

PARADISE LOST

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE



TO JOIN THE REBELLION, TURN TO PAGE 96...

Heaven or Hell? God or the Devil? Freedom or Slavery? Truth or Lie? Virtue or Vice?
Salvation or Damnation?

To seventeenth-century poet, pamphleteer, and revolutionary John Milton, the universe presents us with nothing but a series of terrifying and exhilarating choices, and the measure of even human being is how they navigate their way through the labyrinth of bewildering, beautiful, and terrible choices of life, be they physical, political, intellectual or spiritual. Milton's vision of the danger and glory of free choice reaches its great expression in his monumental epic about God, Satan, Death, Love, Good, Evil, and Choice: *Paradise Lost*.

Paradise Lost is an epic poem that goes back to the beginnings of the universe to tell the story of Satan's first battle with God, the creation of Eden, and the fall of humanity. In this seminar, we will engage in a semester-long study of this radical and groundbreaking masterpiece, that has offered a perennial challenge to every new generation of readers who choose to enter into its confounding, tragic, and often beautiful world. We will read Milton's early writings that anticipate his greatest work, analyze the literary traditions of classical epic, medieval romance, and early modern drama that Milton draws on for his encyclopedic poem, and locate *Paradise Lost* in the intellectual, political, theological and historical upheavals of Reformation England.

Our reading list will include primary texts by John Milton and his contemporaries, critical texts from modern scholarship, and of course, the entirety of *Paradise Lost*.