

# Paradise Lost

John Milton

Of Man's First Disobedience, and the Fruit  
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought Death into the World, and all our  
woe,  
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man  
Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,  
Sing Heav'nly Muse, that on the secret top  
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire  
That Shepherd, who first taught the chosen  
Seed,  
In the Beginning how the Heavens and Earth  
Rose out of Chaos: Or if Sion Hill  
Delight thee more, and Siloa's Brook that  
flow'd  
Fast by the Oracle of God; I thence  
Invoke thy aid to my adventrous Song,  
That with no middle flight intends to soar  
Above th' Aonian Mount, while it pursues  
Things unattempted yet in Prose or Rhime.  
And chiefly Thou O Spirit, that dost prefer  
Before all Temples th' upright heart and pure,  
Instruct me, for Thou knowest; Thou from the  
first  
Wast present, and with mighty wings  
outspread  
Dove-like sat brooding on the vast Abyss  
And mad'st it pregnant: What in me is dark  
Illumine, what is low raise and support;  
That to the height of this great Argument

I may assert Eternal Providence,  
And justify the ways of God to men.  
Say first, for Heav'n hides nothing from thy  
view  
Nor the deep Tract of Hell, say first what  
cause  
Moved our Grand Parents in that happy State,  
Favored of Heav'n so highly, to fall off  
From their Creator, and transgress his Will  
For one restraint, Lords of the World besides?  
Who first seduced them to that foul revolt?  
Th' infernal Serpent; he it was, whose guile  
Stirred up with Envy and Revenge, deceived  
The Mother of Mankind, what time his Pride  
Had cast him out from Heav'n, with all his  
Host  
Of Rebel Angels, by whose aid aspiring  
To set himself in Glory above his Peers,  
He trusted to have equaled the most High,  
If he opposed; and with ambitious aim  
Against the Throne and Monarchy of God  
Raised impious War in Heav'n and Battel  
proud  
With vain attempt. Him the Almighty Power  
Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' Ethereal Sky  
With hideous ruin and combustion down  
To bottomless perdition, there to dwell  
In Adamantine Chains and penal Fire,  
Who durst defy th' Omnipotent to Arms.