

PARADISE LOST CRITICAL QUOTES AND CONTEXT (AO3/AO4)

AO3

William Empson

- "on Milton's theory freedom does not expose her to sensuality"
- "entitled to the forbidden knowledge, and weak because ignorant of it" - Eve deserves the fruit, and knowledge, but she doesn't know how she will be punished or if she will.
- "Fall through triviality"
- "Ambassadors of mankind - and yet savages in a low state of development", by not know the knowledge in the fruit they are weak, naive, innocent.
- "Her lack of shame is felt as a pathetic degree of virginity"
- "Lacking for a full human life"
- "Treat the fall as a sexual act after which Eve produced children by satan"

Bartlett Giamitti

- Classical allusion in Christian tale shows "higher Truth" and "prepare for a context of falsity and disgrace"

J. Martin Evans

- "Both the virgin Diana and the fruitful Venus, both seductress and seduced"
- "Their original intercourse was the crown of 'mutual love' and now it is the seal of 'mutual guilt'" - everything else is identical apart from the shame after the fall.

Northrop Frye

- "[Milton] exhibits his hero to us as God exhibits Adam to the angels" - he appears angry with them, like God.

N. P. Williams

- "[God] desires to keep them in happy child-like ignorance, infinitely inferior to himself"

C. S. Lewis, *Voyage to Venus*

- "There was no reason why a man on a smooth pad should lose his balance on a bicycle; but he could" - Eve's counterpart from Venus.
- "The sense of precariousness terrified him: but, when she looked at him ... he changed that word to adventure, and then all words died out of his mind" - Adam's romanticism. The lack of rationality as the words fall away.

J. A. Waldock

- "She shows a pretty obstinacy, fells her power, gets her way"

John Peter

- "The least frivolous side" of Eve dictates that they should divide to work best.

Dennis H. Burden

- "In granting his permission Adam becomes involved" - Milton believes men should control women, Eve does not try to put the burden of sin onto Adam but he is nonetheless made complicit in the fall.

Coleridge

- "Motiveless malignancy" - to describe Iago but equally applies to Satan. He has no feeling, he only desires random destruction and to cause pain.

Rachel Speght

- "An individualism paradigmatically masculine" - Milton portraying the patriarchal view, very divided sexes.

Reiverside Milton Notes

- "No evidence in *Paradise Lost* that Eve's proper role ... is anything other than "meek submission""

Diane McColley

- "Milton himself struck off the chains of custom" - masculine traits like fortitude, justice, principles, and feminine ones like passion, sympathy and fidelity, are distributed among Adam and Eve.