

**ENGL 220 Milton**  
**Professor John Rogers**

*Paradise Lost* (1667)

Since first this Subject for Heroic Song  
Pleas'd me long choosing, and beginning late.  
--*Paradise Lost* 9.25-26

See how from far upon the Eastern road  
The star-led Wizards haste with odors sweet:  
O run, prevent them with thy humble ode,  
And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;  
Have thou the honor first, thy Lord to greet.  
--Milton, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" (1629)

His work is not the greatest of heroick poems, only because it is not the first.  
--Dr. Johnson, *Life of Milton*

Nor did God merely breathe that spirit into man, but moulded it in each individual, and infused it throughout, enduing and embellishing it with its proper faculties.  
--Milton, *De doctrina Christiana (On Christian Doctrine)*, chapter 7

Is this the Seat our Conqueror has given?  
And this the Climate we must change for Heaven?  
These Regeions and this Realm my Wars have got;  
This mournful Empire is the Loser's Lot.  
--John Dryden, *State of Innocence and Fall of Man: An Opera* (cf. *Paradise Lost* 1.242-45)

For Spirits when they please  
Can either Sex assume, or both; so soft  
And uncompounded is thir Essence pure,  
Not ti'd or manacl'd with joint or limb,  
Nor founded on the brittle strength of bones,  
Like cumbrous flesh; but in what shape they  
choose  
Dilated or condens't, bright or obscure,  
Can execute thir aery purposes,  
And works of love or enmity fulfil.  
(*PL* 1.423-31)

Whatever pure thou in the body enjoy'st  
(And pure thou were created) we enjoy  
In eminence, and obstacle find none  
Of membrane, joint, or limb, exclusive bars:  
Easier than air with air, if Spirits embrace,  
Total they mix, union of pure with pure  
Desiring.  
(*PL* 8.622-28)

*Adam Unparadis'd*  
incubabat--brooded  
monism, vitalism--see ch. 7 of *The Christian Doctrine*  
iambic pentameter  
end-stopped verse, enjambment

Open Yale courses