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Paradise lost

Milton, John

London, 1711

Universitätsbibliothek Basel

Persistent Link: <https://doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-146767>

[Book VIII]

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Paradise Lost.

BOOK VIII.

The ARGUMENT.

Adam inquires concerning celestial Motions, is doubtfully answer'd, and exhorted to search rather things more worthy of knowledge : Adam assents, and still desirous to detain Raphael, relates to him what he remember'd since his own Creation, his talk with God concerning solitude and fit society, his first meeting and Nuptials with Eve, his discourse with the Angel thereupon ; who after admonitions repeated departs.

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VIII.

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Lib. VIII.

THE Angel
 So Char
 Thought him
 Then as new
 What thanks I
 Equal have I
 Ethioian, who
 The thief I ha
 This friendly
 Things else by
 With wonder,
 With glory
 Great; some
 Which only
 When I behold
 Of Heav'n and
 Their magnitud
 An Atom, wit
 And all her m
 Spaces incom
 Their distance
 Distantly meet
 Round this opac
 One day and nig
 Worlds besides,
 How Nature wi
 Such disproportion
 To many nobler
 Greater to man

THE Angel ended, and in *Adam's* Ear
 So Charming left his voice, that he a while
 Thought him still speaking, still stood fixt to hear;
 Then as new wak'd thus gratefully reply'd.
 What thanks sufficient, or what recompence
 Equal have I to render thee, Divine
 Historian, who thus largely hast allay'd
 The thirst I had of knowledge, and vouchsaf'd
 This friendly condescension to relate
 Things else by me unsearchable, now heard 10
 With wonder, but delight, and, as is due,
 With glory attributed to the high
 Creator; something yet of doubt remains,
 Which only thy solution can resolve.
 When I behold this goodly Frame, this World 15
 Of Heav'n and Earth consisting, and compute,
 Their magnitudes, this Earth a spot, a grain,
 An Atom, with the Firmament compar'd
 And all her number'd Stars, that seem to rowl
 Spaces incomprehensible (for such 20
 Their distance argues, and their swift return
 Diurnal) meerly to officiate light
 Round this opacous Earth, this punctual spot,
 One day and night; in all their vast survey
 Useless besides, reasoning I oft admire, 25
 How Nature wise and frugal could commit
 Such disproportions, with superfluous hand
 So many nobler Bodies to create,
 Greater so manifold to this one use,

For aught appears, and on their Orbs impose 30
 Such restless revolution day by day
 Repeated, while the sedentary Earth,
 That better might with far less compass move,
 Serv'd by more noble than her self, attains
 Her end, without least motion, and receives, 35
 As Tribute such a sumless journey brought
 Of incorporeal speed, her warmth and light;
 Speed, to describe whose swiftness Number fails.

So spake our Sire, and by his count'nacce seem'd
 Ent'ring on studious thoughts abstruse, which Eve 40
 Perceiving where she sat retir'd in sight,
 With lowliness Majestic from her seat,
 And Grace that won who saw to wish her stay,
 Rose, and went forth among her Fruits and Flours,
 To visit how they prosper'd, bud and bloom, 45
 Her Nursery; they at her coming sprung
 And toucht by her fair tendance gladlier grew.
 Yet went she not, as not with such discourse
 Delighted, or not capable her ear
 Of what was high: such pleasure she reserv'd, 50
 Adam relating, she sole Auditress;
 Her Husband the Relater she preferr'd
 Before the Angel, and of him to ask
 Chose rather; he, she knew would intermix
 Grateful digressions, and solve high dispute 55
 With conjugal Caresses, from his Lip
 Not Words alone pleas'd her. O when meet now
 Such pairs, in Love and mutual Honour joyn'd?
 With Goddess-like demeanour forth she went;

Not unattend
 A pomp of w
 And from the
 into all Eyes
 And Raphael
 benevolent and
 To ask or se
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 His Seasons, Ho
 This to attain,
 Imports not, if
 From Man or A
 Did wisely to c
 His secrets to h
 Rather admire;
 Conjecture, he h
 Him left to the
 His laughter an
 Hereafter, when
 And calculate th
 The mighty fr
 To have appear
 With Centric a
 Cycle and Epi
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 Who art so lea
 That bodies bri
 The less not be
 Earth sitting stil

Book VIII. PARADISE LOST. 223

Not unattended, for on her as Queen 60
 A pomp of winning Graces waited still,
 And from about her shot Darts of desire
 Into all Eyes to wish her still in fight.
 And *Raphael* now to *Adam's* doubt propos'd
 Benevolent and facil thus reply'd. 65

To ask or search I blame thee not, for Heav'n
 Is as the Book of God before thee set,
 Wherein to read his wondrous Works, and learn
 His Seasons, Hours, or Days, or Months, or Years :
 This to attain, whether Heav'n move or Earth, 70
 Imports not, if thou reck'n right, the rest
 From Man or Angel the great Architect
 Did wisely to conceal, and not divulge
 His secrets to be scann'd by them who ought
 Rather admire; or if they list to try 75
 Conjecture, he his Fabric of the Heav'ns
 Hath left to their disputes, perhaps to move
 His laughter at their quaint Opinions wide
 Hereafter, when they come to model Heav'n
 And calculate the Stars, how they will weild 80
 The mighty frame, how build, unbuild, contrive
 To save appearances, how gird the Sphear
 With Centric and Eccentric scribl'd o'er,
 Cycle and Epicycle, Orb in Orb :
 Already by thy reasoning this I guefs, 85
 Who art to lead thy off-spring, and supposest
 That bodies bright and greater should not serve
 The less not bright, nor Heav'n such joarnies run,
 Earth sitting still, when she alone receives

The benefit: consider first, that Great 90
 Or Bright infers not Excellence: the Earth
 Though, in comparison of Heav'n, so small,
 Nor glistering, may of solid good contain
 More plenty than the Sun that barren shines,
 Whose virtue on it self works no effect, 95
 But in the fruitful Earth; there first receiv'd
 His beams, unactive else, their vigour find.
 Yet not to Earth are those bright Luminaries
 Officious, but to thee Earth's habitant.
 And for the Heav'ns wide Circuit, let it speak 100
 The Maker's high magnificence, who built
 So spacious, and his Line stretcht out so far;
 That Man may know he dwells not in his own;
 An Edifice too large for him to fill,
 Lodg'd in a small partition, and the rest 105
 Ordain'd for uses to his Lord best known.
 The swiftness of those Circles attribute,
 Though numberless, to his Omnipotence,
 That to corporeal substances could add
 Speed almost Spiritual; me thou thinkst not slow, 110
 Who since the Morning hour set out from Heav'n
 Where God resides, and e'er mid-day arriv'd
 In *Eden*, distance inexpressible
 By Numbers that have name. But this I urge,
 Admitting Motion in the Heav'ns, to shew 115
 Invalid that which thee to doubt it mov'd;
 Not that I so affirm, though so it seem
 To thee who hast thy dwelling here on Earth.
 God to remove his ways from human sense,

the'd Heav'n
 If it presume, n
 And no advanc
 Be Comer to th
 By his attractive
 joined, dance a
 Their wandring c
 Ingressive, retro
 In fir thou see'st,
 The Planet Earth
 Instantly three
 Which else to se
 Wou'd contrary
 Or fire the Sun
 Nocturnal and D
 Invisible else abov
 Of Day and Nig
 If Earth industri
 Travelling East
 From the Suns
 Still luminous by
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 To the terrestial
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 This Earth? recip
 fields and Inhabit
 As Clouds, and C
 mits in her soft
 Altered there; an
 With their attend

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Plac'd Heav'n from Earth so far, that earthly sight,
 If it presume, might err in things too high. 121
 And no advantage gain. What if the Sun
 Be Center to the World, and other Stars
 By his attractive virtue and their own
 Incited, dance about him various rounds? 125
 Their wandering course now high, now low, then hid,
 Progressive, retrograde, or standing still,
 In six thou see'st, and what if sev'nth to these
 The Planet Earth, so stedfast though she seem,
 Insensibly three different Motions move? 130
 Which else to several Sphears thou must ascribe,
 Mov'd contrary with thwart obliquities,
 Or save the Sun his labour, and that swift
 Nocturnal and Diurnal rhomb suppos'd,
 Invisible else above all Stars, the Wheel 135
 Of Day and Night; which needs not thy belief,
 If Earth industrious of her self fetch Day
 Travelling East, and with her part averse
 From the Suns beam meet Night, her other part
 Still luminous by his ray. What if that light 140
 Sent from her through the wide transpicious aire,
 To the terrestrial Moon be as a Star
 Enlightning her by Day, as she by Night
 This Earth? reciprocal, if Land be there,
 Feilds and Inhabitants: Her spots thou see'st 145
 As Clouds, and Clouds may rain, and Rain produce
 Fruits in her soften'd Soil, for some to eat
 Alotted there; and other Suns perhaps
 With their attendant Moons thou wilt descry

Communicating Male and Female Light, 150
 Which two great Sexes animate the World,
 Stor'd in each Orb perhaps with some that live,
 For such vast room in Nature unpossess
 By living Soul, desert and desolate,
 Only to shine, yet scarce to contribute 155
 Each Orb a glimpse of Light, convey'd so far
 Down to this habitable, which returns
 Light back to them, is obvious to dispute.
 But whether thus these things, or whether not,
 Whether the Sun predominant in Heav'n 160
 Rise on the Earth, or Earth rise on the Sun,
 He from the East his flaming rode begin,
 Or She from West her silent course advance
 With inoffensive pace that spinning sleeps
 On her soft Axle, while she paces Eev'n, 165
 And bears thee soft with the smooth Air along,
 Sollicit not thy thoughts with matters hid,
 Leave them to God above, him serve and fear;
 Of other Creatures, as him pleases best,
 Where-ever plac'd, let him dispose: joy thou 170
 In what he gives to thee, this Paradise
 And thy fair *Eve*; Heav'n is for thee too high
 To know what passes there; be lowly wise:
 Think only what concerns thee and thy being;
 Dream not of other Worlds, what Creatures there
 Live, in what state, condition or degree, 176
 Contented that thus far hath been reveal'd
 Not of Earth only but of highest Heav'n.

To whom thus *Adam* clear'd of doubt, reply'd,

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 God hath bid
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 Therefore fro
 A lower figh
 Useful, whence
 Of something
 By suffering, a
 Thee I have hea
 For my remem
 My Story, whic
 And Day is yet
 How sorry to d
 Inning thee to
 And, were it au

Book VIII. PARADISE LOST. 227

How fully hast thou satisfy'd me, pure 180
 Intelligence of Heav'n, Angel serene,
 And freed from intricacies, taught to live,
 The easiest way, nor with perplexing thoughts
 To interrupt the sweet of Life, from which
 God hath bid dwell far off all anxious cares, 185
 And not molest us, unless we our selves
 Seek them with wandering thoughts, and notions vain.
 But apt the Mind or Fancy is to rove
 Uncheckt, and of her roving is no end;
 Till warn'd, or by experience taught, she learn, 190
 That not to know at large of things remote
 From use, obscure and futtle, but to know
 That which before us lies in daily life,
 Is the prime Wisdom, what is more, is fume,
 Or emptiness, or fond impertinence, 195
 And renders us in things that most concern
 Unpractis'd, unprepar'd, and still to seek.
 Therefore from this high pitch let us descend
 A lower flight, and speak of things at hand
 Useful, whence haply mention may arise, 200
 Of something not unseasonable to ask
 By sufferance, and thy wonted favour deign'd.
 Thee I have heard relating what was done
 E'er my remembrance: now hear me relate
 My Story, which perhaps thou hast not heard; 205
 And Day is yet not spent, till then thou seest
 How futtle to detain thee I devise,
 Inviting thee to hear while I relate,
 Fond, were it not in hope of thy reply :

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For while I sit with thee, I seem in Heav'n, 210
And sweeter thy discourse is to my ear
Than Fruits of Palm-tree pleasantest to thirst
And hunger both, from labour, at the hour
Of sweet repast; they satiate, and soon fill,
Tho' pleasant, but thy words with Grace Divine 215
Imbu'd, bring to their sweetness no satiety.

To whom thus *Raphael* answer'd heav'nly meek,
Nor are thy lips ungraceful, Sire of men,
Nor tongue ineloquent; for God on thee
Abundantly his gifts hath also pour'd 220
Inward and outward both, his image fair:
Speaking or mute all comeliness and grace
Attends thee, and each word, each motion forms,
Nor less think we in Heav'n of thee on Earth
Than of our fellow servant, and inquire 225
Gladly into the ways of God and Man:
For God we see hath honour'd thee, and set
On Man his Equal Love: say therefore on;
For I that Day was absent, as beset,
Bound on a voyage uncouth and obscure, 230
Far on excursion toward the Gates of Hell;
Squar'd in full Legion (such command we had)
To see that none thence issu'd forth a spy,
Or enemy, while God was in his work,
Lest he incens'd at such eruption bold, 235
Destruction with Creation might have mixt.
Not that they durst without his leave attempt,
But us he sends upon his high behests
For state, as Sov'reign King, and to enure

Our prompt
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Noise, other
Torment, and
Glad we return
Ever Sabbath E
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Induc'd me. A
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In balmy Swea
Soon dry'd, an
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And gaz'd a
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As thitherwar
Stood on my f
Hill, Dale, and
And liquid Lap
Creatures that
Beds on the bra
With fragrance
My self I then
Survey'd, and f
With supple join

Book VIII. PARADISE LOST. 229

Our prompt obedience. Fast we found, fast shut
The dismal Gates, and barricado'd strong; 241

But long e'er our approaching heard within
Noise, other than the sound of Dance or Song,
Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage.

Glad we return'd up to the coasts of Light 245
E'er Sabbath Eev'ning: so we had in charge.

But thy relation now; for I attend,
Pleas'd with thy words no less than thou with mine.

So spake the Godlike Power, and thus our Sire.
For Man to tell how human Life began 250
Is hard; for who himself beginning knew?

Desire with thee still longer to converse
Induc'd me. As new wak'd from soundest sleep
Soft on the flourey herb I found me laid
In Balmy Sweat, which with his Beams the Sun 255
Soon dry'd, and on the reaking moisture fed.

Strait toward Heav'n my wondring Eyes I turn'd,
And gaz'd a while the ample Sky, till rais'd
By quick instinctive motion up I sprung,

As thitherward endeavouring, and upright 260
Stood on my feet; about me round I saw

Hill, Dale, and shady Woods, and sunny Plains,
And liquid Lapse of murmuring Streams; by these
Creatures that liv'd, and mov'd, and walk'd, or flew,
Birds on the branches warbling; all things smil'd, 265
With fragrance and with joy my heart o'erflow'd.

My self I then perus'd, and Limb by Limb
Survey'd, and sometimes went, and sometimes ran
With supple joints and lively vigour led:

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But who I was, or where, or from what cause, 270
 Knew not; to speak I try'd, and forthwith spake,
 My Tongue obey'd and readily could name
 What e'er I saw. Thou Sun, said I, fair Light,
 And thou enlighten'd Earth, so fresh and gay,
 Ye Hills, and Dales, ye Rivers, Woods, and Plains,
 And ye that live and move, fair Creatures, tell, 276
 Tell, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here?
 Not of my self; by some great Maker then,
 In goodness and in power præminent;
 Tell me, how may I know him, how adore, 280
 From whom I have that thus I move and live,
 And feel that I am happier than I know.
 While thus I call'd, and stray'd I knew not whither,
 From where I first drew Aire, and first beheld
 This happy Light, when answer none return'd, 285
 On a green shady Bank profuse of Flours
 Pensive I sate me down; there gentle sleep
 First found me, and with soft oppression seis'd
 My droused sense, untroubl'd, though I thought
 I then was passing to my former state 290
 Insensible, and forthwith to dissolve:
 When suddenly stood at my Head a dream,
 Whose inward apparition gently mov'd
 My fancy to believe I yet had being, 294
 And liv'd: One came, methought, of shape Divine,
 And said, thy Mansion wants thee, *Adam*, rise
 First Man, of Men innumerable ordain'd
 First Father, call'd by thee I come thy Guide
 To the Garden of bliss, thy seat prepar'd

So saying, b
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 Smooth fl
 A woody M
 A Circuit wid
 Planted, with
 Of Earth bef
 Load'n with
 Tempting, fir
 To pluck and
 Before mine
 Had lively th
 My wandring,
 Up hither, fro
 Presence Divin
 In adoration a
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 Said mildly,
 Above, or no
 This Paradise
 To Till and
 Of every Tree
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 Out of the Tree
 Knowledge of
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 Remember wha
 And soon the bi
 The day thou e

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So saying, by the hand he took me rais'd, 300
 And over Fields and Waters, as in Aire
 Smooth sliding without step, last led me up
 A woody Mountain; whose high top was plain,
 A Circuit wide, enclos'd, with goodliest Trees 304
 Planted, with Walks, and Bowers, that what I saw
 Of Earth before scarce pleasant seem'd. Each Tree
 Load'n with fairest Fruit that hung to the Eye
 Tempting, stirr'd in me sudden appetite
 To pluck and eat; whereat I wak'd and found
 Before mine Eyes all real, as the dream 310
 Had lively shadow'd: Here had new begun
 My wandring, had not he who was my Guide
 Up hither, from among the Trees appear'd
 Presence Divine. Rejoycing, but with awe
 In adoration at his feet I fell 315
 Submiss: he rear'd me, and whom thou soughtst I am,
 Said mildly, Author of all this thou seest
 Above, or round about thee or beneath.
 This Paradise I give thee, count it thine
 To Till and keep, and of the Fruit to eat: 320
 Of every Tree that in the Garden grows
 Eat freely with glad heart; fear here no dearth:
 But of the Tree whose operation brings
 Knowledge of good and ill, which I have set
 The Pledge of thy Obedience and thy Faith, 325
 Amid the Garden by the Tree of Life,
 Remember what I warn thee, shun to taste
 And shun the bitter consequence, for know,
 The day thou eat'st thereof, my sole command

Transgest, inevitably thou shalt die; 330
 From that day mortal, and this happy State
 Shalt lose, expell'd from hence into a World
 Of woe and sorrow. Sternly he pronounc'd
 The rigid interdiction, which resounds
 Yet dreadful in mine ear, though in my choice 335
 Not to incur; but soon his clear aspect
 Return'd and gracious purpose thus renew'd.
 Not only these fair bounds, but all the Earth
 To thee and to thy Race I give; as Lords
 Possess it, and all things that therein live, 340
 Or live in Sea, or Aire, Beast, Fish, and Fowle.
 In sign whereof each Bird and Beast behold
 After their kinds; I bring them to receive
 From thee their Names; and pay thee fealty
 With low subjection; understand the same 345
 Of Fish within their watry residence,
 Not hither summon'd, since they cannot change
 Their Element to draw the thinner Aire.
 As thus he spake, each Bird and Beast behold
 Approaching two and two, These cowering low 350
 With blandishment, each Bird stoop'd on his wing.
 I nam'd them, as they pass'd, and understood
 Their Nature, with such knowledge God endu'd
 My sudden apprehension: but in these
 I found not what me thought I wanted still; 355
 And to the Heav'nly vision thus presum'd.

O by what Name, for thou above all these,
 Above mankind, or aught than mankind higher,
 Surpassest far my naming, how may I

Adore thee,
 And all this
 So amply,
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 I see not wh
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 To come and
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 And reason
 Find pastime,
 So spake the
 So ordering,
 And humble
 Let not m
 My Maker,
 Hast thou not
 And these infe
 Among unequa
 Can sort, what
 Which must b
 Giv'n and rece
 The one intent
 Cannot well su
 Tations alike;

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Adore thee, Author of this Universe, 360
And all this good to man, for whose well being
So amply, and with hands so liberal
Thou hast provided all things : but with me
I see not who partakes. In solitude
What happiness, who can enjoy alone, 365
Or all enjoying, what contentment find ?

Thus I presumptuous ; and the vision bright,
As with a smile more brighten'd, thus reply'd.

What call'st thou solitude, is not the Earth
With various living creatures, and the Aire 370
Replenish'd, and all these at thy command
To come and play before thee, know'st thou not
Their language and their ways, they also know,
And reason not contemptibly ; with these
Find pastime, and bear rule ; thy Realm is large. 375
So spake the Universal Lord, and seem'd
So ordering. I with leave of speech implor'd,
And humble deprecation thus reply'd.

Let not my words offend thee, Heav'nly Power,
My Maker, be propitious while I speak. 380
Hast thou not made me here thy substitute,
And these inferiour far beneath me set ?
Among unequals what society
Can sort, what harmony or true delight ?
Which must be mutual, in proportion due 385
Giv'n and receiv'd ; but in disparity
The one intense, the other still remiss
Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove
Tedious alike : Of fellowship I speak

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Such as I seek, fit to participate 390

All rational delight, wherein the brute

Cannot be human confort; they rejoyce

Each with their kind, Lion with Lioness;

So fully them in pairs thou hast combin'd; 394

Much less can Bird with Beast, or Fish with Fowle

So well converse, nor with the Ox the Ape;

Worse than can Man with Beast, and least of all.

Whereto th'Almighty answer'd, not displeas'd.

A nice and suttile happiness I see

Thou to thy self propos'st, in the choice 400

Of thy Associates, *Adam*, and wilt taste

No pleasure, though in pleasure, solitary.

What thinkest thou then of me, and this my State,

Seem I to thee sufficiently possess

Of happiness, or not? who am alone 405

From all Eternity, for none I know

Second to me or like, equal much less.

How have I then with whom to hold converse

Save with the Creatures which I made, and those

To me inferiour, infinite descents 410

Beneath what other Creatures are to thee?

He ceas'd, I lowly answer'd. To attain

The heighth and depth of thy Eternal ways

All human thoughts come short, Supream of things;

Thou in thy self art perfect, and in thee 415

Is no deficiency found; not so is Man

But in degree, the cause of his desire

By conversation with his like to help,

Or solace his defects. No need that thou

Book vii.

Shouldst pe

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Invented thee,

To see how thou

What next I bri

Book VIII. PARADISE LOST. 235

Shouldst propagate, already infinite ; 420

And through all numbers absolute, though One;

But Man by number is to manifest

His single imperfection, and beget

Like of his like, his Image multiply'd,

In unity defective, which requires 425

Collateral love, and dearest amity.

Thou in thy secrecie although alone,

Best with thy self accompany'd, seek'st not

Social communication, yet so pleas'd,

Canst raise thy Creature to what heighth thou wilt

Of Union or Communion, deify'd ; 430

I by conversing cannot these erect

From prone, nor in their ways complacence find.

Thus I embolden'd spake, and freedom us'd

Permissive, and acceptance found, which gain'd 435

This answer from the gracious voice Divine.

Thus far to try thee, *Adam*, I was pleas'd,

And find thee knowing not of Beasts alone,

Which thou hast rightly nam'd, but of thy self,

Expressing well the spirit within thee free, 440

My Image, not imparted to the Brute,

Whose fellowship therefore unmeet for thee

Good reason was thou freely shouldst dislike,

And be so minded still ; I, e'er thou spak'st,

Knew it not good for Man to be alone, 445

And no such company as then thou saw'st

Intended thee, for trial only brought,

To see how thou couldst judge of fit and meet :

What next I bring shall please thee, be assur'd,

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Thy likeness, thy fit help, thy other self, 459
Thy wish exactly to thy hearts desire.

He ended, or I heard no more, for now
My earthly by his Heav'nly overpower'd,
Which it had long stood under, strein'd to the height
In that celestial Colloquy sublime, 455

As with an object that excels the sense,
Dazl'd and spent, sunk down, and sought repair
Of sleep, which instantly fell on me, call'd
By Nature as in aid, and clos'd mine Eyes.
Mine eyes he clos'd, but open left the Cell 460
Of Fancy my internal sight, by which

Abstract as in a tranſc methought I ſaw,
Though ſleeping, where I lay, and ſaw the ſhape
Still glorious before whom awake I ſtood;
Who ſlooping open'd my left ſide, and took 465

From thence a Rib, with cordial ſpirits warm,
And Life-blood ſtreaming freſh; wide was the wound,
But ſuddenly with fleſh fill'd up and heal'd:
The Rib he form'd and faſhion'd with his hands;
Under his forming hands a Creature grew, 470
Manlike, but different Sex, ſo lovely fair,

That what ſeem'd fair in all the World, ſeem'd now
Mean, or in her ſumm'd up, in her contain'd
And in her looks, which from that time infus'd
Sweetneſs into my heart, unfeſt before, 475

And into all things from her Aire inspir'd
The ſpirit of love and amorous delight.
She diſappear'd, and left me dark, I wak'd
To find her, or for ever to deplore

Book VII.

Her loſs, and
When out o
Such as I
With what a
To make he
Led by her
And guided
Of nuptial Sa
Grace was in
In every geſt
Lovejoy'd c
This turn
Thy words,
Giver of all
Of all thy gi
Done of my
Before me;
Extracted;
Father and
And they
She heard
Yet Innocenc
Her virtue an
That would b
Not obvious,
The more de
Nature her ſe
Wrought in
I follow'd he
And with ob

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Her loss, and other pleasures to abjure : 430

When out of hope, behold her, not far off,
Such as I saw her in my dream, adorn'd
With what all Earth or Heaven could bestow
To make her amiable: On she came,

Led by her Heav'nly Maker, though unseen, 435

And guided by his voice, nor uninform'd

Of nuptial Sanctity and marriage Rites:

Grace was in all her steps, Heav'n in her Eye,

In every gesture dignity and love.

I overjoy'd could not forbear aloud. 440

This turn hath made amends; thou hast fulfill'd

Thy words, Creator bounteous and benign,

Giver of all things fair, but fairest this

Of all thy gifts, nor enviest. I now see

Bone of my Bone, Flesh of my Flesh, my Self 445

Before me; Woman is her Name, of Man

Extracted; for this cause he shall forgo

Father and Mother, and to his Wife adhere;

And they shall be one Flesh, one Heart, one Soul.

She heard me thus, and tho' divinely brought, 500

Yet Innocence and Virgin Modesty,

Her virtue and the conscience of her worth,

That would be woo'd, and not unsought be won,

Not obvious, not obtrusive, but retir'd,

The more desirable, or to say all, 505

Nature her self, though pure of sinful thought,

Wrought in her so, that seeing me, she turn'd;

I follow'd her, she what was Honour knew,

And with obsequious Majesty approv'd

My pleas'd reason. To the Nuptial Bowre 510
 I led her blushing like the Morn: all Heav'n,
 And happy Constellations on that hour
 Shed their selectest influence; the Earth
 Gave sign of gratulation, and each Hill;
 Joyous the Birds; fresh Gales and gentle Aires 515
 Whisper'd it to the Woods, and from their wings
 Flung Rose, flung Odours from the spicy Shrub,
 Disporting, till the amorous Bird of Night
 Sung Spousal, and bid haste the Eev'ning Star
 On his Hill top, to light the bridal Lamp. 520
 Thus have I told thee all my State, and brought
 My Story to the sum of earthly bliss
 Which I enjoy, and must confess to find
 In all things else delight indeed, but such
 As us'd or not, works in the mind no change, 525
 Nor vehement desire, these delicacies
 I mean of Taste, Sight, Smell, Herbs, Fruits, and Flours,
 Walks, and the melody of Birds; but here
 Far otherwise, transported I behold,
 Transported touch; her passion first I felt, 530
 Commotion strange, in all enjoyments else
 Superiour and unmov'd, here only weak
 Against the charm of Beauties powerful glance.
 Or Nature fail'd in me, and left some part
 Not proof enough such Object to sustain, 535
 Or from my side subducting, took perhaps
 More than enough; at least on her bestow'd
 Too much of Ornament, in outward shew
 Elaborate, of inward less exact.

For well I us
 Of Nature he
 And inward
 In outward all
 His Image wh
 The character
 O'er other Cre
 Her loveliness
 And in her self
 Her own, that
 Seems wisest, v
 All higher kno
 Degraded, Wif
 Looks discour
 Authority and
 As one intende
 Occasionally;
 Greatness of m
 Build in her l
 About her, as
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 Accuse not M
 Do thou but thi
 Of wisdom, the
 Dismiss not her
 ly attributing o
 Less excellent, a
 For what admir
 An outside: fair
 Thy cherishing, ti

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For well I understand in the prime end 540

Of Nature her th'inferiour, in the mind

And inward Faculties, which most excel,

In outward also her resembling less

His Image who made both, and less expressing

The character of that Dominion giv'n 545

O'er other Creatures; yet when I approach

Her loveliness, so absolute she seems

And in her self compleat, so well to know

Her own, that what she wills to do or say,

Seems wisest, virtuousest, discreetest, best; 550

All higher knowledge in her presence falls

Degraded, Wisdom in discourse with her

Looses discount'nanc'd, and like folly shews;

Authority and Reason on her wait,

As one intended first, not after made 555

Occasionally; and to consummare all,

Greatness of mind and nobleness their seat

Build in her loveliest, and create an awe

About her, as a guard Angelic plac'd.

To whom the Angel with contracted brow. 560

Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part;

Do thou but thine, and be not dissident

Of Wisdom, she deserts thee not, if thou

Dismiss not her, when most thou needst her nigh,

By attributing overmuch to things 565

Less excellent, as thou thy self perceiv'st.

For what admir'st thou, what transports thee so,

An outside? fair no doubt, and worthy well

Thy cherishing, thy honouring, and thy love,

Not thy subjection: weigh with her thy self; 570
 Then value: Oft-times nothing profits more
 Than self esteem, grounded on just and right
 Well manag'd; of that skill the more thou know'st,
 The more she will acknowledge thee her Head,
 And to realities yield all her Shows: 575

Made so adorn for thy delight the more,
 So awful, that with honour thou may'st love
 Thy mate, who sees when thou art seen least wise.
 But if the sense of touch whereby mankind
 Is propagated seem such dear delight 580
 Beyond all other, think the same vouchsaf'd
 To Cattel and each Beast; which would not be
 To them made common and divulg'd, if aught
 Therein enjoy'd were worthy to subdue
 The Soul of Man, or passion in him move. 585

What higher in her society thou findest
 Attractive, human, rational, love still;
 In loving thou dost well, in passion not,
 Wherein true Love consists not; love refines
 The thoughts, and heart enlarges, hath his seat 590
 In Reason, and is judicious, is the scale
 By which to heav'nly Love thou mayst ascend,
 Not sunk in carnal pleasure, for which cause
 Among the Beasts no Mate for thee was found.

To whom thus half abash'd *Adam* reply'd. 595
 Neither her out-side form'd so fair, nor aught
 In procreation common to all kinds
 (Though higher of the genial Bed by far,
 And with mysterious reverence I deem)

So much delig
 Those thousan
 From all her
 And sweet cou
 Union of Mind
 Harmony to be
 More grateful t
 Yet these subje
 What inward th
 Who meet with
 Variouslly repres
 Approve the b
 To love thou h
 Leads up to He
 Bear with me th
 Love not the hea
 Expects they, by
 luadance, virtua
 To whom the
 Celestial rolie ro
 answer'd. Let it
 To happy, and w
 Whatever pure th
 And pure thou we
 In eminence, and
 Of membrane, joy
 Easier than Aire w
 That they mix, U
 Desiring; not rest
 as Flesh to mix w

So much delights me as those graceful acts, 600
 Those thousand decencies that daily flow
 From all her words and actions mixt with Love
 And sweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
 Union of Mind, or in us both one Soul;
 Harmony to behold in wedded pair 605
 More grateful than harmonious sound to the ear.
 Yet these subject nor; I to thee disclose
 What inward thence I feel, not therefore foil'd,
 Who meet with various objects, from the sense
 Variously representing; yet still free 610
 Approve the best, and follow what I approve.
 To love thou blam'st me not, for love thou say'st
 Leads up to Heav'n, is both the way and guide;
 Bear with me then, if lawful what I ask; 614
 Love not the heav'nly Spirits, and how their Love
 Express they, by looks only, or do they mix
 Irradiance, virtual or immediate touch?

To whom the Angel with a smile that glow'd
 Celestial rosie red, Love's proper hue,
 Answer'd. Let it suffice thee that thou know'st 620
 Us happy, and without Love no happiness.
 Whatever pure thou in thy body enjoy'st
 (And pure thou wert created) we enjoy
 In eminence, and obstacle find none
 Of membrane, joynt, or limb, exclusive bars; 625
 Easier than Aire with Aire, if Spirits embrace,
 Total they mix, Union of Pure with Pure
 Desiring; nor restrain'd conveyance need
 As Flesh to mix with Flesh, or Soul with Soul,

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But I can now no more; the parting Sun 630
Beyond the Earth's green Cape and verdant Isles
Hesperian sets, my Signal to depart.

Be strong, live happy, and love, but first of all
Him who to love is to obey, and keep
His great command; take heed lest *Passion* sway 635
Thy Judgment to do ought, which else free Will
Would not admit; thine and of all thy Sons
The weal or woe in thee is plac'd; beware.

I in thy persevering shall rejoice,
And all the Blest: stand fast; to stand or fall 640
Free in thine own Arbitrement it lies.
Perfect within, no outward aid require;
And all temptation to transgress repel.

So saying, he arose; whom *Adam* thus
Follow'd with benediction. Since to part, 645
Go heav'nly Guest, *Ethereal* Messenger,
Sent from whose sov'reign goodness I adore.
Gentle to me and affable hath been
Thy condescension, and shall be honour'd ever
With grateful *Memorie*: thou to mankind 650
Be good and friendly still, and oft return.

So parted they, the Angel up to Heav'n
From the thick shade, and *Adam* to his Bowre.

The End of the Eighth Book.

Book VIII

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