

Paradise Lost Book 4 Satan's Soliloquy

Satan, now first inflam'd with rage, came down,
The Tempter ere th' Accuser of man-kind, [10]
To [wreck](#) on innocent frail man his loss
Of that first Battel, and his flight to Hell:
Yet not rejoycing in his speed, though bold,
Far off and fearless, nor with cause to boast,
Begins his dire attempt, which nigh the birth
Now [rowing](#), boiles in his tumultuous brest,
And like a [devillish Engine](#) back recoiles
Upon himself; horror and doubt distract
His troubl'd thoughts, and from the bottom stirr
The [Hell within him](#), for within him Hell [20]
He brings, and round about him, nor from Hell
One step no more then from himself can fly
By change of place: Now conscience wakes
despair
That slumberd, wakes the bitter memorie
Of what he was, what is, and what must be [25]
Worse; of worse deeds worse sufferings must
ensue.
Sometimes towards [Eden](#) which now in his view
Lay pleasant, his grievd look he fixes sad,
Sometimes towards Heav'n and the full-blazing
Sun,
Which now sat high in his [Meridian Towre](#):
Then much [revolving](#), thus in sighs began.

What is "his dire attempt"? What does he want to do?

Why can Satan not truly fly from Hell, even though he is just outside Eden?

The end of this stanza is signaling something is about to begin. What are they setting the reader up for?

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O Sun, to tell thee how I hate thy beams
That bring to my remembrance from what state
I fell, how glorious once above thy Spheare;
Till Pride and worse Ambition threw me down
Warring in Heav'n against Heav'ns matchless
King:

Ah wherefore! he deservd no such return
From me, [whom he created what I was](#)
In that bright eminence, and with his good
Upbraided none; nor was his service hard.
What could be less then to afford him praise,
The easiest recompence, and pay him thanks,
How due! yet all his good prov'd ill in me,
And wrought but malice; lifted up so high
I [sdeind](#) subjection, and thought one step
higher

Would set me highest, and in a moment [quit](#)
The debt immense of endless gratitude,
So burthensome, [still](#) paying, [still](#) to ow;
Forgetful what from him I [still](#) receivd,
And understood not that a grateful mind
By owing owes not, but still pays, at once
Indebted and dischargd; what burden then?
O had his powerful Destiny ordaind
Me some inferiour Angel, I had stood
Then happie; no unbounded hope had rais'd
Ambition. Yet why not? som other Power
As great might have aspir'd, and me though
[mean](#)

Drawn to his part; but other Powers as great
Fell not, but stand unshak'n, from within
Or from without, to all temptations arm'd. [65]

Hadst thou the same free Will and Power to
stand?
Thou hadst: whom hast thou then or what to
accuse,
But Heav'ns free Love [dealt equally](#) to all?
Be then his Love accurst, since love or hate,
To me alike, it deals eternal woe.
Nay curs'd be thou; since against his thy will
[Chose freely](#) what it now so justly rues. Me

Why does Satan hate the Sun?

What does wherefore mean?

What is Satan saying here? Is there a change of heart?

What does he imagine "som other Power" may have done?

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which way shall I flie Infinite wrauth, and
infinite despaire?
Which way I flie is Hell; my self am Hell;
And in the lowest deep a lower deep
Still threatning to devour me opens wide,
To which the Hell I suffer seems a Heav'n.
O then [at last relent](#): is there no place
Left for Repentance, none for Pardon left?
None left but by submission; and that word
Disdain forbids me, and my dread of shame
Among the Spirits beneath, whom I seduc'd
With other promises and other [vaunts](#)
Then to submit, boasting I could subdue
Th' Omnipotent. Ay me, they little know
How dearly I abide that boast so vaine,
Under what torments inwardly I groane:
While they adore me on the Throne of Hell,
With Diadem and Sceptre high advanc'd
The lower still I fall, onely Supream
In miserie; such joy Ambition findes.

What is Satan echoing in this line that came up earlier in this passage?

Why does Satan say he can't/won't submit?

What don't the other demons know?

How does he share his inner truth in this soliloquy?