

Paradise lost.
first book.

Of mans first disobedience, & the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortall taste
Brought death into the world, & all our vice,
Withesse of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, & regaine the blisfull seat,
Sing heavenly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb or of Sinai didst inspire
That shepherd, who first taught the chosen seed,
In the beginning how the heavens & earth
10 Repent of Chaos: Or if Sion hill
Delight thee more, & Silons sacred mount
Fast by the Decades of years; I to thee
Invoke thy aid: to my devout request,
That with no middle flight intends to soar
Above th' Aonian mount, while it pursues
Things unattempted yet in prose or verse.
And chiefly thou O Spirit that dost prefer
Before all temples th' upright heart & pure
Instant me, for thou knowest, thou from the first
20 wast present, & with mighty wings outspread
Dove-like satst brooding on the vast Abyss
And mad'st it pregnant: What in me is dark
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