet  
635. Quaff immortality and joy, secure  
636. Of surfeit, where full measure only bounds  
637. Excess, before the all-bounteous King, who showered  
638. With copious hand, rejoicing in their joy.  
639. Now when ambrosial night with clouds exhaled

640. From that high mount of God, whence light and shade  
641. Spring both, the face of brightest Heaven had changed  
642. To grateful twilight, (for night comes not there  
643. In darker veil,) and roseate dews disposed  
644. All but the unsleeping eyes of God to rest;  
645. Wide over all the plain, and wider far  
646. Than all this globous earth in plain outspread,  
647. (Such are the courts of God) the angelick throng,  
648. Dispersed in bands and files, their camp extend  
649. By living streams among the trees of life,  
650. Pavilions numberless, and sudden reared,  
651. Celestial tabernacles, where they slept  
652. Fanned with cool winds; save those, who, in their course,  
653. Melodious hymns about the sovran throne  
654. Alternate all night long: but not so waked  
655. Satan; so call him now, his former name  
656. Is heard no more in Heaven; he of the first,  
657. If not the first Arch-Angel, great in power,  
658. In favour and pre-eminence, yet fraught  
659. With envy against the Son of God, that day  
660. Honoured by his great Father, and proclaimed  
661. Messiah King anointed, could not bear  
662. Through pride that sight, and thought himself impaired.  
663. Deep malice thence conceiving and disdain,  
664. Soon as midnight brought on the dusky hour  
665. Friendliest to sleep and silence, he resolved  
666. With all his legions to dislodge, and leave  
667. Unworshipt, unobeyed, the throne supreme,  
668. Contemptuous; and his next subordinate  
669. Awakening, thus to him in secret spake.  
670. Sleepest thou, Companion dear? What sleep can close  
671. Thy eye-lids? and rememberest what decree  
672. Of yesterday, so late hath passed the lips  
673. Of Heaven's Almighty. Thou to me thy thoughts  
674. Wast wont, I mine to thee was wont to impart;  
675. Both waking we were one; how then can now  
676. Thy sleep dissent? New laws thou seest imposed;  
677. New laws from him who reigns, new minds may raise  
678. In us who serve, new counsels to debate  
679. What doubtful may ensue: More in this place  
680. To utter is not safe. Assemble thou  
681. Of all those myriads which we lead the chief;  
682. Tell them, that by command, ere yet dim night  
683. Her shadowy cloud withdraws, I am to haste,  
684. And all who under me their banners wave,  
685. Homeward, with flying march, where we possess

686. The quarters of the north; there to prepare  
687. Fit entertainment to receive our King,  
688. The great Messiah, and his new commands,  
689. Who speedily through all the hierarchies  
690. Intends to pass triumphant, and give laws.  
691. So spake the false Arch-Angel, and infused  
692. Bad influence into the unwary breast  
693. Of his associate: He together calls,  
694. Or several one by one, the regent Powers,  
695. Under him Regent; tells, as he was taught,  
696. That the Most High commanding, now ere night,  
697. Now ere dim night had disincumbered Heaven,  
698. The great hierarchal standard was to move;  
699. Tells the suggested cause, and casts between  
700. Ambiguous words and jealousies, to sound  
701. Or taint integrity: But all obeyed  
702. The wonted signal, and superiour voice  
703. Of their great Potentate; for great indeed  
704. His name, and high was his degree in Heaven;  
705. His countenance, as the morning-star that guides  
706. The starry flock, allured them, and with lies  
707. Drew after him the third part of Heaven's host.  
708. Mean while the Eternal eye, whose sight discerns  
709. Abstrusest thoughts, from forth his holy mount,  
710. And from within the golden lamps that burn  
711. Nightly before him, saw without their light  
712. Rebellion rising; saw in whom, how spread  
713. Among the sons of morn, what multitudes  
714. Were banded to oppose his high decree;  
715. And, smiling, to his only Son thus said.  
716. Son, thou in whom my glory I behold  
717. In full resplendence, Heir of all my might,  
718. Nearly it now concerns us to be sure  
719. Of our Omnipotence, and with what arms  
720. We mean to hold what anciently we claim  
721. Of deity or empire: Such a foe  
722. Is rising, who intends to erect his throne  
723. Equal to ours, throughout the spacious north;  
724. Nor so content, hath in his thought to try  
725. In battle, what our power is, or our right.  
726. Let us advise, and to this hazard draw  
727. With speed what force is left, and all employ  
728. In our defence; lest unawares we lose  
729. This our high place, our sanctuary, our hill.  
730. To whom the Son with calm aspect and clear,  
731. Lightning divine, ineffable, serene,



732. Made answer. Mighty Father, thou thy foes  
733. Justly hast in derision, and, secure,  
734. Laughest at their vain designs and tumults vain,  
735. Matter to me of glory, whom their hate  
736. Illustrates, when they see all regal power  
737. Given me to quell their pride, and in event  
738. Know whether I be dextrous to subdue  
739. Thy rebels, or be found the worst in Heaven.  
740. So spake the Son; but Satan, with his Powers,  
741. Far was advanced on winged speed; an host  
742. Innumerable as the stars of night,  
743. Or stars of morning, dew-drops, which the sun  
744. Impearls on every leaf and every flower.  
745. Regions they passed, the mighty regencies  
746. Of Seraphim, and Potentates, and Thrones,  
747. In their triple degrees; regions to which  
748. All thy dominion, Adam, is no more  
749. Than what this garden is to all the earth,  
750. And all the sea, from one entire globose  
751. Stretched into longitude; which having passed,  
752. At length into the limits of the north  
753. They came; and Satan to his royal seat  
754. High on a hill, far blazing, as a mount  
755. Raised on a mount, with pyramids and towers  
756. From diamond quarries hewn, and rocks of gold;  
757. The palace of great Lucifer, (so call  
758. That structure in the dialect of men  
759. Interpreted,) which not long after, he  
760. Affecting all equality with God,  
761. In imitation of that mount whereon  
762. Messiah was declared in sight of Heaven,  
763. The Mountain of the Congregation called;  
764. For thither he assembled all his train,  
765. Pretending so commanded to consult  
766. About the great reception of their King,  
767. Thither to come, and with calumnious art  
768. Of counterfeited truth thus held their ears.  
769. Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers;  
770. If these magnificent titles yet remain  
771. Not merely titular, since by decree  
772. Another now hath to himself engrossed  
773. All power, and us eclipsed under the name  
774. Of King anointed, for whom all this haste  
775. Of midnight-march, and hurried meeting here,  
776. This only to consult how we may best,  
777. With what may be devised of honours new,

778. Receive him coming to receive from us  
 779. Knee-tribute yet unpaid, prostration vile!  
 780. Too much to one! but double how endured,  
 781. To one, and to his image now proclaimed?  
 782. But what if better counsels might erect  
 783. Our minds, and teach us to cast off this yoke?  
 784. Will ye submit your necks, and choose to bend  
 785. The supple knee? Ye will not, if I trust  
 786. To know ye right, or if ye know yourselves  
 787. Natives and sons of Heaven possessed before  
 788. By none; and if not equal all, yet free,  
 789. Equally free; for orders and degrees  
 790. Jar not with liberty, but well consist.  
 791. Who can in reason then, or right, assume  
 792. Monarchy over such as live by right  
 793. His equals, if in power and splendour less,  
 794. In freedom equal? or can introduce  
 795. Law and edict on us, who without law  
 796. Err not? much less for this to be our Lord,  
 797. And look for adoration, to the abuse  
 798. Of those imperial titles, which assert  
 799. Our being ordained to govern, not to serve.  
 800. Thus far his bold discourse without controul  
 801. Had audience; when among the Seraphim  
 802. Abdiel than whom none with more zeal ador'd  
 803. The Deity, and divine commands obeyed,  
 804. Stood up, and in a flame of zeal severe  
 805. The current of his fury thus opposed.  
 • argument blasphemous, false, and proud!  
 806. Words which no ear ever to hear in Heaven  
 807. Expected, least of all from thee, Ingrate,  
 808. In place thyself so high above thy peers.  
 809. Canst thou with impious obloquy condemn  
 810. The just decree of God, pronounced and sworn,  
 811. That to his only Son, by right endued  
 812. With regal scepter, every soul in Heaven  
 813. Shall bend the knee, and in that honour due  
 814. Confess him rightful King? unjust, thou sayest,  
 815. Flatly unjust, to bind with laws the free,  
 816. And equal over equals to let reign,  
 817. One over all with unsucceeded power.  
 818. Shalt thou give law to God? shalt thou dispute  
 819. With him the points of liberty, who made  
 820. Thee what thou art, and formed the Powers of Heaven  
 821. Such as he pleased, and circumscribed their being?  
 822. Yet, by experience taught, we know how good,

823. And of our good and of our dignity  
824. How provident he is; how far from thought  
825. To make us less, bent rather to exalt  
826. Our happy state, under one head more near  
827. United. But to grant it thee unjust,  
828. That equal over equals monarch reign:  
829. Thyself, though great and glorious, dost thou count,  
830. Or all angelick nature joined in one,  
831. Equal to him begotten Son? by whom,  
832. As by his Word, the Mighty Father made  
833. All things, even thee; and all the Spirits of Heaven  
834. By him created in their bright degrees,  
835. Crowned them with glory, and to their glory named  
836. Thrones, Dominations, Princedoms, Virtues, Powers,  
837. Essential Powers; nor by his reign obscured,  
838. But more illustrious made; since he the head  
839. One of our number thus reduced becomes;  
840. His laws our laws; all honour to him done  
841. Returns our own. Cease then this impious rage,  
842. And tempt not these; but hasten to appease  
843. The incensed Father, and the incensed Son,  
844. While pardon may be found in time besought.  
845. So spake the fervent Angel; but his zeal  
846. None seconded, as out of season judged,  
847. Or singular and rash: Whereat rejoiced  
848. The Apostate, and, more haughty, thus replied.  
849. That we were formed then sayest thou? and the work  
850. Of secondary hands, by task transferred  
851. From Father to his Son? strange point and new!  
852. Doctrine which we would know whence learned: who saw  
853. When this creation was? rememberest thou  
854. Thy making, while the Maker gave thee being?  
855. We know no time when we were not as now;  
856. Know none before us, self-begot, self-raised  
857. By our own quickening power, when fatal course  
858. Had circled his full orb, the birth mature  
859. Of this our native Heaven, ethereal sons.  
860. Our puissance is our own; our own right hand  
861. Shall teach us highest deeds, by proof to try  
862. Who is our equal: Then thou shalt behold  
863. Whether by supplication we intend  
864. Address, and to begirt the almighty throne  
865. Beseeching or besieging. This report,  
866. These tidings carry to the anointed King;  
867. And fly, ere evil intercept thy flight.  
868. He said; and, as the sound of waters deep,

869. Hoarse murmur echoed to his words applause  
 870. Through the infinite host; nor less for that  
 871. The flaming Seraph fearless, though alone  
 872. Encompassed round with foes, thus answered bold.  
 • alienate from God, O Spirit accursed,  
 873. Forsaken of all good! I see thy fall  
 874. Determined, and thy hapless crew involved  
 875. In this perfidious fraud, contagion spread  
 876. Both of thy crime and punishment: Henceforth  
 877. No more be troubled how to quit the yoke  
 878. Of God's Messiah; those indulgent laws  
 879. Will not be now vouchsafed; other decrees  
 880. Against thee are gone forth without recall;  
 881. That golden scepter, which thou didst reject,  
 882. Is now an iron rod to bruise and break  
 883. Thy disobedience. Well thou didst advise;  
 884. Yet not for thy advice or threats I fly  
 885. These wicked tents devoted, lest the wrath  
 886. Impendent, raging into sudden flame,  
 887. Distinguish not: For soon expect to feel  
 888. His thunder on thy head, devouring fire.  
 889. Then who created thee lamenting learn,  
 890. When who can uncreate thee thou shalt know.  
 891. So spake the Seraph Abdiel, faithful found  
 892. Among the faithless, faithful only he;  
 893. Among innumerable false, unmoved,  
 894. Unshaken, unseduced, unterrified,  
 895. His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal;  
 896. Nor number, nor example, with him wrought  
 897. To swerve from truth, or change his constant mind,  
 898. Though single. From amidst them forth he passed,  
 899. Long way through hostile scorn, which he sustained  
 900. Superiour, nor of violence feared aught;  
 901. And, with retorted scorn, his back he turned  
 902. On those proud towers to swift destruction doomed.