TEXT

PARADISE LOST by JOHN MILTON

BOOK 9

Lines 897-959

O fairest of Creation, [last and best](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml)  
Of all Gods works, Creature in whom excell'd  
Whatever can to sight or thought be formd,  
Holy, divine, good, amiable, or sweet!  
How art thou lost, how on a sudden lost, [ 900 ]  
Defac't, deflourd, and now to Death [devote](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml)?  
Rather how hast thou yeelded to transgress  
The strict forbiddance, how to violate  
The sacred Fruit forbidd'n! som cursed fraud  
Of Enemie hath beguil'd thee, yet unknown, [ 905 ]  
And mee with thee hath ruind, for with thee  
Certain my resolution is to Die;  
How can I live without thee, how forgoe  
Thy sweet Converse and Love so dearly joyn'd,  
To live again in these wilde Woods forlorn? [ 910 ]  
Should God create another *Eve*, and I  
Another Rib afford, yet loss of thee  
Would never from my heart; no no, I feel  
The Link of Nature draw me: Flesh of Flesh,  
Bone of my Bone thou art, and from thy State [ 915 ]  
Mine never shall be parted, [bliss or woe](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml).

So having said, as one from sad dismay  
Recomforted, and after thoughts disturbd  
Submitting to what seemd remediless,  
Thus in calm mood his Words to *Eve* he turnd. [ 920 ]

Bold deed thou hast presum'd, adventrous *Eve*  
And peril great provok't, who thus hath dar'd  
Had it been onely coveting to Eye  
That sacred Fruit, sacred to abstinence,  
Much more to taste it under banne to touch. [ 925 ]  
But past who can recall, or don undoe?  
Not God Omnipotent, nor Fate, yet so  
Perhaps thou shalt not Die, perhaps the Fact  
Is not so hainous now, foretasted Fruit,  
Profan'd first by the Serpent, by him first [ 930 ]  
Made common and unhallowd ere our taste;  
Nor yet on him found deadly, he yet lives,  
Lives, as thou saidst, and gaines to live as Man  
Higher degree of Life, inducement strong  
To us, as likely tasting to attaine [ 935 ]  
Proportional ascent, which cannot be  
But to be Gods, or Angels Demi-gods.  
Nor can I think that God, Creator wise,  
Though threatning, will in earnest so destroy  
Us his prime Creatures, dignifi'd so high, [ 940 ]  
Set over all his Works, which in our Fall,  
For us created, needs with us must faile,  
Dependent made; so God shall uncreate,  
Be frustrate, do, undo, and labour loose,  
Not well conceav'd of God, who though his Power [ 945 ]  
Creation could repeate, yet would be loath  
Us to abolish, least the [Adversary](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml)  
Triumph and say; Fickle their State whom God  
Most Favors, who can please him long; Mee first  
He ruind, now Mankind; whom will he next? [ 950 ]  
Matter of scorne, not to be given the Foe,  
However I with thee have fixt my Lot,  
[Certain](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_9/text.shtml) to undergoe like doom, if Death  
Consort with thee, Death is to mee as Life;  
So forcible within my heart I feel [ 955 ]  
The Bond of Nature draw me to my owne,  
My own in thee, for what thou art is mine;  
Our State cannot be severd, we are one,  
One Flesh; to loose thee were to loose my self.