

# *Paradise Lost* Review Sheet

Courtesy of Prof. Vicki Silver of UC Irvine

You might locate these ideas and features and frame them into a theory about Milton's manner of justifying the ways of God to men.

## Motifs:

ascent/descent/rising/falling/exaltations/elevation/aspiring/reaching/falling  
tyranny/imperialism/conquest/thunder/arms/servitude/prohibition/forbidding  
knowledge/reason/food/fruit/taste/reach  
“fixed” minds/inner realities  
courtly/sensuous/irrational idiom  
erring/wandering/falling/standing  
art/technology/fire/mining  
ear/understanding/susceptibility  
fruit/fruits/fruition/seed  
wanton/fierce (pre- and post-lapsarian nature/psychology)  
surfeit/superfluity/satiation/surcharge/abundance/consumption  
degree/scale/gradation/gradual/several  
gods/godhood/godlike/godliness  
“hardening” of hearts/materialism/grossness/wounds/distemper/discord  
“fit” audience/auditors/ear/regeneracy/sinfulness  
flowers/vines/ivy/roses/myrtles/decay  
chance/hap/lot/fate  
refinement/trial/regeneration/respiration/ascent  
darts/fatal/mortal

## Themes

self-reflexive/recoiling action of sin/solipsism/narcissism  
determinism/free will/sufficiency/obedience/liberty/choice  
naming/styling/fabling/feigning/shape-shifting/hypocrisy/ornament/outward show  
materialism/fatalism/self-generation  
Trinity and anti-Trinity/three/heaven and hell parallels  
cosmic organicity/animation/physiology/natural law  
hierarchy/relationship/faculties/senses/order/usurpation/submission/obedience  
pre- and post-lapsarian nature/faculty psychology/reason/rationalism/fancy  
unity/multiplicity  
sin/corruption/infection/promiscuity/surfeit/rapacity  
language/efficacious words/the Word/rhetoric/deception/signs/footsteps/types  
knowledge/intuition/perception/speculation  
bringing good from evil/providence/omniscience/*felix culpa*  
relationship/sympathy/intercession/mediation/grace/prayer/vicarious atonement

## Modes

invocation/muses/narrative and poetic authority  
verb tenses  
double syntax/ambiguity  
mimetic syntax/ascent/descent/pause/confusion  
antithesis/antimetabole/paradox/oxymoron  
narrator's interpolations/exclamations  
typological significance  
epic similes/subversive/digressive/delusive/apt  
narrative hesitations or qualifications: “or”/“if”/“seemed”  
pagan analogues  
hyperbole/circumlocution/chaotic syntax  
soliloquy/apostrophe/idolatry/animism (the latter two are modes *cum* themes)  
language “accommodated” to human understanding/inspiration/prophesy/narrative  
atoning or sacrificial “me”/despairing or fallen “me”  
all forms of verbal or structural repetition