



*Unique Literary Series*

**JOHN MILTON**

# PARADISE LOST

**BOOK-I**

*(A Critical Evaluation)*

**Low-Priced  
Student Friendly  
Edition**

**Dr. S. Sen**

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	6. Analyse clearly the epic features of <i>Paradise Lost</i> .	
	7. What qualities of epic poetry are revealed in the firstbook of <i>Paradise Lost</i> ?	

8. What is a literary epic? Does *Paradise Lost* impress the modern reader as a great epic?
9. Show how Milton in *Paradise Lost* (a) followed the lines of the classical epic, (b) modified or developed it for his special purpose.
10. What features of epic poetry do you find in Book-I of *Paradise Lost*?
11. With illustration from Book-I of *Paradise Lost*, describe what you regard as the chief characteristics of an epic.

**Select Literary Criticism on the Topic**

37

- (1) G.M. Gayloy (2) C.M. Bowra (3) David Daiches  
(4) Tillyard (5) F.R. Leavis.

**9. The Portrait of Satan**

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**UNIVERSITY QUESTIONS**

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1. "Satan does not degenerate; he is degraded." (Waldock). Discuss
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3. Show how Satan acts as a great leader of the fallen angels?
4. Trace the course of the interpretation of Milton's Satan. Attempt a synthesis of the view-point presented.
5. Discuss how it is justified to regard Milton's Satan as a tragic characters?
6. Do you think that Satan achieves heroic dimensions in Book-I of *Paradise Lost*.
7. What impression of Satan do you get from your reading of Book-I of *Paradise Lost*?
8. "But he (Satan) is a figure of heroic magnitude and energy, and he is developed by Milton with dramatic emphasis and dramatic intensity". Do you agree?
9. What picture of Satan do you get from Book-I of *Paradise Lost*?
10. Comment on the statement: "In spite of himself, he (Milton) was in deep sympathy with Satan, the great rebel of Heaven and the enemy of God."

11. Bring out the heroic qualities of Milton's Satan.
12. Show how Satan acts as a great leader of the fallen angels.
13. By a careful study of Satan's behaviour of *Paradise Lost* Book-I, show how he displays the qualities of a rebel leader?
14. Examine the statement that it was inevitable that Milton's Satan should have been cast in the heroic mould.
15. Discuss the opinion that all talk about Satan being either a fool or a hero is misleading, for Milton's problem in *Paradise Lost* is to take those qualities which the general imagination associates with Satan and work them into a stable poetic whole.
16. "In his portrait of Satan, Milton is in some degree exposing and castigating all those false romantic notions.. of heroism as egotistical magnificence, the view that heroic energy in a ad cause is admirable." How far do you think the above view represents the true purpose behind Milton's characteri-zation of Satan?
17. "The brief survey of Milton's religious thought and feeling makes sufficiently absurd the romantic idea that he was of the devil's party without knowing it" Discuss the appropriateness of this remark.
18. "There is an underlying theme of *Paradise Lost* which proves that Milton did not sympathise with the devil." Explain the appropriateness or otherwise of this remark.

**Select Literary Criticism on the Topic**

49

- (1) Marjorie Hope Nicolson (2) Helen Gardner (3) Christopher Gillie (4) Josiah Conder (5) E.M.W. Tillyard (6) William Blake (7) William Hazlitt (8) C.S. Lewis (9) Frank Kermode.

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(B) Milton : The Hero of "Paradise Lost"

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4. How far can Satan be regarded as the hero of *Paradise Lost*?

Select Literary Criticism on the Topic 59

(1) Josiah Conder (2) Raleigh (3) Malcolm

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7. "Though the direct justification of God's ways to man is convincing, there is an indirect justification." Illustrate from *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

**Select Literary Criticism on the Topic** **71**

- (1) Denis Saurat (2) Greenlaw (3) Tillyard (4) Frank Kermode (5) David Daiches (6) B. Rajan

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3. Comment on the view that through his style in *Paradise Lost*, Milton aimed at achieving a "remote grandeur."
4. What are the main characteristics of Milton's style in *Paradise Lost*.
5. Write a note on Milton as a master of 'Grand Style'.
6. Show clearly what is meant by "The Grand Style" of *Paradise Lost*.
7. What are the chief constituents of Milton's grand style?
8. "In the grand style of Milton there is a starkness and austerity that no reader can miss." Discuss.

**Select Literary Criticism on the Topic** **82**

- (1) Raleigh (2) David Daiches (3) Compton Rickett (4) Samuel Johnson (5) C.S. Lewis (6) F.R. Leavis (7) Middleton Murry (8) T.S. Eliot (9) T.S. Eliot.

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- (1) David Daiches (2) Walter Savage Landor (3) T.S. Eliot (4) Donal A. Stauffer

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Select Literary Criticism on the Topic 95

- (1) Joseph Addison

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	Or	
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Or

Show how far Milton has succeeded in justifying  
the ways of God to men.

Or

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he has any claim to heroism in the context of the  
poem *Paradise Lost*.

Or

"It is inevitable that Milton's Satan be heroic."  
Discuss and illustrate.

Or

"Satan in Book-I of *Paradise Lost* is in some ways  
an appealing figure." Discuss with reference to  
the text.

Or

"In delineating the character of Satan, Milton is  
prompted by his genius to treat the great enemy  
of mankind with a generosity remarkable for a  
Puritan." Discuss.

Q. 7. "To admire Satan, then, is to give one's vote not  
only for a world of misery, but also for a world of  
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of this remark some speeches by Satan, or 228

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- Q. 8. "In writing *Paradise Lost*, Milton was of the Devil's party without knowing it." Comment on the view, keeping in mind the first book of the poem. 231

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Does Satan have some heroic virtue? Have you found the poet's commentary at variance with his presentation of Satan's character in Book-I of *Paradise Lost*?

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Or

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Or

Detail the salient feature of "grand style" as found in *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

Or

Give a critical appreciation of Milton's epic style with reference to *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

- Q. 16. "The mind that invented Milton's grand style had renounced the English Language." Discuss with reference to *Paradise Lost* Book-I. 245

Or

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Or

Comment on the statement that Milton wrote no language.

- Q. 17. What is meant by "blank verse"? Discuss Milton's handling of it in *Paradise Lost* Book-I. 248

Or

"The use of blank verse for a heroic poem was a great innovation, and Milton's handling of it added, not new provinces, but a new world to English prosody." Discuss with reference to *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

Or

Write a note on Milton's grand style with special emphasis on his use of blank verse in Book-I of *Paradise Lost*.

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Or

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Or

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"Milton's poetry is the meeting ground of the Renaissance and the Reformation". Elucidate with reference to *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

Or

"*Paradise Lost* combines the perfection of ancient art with the moral ardour of Reformation." Discuss.

Or

Show how the Hebraic and Hellenistic forces blend harmoniously in Milton's *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

Q. 20. How is Milton's personality reflected in *Paradise Lost* Book-I? 253

Or

Discuss with reference to Book-I of *Paradise Lost* that Milton himself is in every line of this epic poem.

Or

In *Paradise Lost*, Milton made the objective art of the epic subjective in tone and temper. Discuss with reference to Book-I.

Or

"Milton is one of the most autobiographical of writers." Illustrate this statement with reference to *Paradise Lost* Book-I.

- Q. 21. What do you learn of Milton's beliefs from *Paradise Lost*? 256
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