



CHARACTERS AND THEIR FEATURES IN THE POEM *PARADISE LOST* BY JOHN MILTON

Khusanova Sadokat Jovliyevna

Sadokathusanova7@gmail.com

*Master of Kimyo International University In Tashkent
Branch Samarkand*

Abstract: John Milton, the distinguished English poet of the 17th century, made a profound contribution to world literature through his masterpiece *Paradise Lost*. This work is widely regarded as one of the greatest epic poems in English literature, notable for its rich characterization, poetic style, and deep philosophical themes. This article examines the significance of Milton's writings with a particular focus on the main characters of *Paradise Lost* and their distinctive features. Through complex figures such as Satan, God, Adam, and Eve, Milton explores universal themes including the conflict between good and evil, free will, obedience, pride, and human fallibility. These characters are not only central to the narrative but also serve as representations of moral and spiritual ideas. Furthermore, Milton's masterful use of blank verse and epic conventions influenced literary traditions across different cultures and generations. His works go beyond poetry, as his prose writings contributed to important discussions on political freedom, democracy, and individual rights. Milton's literary legacy continues to shape both artistic expression and intellectual thought, making *Paradise Lost* not only a timeless masterpiece but also a profound reflection of human nature and universal values.

Keywords: *Paradise Lost*, John Milton, Characters, Satan, Adam and Eve, Epic Poetry, Good and Evil.

Introduction

John Milton (1608–1674) was one of the most important figures in English literature. He was not only a poet but also a thinker and political writer who lived during a time of great political and religious change in England. His most famous work, *Paradise Lost*, is considered one of the greatest epic poems in the English language.

Milton wrote during the period of the English Civil War and the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell. His political views, especially his support for individual freedom and criticism of monarchy, strongly influenced his writings. Despite facing difficulties later in life, including blindness and political isolation, Milton remained committed to his ideals.



His works reflect deep knowledge of literature, religion, philosophy, and even science. In *Paradise Lost*, he combines biblical stories with philosophical ideas to explore themes such as obedience, rebellion, and redemption. Milton's writing style, especially his use of blank verse, set a new standard for epic poetry.

Today, Milton is remembered as a writer who not only shaped English literature but also influenced global literary traditions. His works continue to inspire readers, writers, and scholars around the world.

John Milton, one of the most influential poets of the 17th century, wrote *Paradise Lost* as an epic poem that explores the biblical story of the Fall of Man. The poem presents a wide range of characters, both divine and human, each representing different moral and philosophical ideas.

Milton's characters are not simple figures; instead, they are complex and dynamic. Through them, he discusses important themes such as the struggle between good and evil, the importance of obedience to God, and the consequences of pride and disobedience. This article focuses on the major characters in *Paradise Lost* and examines their key features and roles in the poem.

Satan: The Complex Rebel

Satan is the most prominent and complex character in *Paradise Lost*. Originally known as Lucifer, he was one of God's most powerful angels. However, his pride leads him to rebel against God.

Satan is often seen as a heroic figure because of his courage, determination, and leadership. He refuses to accept defeat and famously declares that it is "better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." However, as the poem progresses, his character becomes more corrupt, both morally and physically. Milton presents Satan as a symbol of pride and rebellion. Although he appears strong and persuasive, his actions ultimately lead to destruction and suffering, showing the dangers of excessive ambition.

God: The Supreme Authority

God in *Paradise Lost* is portrayed as the all-powerful creator and ruler of the universe. He represents justice, order, and divine authority. God is omniscient, meaning he knows everything, including the future actions of Satan, Adam, and Eve. Despite this, God allows free will, giving his creations the ability to choose between good and evil. His character reflects fairness and wisdom, as he punishes disobedience but also provides a path for redemption.

The Son of God: The Symbol of Sacrifice

The Son of God represents mercy, love, and sacrifice. He acts as a mediator between God and humanity. While God represents justice, the Son represents compassion.



He plays a crucial role in defeating Satan and later offers himself as a sacrifice to save mankind. This highlights the theme of redemption and the possibility of forgiveness.

Adam: The Rational Human

Adam is the first man, created by God as a perfect and rational being. He is obedient and wise but also capable of making mistakes.

Adam's greatest strength is his reason, but his love for Eve becomes his weakness. When Eve eats the forbidden fruit, Adam chooses to join her, even though he knows it is wrong. This shows the complexity of human emotions and the power of love.

Eve: Beauty and Temptation

Eve is the first woman and represents beauty and emotional sensitivity. However, she is also portrayed as more vulnerable to temptation.

Satan deceives Eve by appealing to her curiosity and vanity. Her decision to eat the forbidden fruit leads to the Fall of Man. Despite her mistake, Eve shows regret and seeks forgiveness, making her a deeply human character.

Raphael and Michael: Divine Messengers

Raphael and Michael are archangels who serve as messengers and protectors. Raphael warns Adam and Eve about Satan's plans and explains the story of the rebellion in Heaven. Michael, on the other hand, is more strict and authoritative. He shows Adam visions of the future, including the consequences of sin. Both angels play important roles in guiding humanity.

Sin and Death: Symbols of Evil

Sin and Death are symbolic characters representing the consequences of Satan's rebellion. Sin is depicted as the daughter of Satan, while Death is their offspring.

They guard the gates of Hell and later enter the world after the Fall. These characters emphasize the idea that disobedience leads to suffering and destruction.

Other Fallen Angels

Together, they show different aspects of corruption and moral weakness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, *Paradise Lost* presents a rich and complex set of characters, each representing different moral, spiritual, and philosophical ideas. Through these characters, John Milton masterfully explores universal themes such as free will, obedience, pride, temptation, and redemption, which remain relevant across different cultures and historical periods. The characters in the poem are not simply divided into good and evil; instead, they are multidimensional and psychologically complex. Figures like Satan demonstrate ambition and determination but also destructive pride, while Adam and Eve reflect human



weakness, love, and the capacity for growth and repentance. This complexity allows readers to connect with the characters on a deeper level and to reflect on their own moral choices.

Furthermore, the poem highlights the consequences of disobedience and the importance of accepting responsibility for one's actions. At the same time, it offers hope through the idea of forgiveness and salvation, showing that even after failure, redemption is possible.

As a result, *Paradise Lost* remains one of the most significant works in world literature. Its powerful themes, memorable characters, and philosophical depth continue to inspire readers, writers, and scholars around the world, ensuring its lasting influence on both literary studies and human thought.

REFERENCES

1. John Milton. (1667). *Paradise Lost*. London: Samuel Simmons.
2. John Milton. (1674). *Paradise Lost* (Revised ed.). London.
3. Blake, W. (1903). *Illustrations of the Book of Job*. New York: D. Appleton & Company.
4. Shelley, M. (1818). *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*. London: Lackington, Hughes, Harding, Mavor & Jones.
5. Keats, J. (1818). *Endymion*. London: Taylor and Hessey.
6. Fish, S. (2006). *Literary Theory and Criticism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
7. Namozova, S. (2023). Exploring the development and study of Shakespearean period in Uzbekistan. *Yangi O'zbekistonda tabiiy va ijtimoiy-gumanitar fanlar respublika ilmiy-amaliy konferensiyasi*, 1(8), 33–36.
8. Jumanova, S. (2024). Exploring the structural features of compound nouns referring to the names of clothes. *Mental Enlightenment Scientific-Methodological Journal*, 5(02), 131–137.
9. Karimova, I. (2024). Exploring the structural and semantic features of numbers expressing quantity and measurement in English and Uzbek languages. *Mental Enlightenment Scientific-Methodological Journal*, 5(02), 143–150.
10. Elmirzayeva, M. (2023). Linguistic features of the term "social protection" in English and Uzbek languages. *European International Journal of Philological Sciences*, 3(10), 24–28.
11. Urinovich, J. S. (2023). Features of the terminology of the English language in the field of electric power industry. *Intent Research Scientific Journal*, 2(2), 55–57.

INTERNET SOURCES

1. Encyclopaedia Britannica. *John Milton*. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Milton>



2. SparkNotes. *Paradise Lost Summary*. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/paradiselost/>
3. Poetry Foundation. *Paradise Lost by John Milton*. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45752/paradise-lost>
4. Shmoop. *Paradise Lost Characters Analysis*. Retrieved March 17, 2026, from <https://www.shmoop.com/study-guides/literature/paradise-lost/characters>
5. Mukhtarova, M. S., Namozova, S. B., & Mardonova, L. U. (2023). A lyrical view of history. *Journal of Law and Sustainable Development*, 11(12), e2676. <https://doi.org/10.55908/sdgs.v11i12.2676>