

highlighting the weakness of man, Milton accentuates the power of Satan , ‘far off and fearless’ (IV. 14). Therefore he ironically and somewhat controversially glamorises and glorifies Satan’s traits; this is perhaps why it may be considered a soliloquy and Satan is simply being boastful of his supernatural powers against the frailty and normality of mankind. The simile of the ‘devilish engine’ (IV. 18) to describe Satan hints at the concept that he is like a cannon and that the idea of revenge ‘rolling’ in his mind is ready to be put into place because the cannon is ready to blow and that he is ‘fearless’ in making his decision; he is not afraid of making a ‘bold’ decision.

To conclude, in this passage of *Paradise Lost*, it is a crucial part where Satan reveals his true feelings regarding his loss in the battle in Heaven; it is also the moment where Satan reveals how he wants to ‘wreak’ revenge on mankind. Controversially, Milton has placed seeds of doubt in his mind regarding his identity and henceforth, tries to use sympathetic devices to describe him. This first passage therefore, allows the reader to consider another side to the character of Satan which would contextually be a blasphemous sin in 1667.