

Summary (New Arts Library)	Milton's Original (Hale)	
<p>Book IX</p> <p>Satan returns to earth, where he chooses the serpent as his best disguise. Next morning, when Adam and Eve go forth to their gardening tasks, Eve suggests they go in separate directions. With great reservation, Adam finally consents. The serpent finds Eve alone and approaches her. She is surprised to find the creature can speak, and is soon induced by him to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. Adam is horrified when he finds what she has done, but at length resigns himself to share her fate rather than be left without her, and eats the fruit also. After eating, they are aroused with lust and lay together, then fall to restless sleep. They waken to awareness of their nakedness and shame, and cover themselves with leaves. In their emotional distress, they fall into mutual accusations and blame.</p>	<p><u>Narrator</u> Satan considered every creature, which Most opportune to serve his wiles, and found The serpent subtlest beast of all the field. Beyond his hope Eve separate he spies. <u>Satan [to Eve]</u> Empress of this fair world, resplendent Eve, I was at first as other beasts that graze Till, on a day roving the field, I chanced A goodly tree far distant to behold. About the mossy trunk I wound me soon. Amid the tree now got, where plenty hung Tempting so nigh, to pluck and eat my fill I spared not, for such pleasure till this hour At feed or fountain I had never found. Sated at length, ere long I might perceive Strange alteration in me, to degree Of reason in my inward powers, and speech Wanted not long, though to this shape retained. Thenceforth to speculations high or deep I turned my thoughts. . . <u>Eve [to Tree, not to Satan]</u> Great are thy virtues, doubtless, best of fruits, Though kept from man, and worthy to be admired: Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine, Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste, Of virtue to make wise: what hinders then To reach, and feed at once both body and mind? <u>Narrator</u> So saying, her rash hand in evil hour Forth reaching to the fruit, she plucked, she ate: Earth felt the wound, and nature from her seat Sighing through all her works gave signs of woe, That all was lost. <u>Eve [still to Tree]</u> O sovereign, virtuous, precious of all trees, I grow mature in knowledge, as the gods: And I, perhaps, am secret: heaven 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 me? or rather not, But keep the odds of knowledge in my power?</p>	<p>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 . . . Adam shall share with me, in bliss or woe <u>Narrator</u> Adam's slack hand the garland wreathed for Eve Down dropped, and all the faded roses shed: <u>Adam</u> O fairest of creation, last and best Of all God's works, creature in whom excelled Whatever can to sight or thought be formed Holy, divine, good, amiable or sweet! How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, Defaced, deflowered, and now to death devote? Rather how hast thou yielded to transgress The strict forbiddance, how to violate The sacred fruit forbidden! Some cursed fraud Of enemy hath beguiled thee, yet unknown, And me with thee hath ruined, for with thee Certain my resolution is to die: How can I live without thee, how forego Thy sweet converse and love so dearly joined, To live again in these wild woods forlorn? <u>Narrator</u> She gave him of that fair enticing fruit With liberal hand: he scrupled not to eat Against his better knowledge, not deceived, But fondly overcome with female charm.</p> <p>Limerick (Wyville)</p> <p>To the serpent's wiles Eve did succumb. She ate, and she gave Adam some. His head said, 'You'll rue it,' His heart urged him, 'Do it.' He ate. Satan's mission was done.</p>

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<p>Book X</p> <p>The guardian angels return to heaven, sad for man's failure, and the Son of God descends to earth to judge the sinners. Mercifully, he delays their sentence of death many days, during which they may work to regain God's favor. Then, in pity, he clothes them both.</p> <p>At the gates of hell, Sin and Death sense the success of Satan in this new world. They set out to build a highway over chaos to make future passage to earth easier. Satan meets them on his return voyage to hell, and marvels at the great structure. Upon his arrival in Pandemonium, Satan boasts of his success to the assembly. Instead of applauding him, they can only hiss, for they and he have all been turned into snakes, their punishment from above.</p> <p>God instructs his angels what changed conditions must prevail in the world, now in fallen state, while on earth, Adam bemoans his miserable condition and the fate of the human race. He harshly rejects Eve's attempt to console him, but she persists and wins his forgiveness. She proposes they commit suicide, but Adam reminds her of God's promise that her seed should wreak vengeance upon the serpent. Moreover, they must seek to make peace with their offended Lord.</p>	<p><u>Narrator</u> God through his Son sent judgment to the earth; First on the snake he thus his curse let fall:</p> <p><u>Son</u> Because thou hast done this, thou art accursed Above all cattle, each beast of the field; Upon thy belly groveling thou shalt go, And dust shalt eat all the days of thy life.</p> <p><u>Narrator</u> Next to the woman thus his sentence turned:</p> <p><u>Son</u> Thy sorrow I will greatly multiply By thy conception; children shalt thou bring In sorrow forth, and to thy husband's will Thine shall submit, he over thee shall rule.</p> <p><u>Narrator</u> On Adam last thus judgment he pronounced:</p> <p><u>Son</u> Because thou hast hearkened to the voice of thy wife, And eaten of the tree concerning which I charged thee saying, 'Thou shalt not eat thereof', Cursed 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.</p>	<p>The couple were covered with shame. They fought about who was to blame. By love still beguiled They were soon reconciled. But they'd fallen from grace, all the same.</p>

<p>Book XI</p> <p>God sends Michael and his band to expel the sinning pair from Paradise, but first to reveal to Adam future events, resulting from his sin. The angel descends to Eden with the news of their expulsion, causing Eve to withdraw in tears. Michael leads Adam up a high hill, where he sets before him in visions what shall happen till the Great Flood.</p>	<p><u>Narrator</u> From his high throne, to all the Sons of Light The almighty thus pronounced his sovereign will: <u>Father</u> O Sons, like one of us Man is become To know both good and evil, since his taste Of that forbidden fruit; now I decree To send him from the garden, forth to till The ground whence he was taken, fitter soil.</p>	<p>The Archangel Michael, in verse Which was long-winded rather than terse, Related to Adam Things which would happen. So Adam felt better — and worse.</p>
<p>Book XII</p> <p>Michael continues in prophecy from the flood by degrees to explain who the Seed of woman shall be, the Savior which was promised, who shall redeem mankind. Adam is recomforted by these last revelations and resolves faithful obedience. He descends the hill with Michael and rejoins Eve, who is wakened from gentle sleep, reconfirmed in allegiance to her husband. A flaming sword is placed to bar the gates behind them, as Adam and Eve are sent away from Paradise.</p>	<p><u>Narrator</u> To their fixed station, all in bright array, The cherubim descended; on the ground Glided metéorous, as evening mist Risen from a river o'er the marish glides And gathers ground fast at the labourer's heel Homeward returning. High in front advanced The brandished sword of God before them blazed Fierce as a comet; which with torrid heat And vapour as the Libyan air adust Began to parch that temperate clime; whereat In either hand the hastening angel caught Our lingering parents, and to th' eastern gate Led them direct, and down the cliff as fast To the subjected plain; then disappeared. They looking back, all th' eastern side beheld Of Paradise, so late their happy seat, Waved over by that flaming brand, the gate With dreadful faces thronged, and fiery arms. Some natural tears they dropped, but wiped them soon; The world was all before them, where to choose Their place of rest, and providence their guide: They hand in hand, with wandering steps and slow, Through Eden took their solitary way.</p>	<p>They were kicked out of Eden, it's true. No wonder they felt a bit blue. But the changed world was wide, And they walked side by side, Setting off to begin life anew.</p>

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