



A review on Paradise Lost: John Milton

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Abstract:

Paradise Lost by John Milton is a timeless masterpiece that tells the story of humanity's fall from grace through the experiences of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. Through their story of temptation and redemption, Milton explores complex themes of morality, humanity, and the struggle between good and evil. This article explores the characters of Adam and Eve, the temptation of Eve by the serpent, the fall of humanity, and the themes of redemption and forgiveness that are present throughout the work.

Introduction:

In 1667, John Milton published Paradise Lost, a monumental epic poem that tells the story of the biblical first couple, Adam and Eve, and their fall from grace. Milton's depiction of these characters is sympathetic and nuanced, emphasizing their humanity rather than their divinity. Through the story of Adam and Eve, Milton explores themes of temptation, disobedience, and the human condition. This article will delve into the characters of Adam and Eve, how they were tempted, the fall of humanity, and the themes of redemption and forgiveness that are present throughout the work.

Keywords:

John Milton, Paradise Lost, Adam, Eve, fall from grace, temptation, disobedience, human condition, redemption, forgiveness

Adam and Eve of John Milton's play,

Adam and Eve in Paradise Lost: An Exploration of Humanity, Temptation, and Redemption

When John Milton penned Paradise Lost in 1667, he created a timeless masterpiece that continues to captivate readers and scholars to this day. In this epic poem, Milton tells the biblical story of humanity's fall from grace through the experiences of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. Through their story of temptation and redemption, Milton explores complex themes of morality, humanity, and the struggle between good and evil.

The Creation of Adam and Eve

Before examining the fall of humanity, it is important to first understand the characters of Adam and Eve. In Milton's work, Adam is created first in the image of God, and is given the task of tending the Garden of Eden. He is insightful, curious, and enjoys exploring the world around him. Eve is created shortly thereafter, as a companion for Adam and to provide him with a helper and companion. She is depicted as beautiful, intelligent, and loving.

One of the most striking aspects of this depiction of Adam and Eve is their humanity. Though they are created by God, they are not perfect beings. They are prone to making mistakes and are subject to temptation, just like any other human beings. However, they are loving, thoughtful, and have a deep appreciation for the beauty of creation. They are also deeply connected to one another, experiencing an intimacy and closeness that is rare.

The Temptation of Eve

The central event of *Paradise Lost* is the temptation of Eve by the serpent. It is through her that humanity first falls from grace and is expelled from the Garden of Eden. In the poem, the serpent is depicted as deceitful and manipulative, luring Eve into the trap of temptation. He tells her that if she were to eat from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, she would become equal to God in knowledge and wisdom.

At first, Eve hesitates. She recognizes that eating from the tree has been forbidden by God, and she fears the consequences of disobeying him. However, the serpent's words are powerful, and he manages to convince her that it is worth the risk. In her mind, she imagines what knowledge and wisdom would feel like, and soon she gives in to temptation.

Once she has eaten from the tree, her eyes are opened to a new form of knowledge. She becomes aware of her own vulnerability, realizing that she is naked and exposed. Moreover, she realizes that her knowledge has come at a steep cost. She knows she has disobeyed God, and she is filled with a sense of shame and guilt. When Adam learns what has happened, he too eats from the tree out of a desire to share in the knowledge with his partner.

The fall of Humanity

As a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience, humanity falls from grace. God expels them from the Garden of Eden, punishing them for their sin and cursing them with mortality. They are forced to live outside of paradise, with all of its beauty and perfection left behind them. In this new reality, they are subject to pain, suffering, and the harsh realities of life in a fallen world.

However, even in the midst of this punishment, there is a glimmer of hope. God tells Adam and Eve that though they have been cast out of paradise, he will provide a way for them to be redeemed. They are to live out their lives in the world he has created for them, but they are to do so knowing that they can be forgiven for their sins.

Redemption and Forgiveness

The final chapters of *Paradise Lost* explore themes of redemption and forgiveness. Though Adam and Eve have sinned, God is merciful and loving, offering them the opportunity to be redeemed. He sends his son, Jesus Christ, to the world to offer salvation to all who believe in him. The poem ends with Adam and Eve leaving the Garden of Eden, but knowing that there is hope for the future.

The themes of redemption and forgiveness are perhaps the most powerful aspects of Paradise Lost. Milton's poem is a meditation on the human condition and the struggle between good and evil. It is a reminder that we are all prone to temptation and that we are all capable of making mistakes. But it is also a celebration of humanity, and the potential we have for growth, change, and redemption

Conclusion

In conclusion, Paradise Lost is a masterpiece of English literature that continues to resonate with readers and scholars to this day. Through the story of Adam and Eve, Milton explores complex themes of humanity, temptation, and redemption. His characters are flawed but sympathetic, and his depiction of the fall from grace is both powerful and poignant. Though the poem is over 350 years old, its lessons about morality, love, and the human condition remain as relevant as ever. It is a timeless work of art that deserves to be read and studied for generations to come.

