

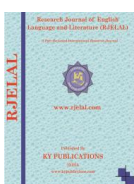


THEME OF LOVE AND THE FALL AS PARTLY FORTUNATE

TANVY MANCHANDA

Student, B.A. (Hons) English, K.R. Mangalam University

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims in studying the theme of love and the fall of humankind is partly fortunate in Paradise Lost Book I. It studies love of Adam towards Eve and its consequences and the fortune and the divine love bestows over Mankind. The fall ultimately reveals God's plan for the Mankind.

Key Words: Love, fall, Fortunate, Disobedience

Introduction

John Milton was an English Poet, Historian and Writer. He is fabled for Paradise Lost. In his prose works, he favours the termination of Church of England. His influence expanded through the English civil wars and also American and French revolutions.

Paradise Lost Book I is the story of Man's first disobedience and "Loss of Eden". The central objective is to "justify the ways of God to men." In Book II, A debate is being held by Satan in Pandemonium, the capital of Hell. In the debate, he claims that Heaven is not yet lost and encourages his followers to strongly rise up for another battle against God. In Book III, the scene opens in Heaven, where God is observing all the incidents with his son seated at his right hand. God perceives that man will fall due to his own fault. God will sacrifice his son, for the salvation of humankind. In Book IV, Satan is on the top of Mount Niphates, north of Paradise, the Garden of Eden. He dwells into conflict internally, when he sees the beauty and innocence of Earth. This reminded him of what he was once. In Book V, Eve goes through disturbing dream.

In the dream, a voice makes Eve to follow towards the tree of knowledge. A creature looks like an angel eats the forbidden fruit and disappears. In

Book VI, Raphael, the angel of God challenges Satan and the other rebel angels and informs them that their defeat is approaching. In Book VII to XI Adam is made aware of the world he has to move into after the paradise is lost, and finally in the Book XII, the Adam and Eve leave the paradise and they come into the new world.

Paradise Lost is one of the prominent epic poems in English Language. Book I of Paradise Lost proclaims about the humankind's first act of disobedience towards God. The act is of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge. Milton proclaims that this indigenous sin, for the first time brought death to human beings, inducing us to leave our home in paradise until Jesus Christ, the son of God comes to reinstate humankind to its preceding position of virtue. Paradise lost is an epic poem. The theme is divine love and mortal love, which leads to fall of man. Milton uses his poem to state some of his theological beliefs and his personal reflections. Milton wrote Paradise Lost in the 17th century but uses influence from classic poets. Milton's epic is an extremely important piece of literature. The excerpt used in his commentary takes on the subjects of sin and the punishment with regards to the atonement from God's view.

There is two levels of love in Paradise Lost, Book I, that is divine love and the mortal love. The divine love is the centre of observation early in the poem, as the angels persistently shows their devotion towards God and collectively with delight. The Son of God, Jesus Christ sacrifices his life for the protection of humankind, out of selfless love for them. On the other hand, the creation of Adam and Eve, the poem explains the mortal love. Mortal love between Adam and Eve is honest and moral. Divine love is different from natural love of man. It refers to part of God, possessing his nature and composed of his Substance and which when possessed by human soul to a sufficient degree, makes him divine and of the nature of God.

Milton follows the epic tradition to justify the way of God to humans and how mortal love is the underline story of human fall. Paradise Lost is in the same epic category as religious texts and signals that he is writing an epic and in the tradition of ancient Greeks. He deals with the issues of heaven and hell, divine love and mortal love and fall of man. God is always one step ahead of its creation. He has created the universe and has placed all of us in a hierarchy and human's disobedience is a corruption of God's hierarchy. Adam refers to his own sin as a *Felix culpa* or "happy fault" it shows that actually it is the fall of mankind. In the beginning it appears that the fall of man is an unmitigated catastrophe, it has actually hidden something good in it. The disobedience of Adam and Eve permits God to show his compassion and abstinence in their punishments and his enduring destiny towards humankind.

This unveiling of love and compassion given through the Son of God, Jesus Christ is an endowment to humankind. Humankind now undergoes pain and death, but humans also have contact with mercy, grace and preservation in ways, they will not be able to do, if they had not disobeyed. While humankind has generated from grace, individuals can rescue and save themselves through consistent devotion towards God. The fall of man is due to disobedience. In the context of Satan, fall is disobedience. It is a downward spiral of increasing sin and degradation. The fall of Adam and Eve is the road to redemption. Adam and Eve are the first humans to disobey God and the first God

creation to disobey God is Satan. He is not persuaded or provoked by others, but in the case of Adam and Eve, Adam is persuaded or provoked by Eve to commit the sin of eating the forbidden fruit, leading to his fall.

But Adam and Eve decide to repent for their sins and seek forgiveness. They understood that their fall will be corrected through generations of toil on Earth. Such kind of fall demonstrates that obedience to God, even after repeated false can lead the mankind to salvation. The fall is certainly, partly fortunate. In Paradise Lost, Satan, the serpent's actions towards tempting Eden to eat the fruit of knowledge, were not much powerful than the God's will. It seems that it was God's will that lead to the inevitable fall of man. As God is the supreme power, without his will, not even a single action or thought can succeed. Being, aware that Satan was the physical exposition of evil, God permitted Satan and his followers to endure in Hell unrestrained, no effort was endeavoured by God to secure that the lunacy of the fallen angels did not distort the magnificence of his created beings on Earth.

Along with this, God certainly perceives all that will emerge in the future. He was aware that Satan will disobey him, evidently he is conscious that man will escort, suit emerging from Satan's mediation in the garden. Book I, elucidates about the fall of Adam and loss of Garden of Eden. It is about the fall of humanity and the rebellion of Satan and his angels. The "fall" originates when Satan begins to grow jealous of God honouring his son at the highest level. To choose to disobey God is not as easy as it sounds; to eat the forbidden fruit was the choice of Eve. This, thought led to frightening call as it was a terrifying liberty guided by disobedience of God. The authority figures/God/the angry Eguses and Capulet's of the world insist that mortal love as it was between Adam and Eve must be circumscribed and that only certain choices are allowable or legitimate as in the case of Paradise Lost, they insist that once disobedience to derive pleasure, once choice, and free will in the mortal love might inflict punishment and lead to fall.

At the first glance, Paradise Lost may appear to illustrate human mortal love, choice and free will causing disobedience and tragic consequences. It can also be termed as excessive and misguided mortal love for Adam for Eve overpowered the divine love for God. When Adam is suddenly confronted with the fact that Eve has disobeyed the primary injunction given to the first human pair, not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. His reaction, at first is to silently bemoan. Adam's mortal love and admiration of Eve is clearly seen, although he considers that she has committed sin, but he considers her as the "fairest of the creation", the last and the best of all God's work.

Even though, she is so far and now lost as God hath pronounced it death to taste that fruit. The bond of love between Adam and Eve made Adam accept the sin and the sinner, as a result of which the Paradise is lost. However, the fall of Adam, brings up the fact that it is a fortunate fall due to several reasons. Adam and Eve's disobedience allows the God to show his mercy and temperance in their punishments and his eternal providence towards the mankind. Humankind experiences pain and death as a result of the fall, but it can also experience mercy, salvation and grace. In the ways, it would not have happened, if Adam and Eve have not disobeyed the God. It shows that the mankind has fallen from grace. It can redeem and save itself through continue devotion and continuance to God. Sacrifice and good deeds can restore the humankind to its former state. This fortunate fall justifies God's reasoning, explains his ultimate plan for humankind.

Conclusion

This paper explains about mortal love which involves physical attraction of Adam towards Eve, leading to the disobedience towards God. The sin was committed by Eve and the mortal love of Adam towards Eve, made him accept the sin and sinner. Which brought death to the human beings for the first time and the Paradise is lost. However, this fall is considered fortunate falling, as it was a part of Greater plan of God and God's plan is justified. The humankind can redeem its original

position through love and obedience towards God. The divine love can make the fall fortunate and remove the sins and the consequences of the fall. Mortal love brought serious consequences and sufferings, whereas divine love can erase them.

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