

Satan in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, the Bible and the Quran: A Study

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Abstract

John Milton was born in December 9, 1608 in London, England and died in November 8, 1674?, London. Milton is considered the most significant English author after William Shakespeare. Milton is best known for Paradise Lost, widely regarded as the greatest epic poem in English. Milton has defined Satan as the hero of Paradise Lost using his own conscience. Satan, in the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), the prince of evil spirits and adversary of God. Satan is traditionally understood as an angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven with other "fallen" angels before the creation of humankind. Iblīs, in Islam, the personal name of the Devil, possibly derived from the Greek diabolos. Iblīs, the counterpart of the Jewish and Christian Satan, is also referred to as 'Aduw Allāh ("Enemy of God"), al-Aduw ("Enemy"), or, when he is portrayed as a tempter; al-Shayṭān ("Demon"). The aim of this paper is to justify Milton's ideas on Satan with that of the major religious scriptures such as the Quran and the Bible for religious pedagogy.

Key Words: Conscience, Misdemeanor, Adam, Bible, Qur'an.

Introduction

Satan is the personification of evil as it is conceived in many and various cultures and religious traditions. (Wikipedia:2020). Satan is the first disobedient towards God in of all God's creation. God has said, "We have certainly created you, [O Mankind], and given you [human] form. Then We said to the angels, "Prostrate to Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblis. He was not of those who prostrated." He [Iblis] said, "My Lord, because You have put me in error, I will surely make [disobedience] attractive to them on earth, and I will mislead them all. Except, among them, Your chosen servants". 17th century English poet John Milton represents Satan as the most important character and the icon in his work *Paradise Lost* (1608-1674). Satan was portrayed by Milton as the popular embodiment of evil. Milton permitted Satan to develop into a character far more appealing than Milton's theology could have allowed.) in his "Defense of Poetry", he said: "Nothing can exceed the energy and magnificence of the character of Satan as expressed in *Paradise Lost*. (pp. 944-956) This idea of Milton on Satan creates a chaos because of Satan's attachment with religions. In Christianity and Islam, Satan is seen as either a fallen angel or a genie, who used to possess great piety and beauty, but rebelled against God, Who nevertheless allows him temporary power over the fallen world and a host of demons (Wikipedia: 2020). We get diverse concept on regarding Satan by Milton, the Bible & the Quran. According to Bible & Quran Satan is an evil character who is in the central position behind the fall of humans from Paradise. And a conspirator (Satan) can never be an icon or magnificence character. God says, "Secret talks are only inspired by Satan to grieve the believers. Yet he cannot harm them whatsoever except by Allah's Will. So in Allah let the believers put their trust". God says to Satan that "You will certainly have no authority over My servants, except the deviant who follow you". The

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argument between Milton's ideas, Bible & Quran's message on Satan is very much inevitable to know whether Milton's idea was right or wrong. This context might help us to know the exact truth of the character of Satan.

Literature Review

The figure of Satan from John Milton's epic work *Paradise Lost* is rather controversial. Many critics criticize Milton's visions regarding Satan; also many appreciate the new concept. John Milton wrote his epic poem *Paradise Lost* and created the most sympathetic Satan in literary history — a complex character with legitimate grievances against a repressive God. (Holdsworth:2020) In fact, Milton's Satan so dominates the poem that many readers have come away with the impression that Milton himself sympathized with him. (McDaniel:2020) Milton's epic poem tells the story of the first man's disobedience towards God & banishment from Eden: also rebel for heaven of Satan with God. Its dozen sections are an ambitious attempt to comprehend the loss of paradise – from the perspectives of the fallen angel Satan and of man, fallen from grace. (Ramm: 2017) By the first line of the *Paradise Lost* Milton declare his ideas about Man's Fall from the Eden. Milton stated this fall as human's very first disobedience towards God.

*Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste
Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,
With loss of EDEN, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat.*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 1, Lines: 1-5)

Milton questions what could be the reason behind humans fall. According to the Bible, Satan lured Adam & Eve towards sin. Milton also tells the story of Satan's fall in his own perspective .Satan was banished from heaven because he himself thought equal to God and tried to take Gods place. God banished Satan because of his sin against his creator. On the burning lake of hell, where Satan and his companion of fallen angels find themselves chained. Satan was the most beautiful angel, because of his rebellion against God, he is thrown out from Heaven to Hell. Satan states that:

*“That we were formed then say'st thou? And the work
Of secondary hands by task transferred
From Father to His Son? Strange point and new!
Doctrine which we would know whence learnt: who saw
When this Creation was? Remember'st thou
Thy making while the Maker gave thee being?

We know no time when we were not as now,
Know none before us, self-begot, self-raised
By our own quick'ning power...*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 5, Lines 853-61)

From the shock of expulsion from heaven make the rebel angels quite. And from that moment Satan took the role of the leader and encourages every rebel angels that they shouldn't lose their will to resist.

*All is not lost — the unconquerable will,
And study of revenge, immortal hate,
And courage never to submit or yield:
And what is else not to be overcome?
That glory never shall his wrath or might
Extort from me. To bow and sue for grace
With suppliant knee, and deify his power
Who, from the terror of this arm, so late
Doubted his empire — (Paradise Lost by John Milton, Book 1, Lines: 106–114)*

Satan convinces his companion by motivating them and refreshing their spirits. They agreed altogether to recommitting their original goal which is always doing evil against God. When Satan was motivating his rallies; his speeches shows himself as a confident leader with an impressive talent for rhetoric.

*"Fallen Cherub, to be weak is miserable
Doing or suffering. But of this be sure,
To do aught good never will be our task;
But ever to do ill our sole delight,
As being the contrary to his high will
Whom we resist. If then his providence
Out of our evil seek to bring forth good,
Our labor must be to pervert that end;
And out of good still to find means of evil;
(Paradise Lost by John Milton, Book 1, Lines: 157–165)*

But Satan again loses the rebellion against God; Satan returns to the hell and to reign in hell he starts to lead the rebel angles. Satan Said to his followers:

*Here at least
We shall be free; the Almighty hath not built
Here for his envy, will not drive us hence:
Here we may reign secure, and in my choice
to reign is worth ambition though in Hell:
Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heaven
(Paradise Lost, Book I, Lines 221-270 by John Milton)*

The fallen rebels give variant Consultation. Beelzebub suggests that they will take the rebellion into a new battleground, in a place called 'earth' where God has created a new being called man.

*To visit oft this new Creation round;
Unspeakable desire to see, and know
All these his wondrous works, but chiefly Man,
His chief delight and favour, him for whom
All these his works so wondrous he ordaind, [665]
Hath brought me from the Quires of Cherubim
Alone thus wandring. Brightest Seraph tell*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 3, Lines 661–667)

Man is chosen God's favorite among his creations despite being weaker than angels. Satan discovers about man's weakness so that he can corrupt him. Satan travels through chaos, to arrive at earth which is hanged to golden chain connected with heaven. To enter the garden of Eden Satan disguises himself as a cherub. Disguised as a cherub, Satan Tried to enter in the Earth where Archangel Uriel was guarding the gate of the Earth. Satan tells Uriel he has come to see and pay respects for God's wondrous creation, Adam and Eve. Satan's speech so flawlessly reflects respect for God and convinces himself as a devoted worshipper of God which helps Satan to trick the guard Uriel. Satan successfully enter the Earth without making Uriel suspect anything.

*O Sun, to tell thee how I hate thy beams
That bring to my remembrance from what state
I fell, how glorious once above thy Spheare;
Till Pride and worse Ambition threw me down
Warring in Heav'n against Heav'ns matchless King:*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 4, Lines 37–41)

Satan's irresistible enthusiasm starts to break down and he begins to doubt himself. As Satan looks across Eden, he begins to feel the aches of distress for what he has forfeited. Satan acknowledges that pride and ambition brought him down to his current state and he even acknowledges that God exists as a ruler without equal.

*What could be less then to afford him praise,
The easiest recompence, and pay him thanks,
How due! yet all his good prov'd ill in me,
And wrought but malice; lifted up so high
I sdeind subjection, and thought one step higher
Would set me highest, and in a moment quit
The debt immense of endless gratitude,
So burthensome, still paying, still to ow;
Forgetful what from him I still receivd,
And understood not that a grateful mind
By owing owes not, but still pays, at once
Indebted and dischargd; what burden then?*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 4, Lines 46–57)

With these words, Satan discloses his complexion as leader of the rebel angels. Satan understand that heaven is very much minor expenditure to pay for God's superiority to him. He realizes that

the State she is in now is the outcome of his sinning far takes precedence over the light burden of acknowledgment he threw off while serving God. Through Satan's whimper, readers begin to understand Satan's elaborateness as a character.

*Which way I flie is Hell; my self am Hell;
And in the lowest deep a lower deep
Still threatning to devour me opens wide,
To which the Hell I suffer seems a Heav'n.
O then at last relent: is there no place
Left for Repentance, none for Pardon left? (Paradise Lost by John Milton, Book
4, Lines :75–80)*

In his whimper, Satan realizes that his spirit turns good to evil. He has provoked his own corruption. He himself encompasses hell, therefore, for him, hell appears as heaven. Such thinking of Satan almost excites tenderness in the reader for Satan, since his obligation towards evil now looks like completely an allegiance to remain true to himself. Despite Satan persuading his armies to dedicate themselves to evil, he still must certify himself to do the same. Satan conveys himself a pep talk, bidding goodbye to hope and remorse and clinching the courage to divide God's kingdom. Satan's determination driven by arrogance, an insignificant personality, seems melodramatic, especially in contrast to Adam's future commitment to repentance, an act driven by the more considerable sentiment of grief.

*Of us out-cast, exil'd, his new delight,
Mankind created, and for him this World.
So farewell Hope, and with Hope farewell Fear,
Farewel Remorse: all Good to me is lost;
Evil be thou my Good; by thee at least [110]
Divided Empire with Heav'ns King I hold
By thee, and more then half perhaps will reigne;
As Man ere long, and this new World shall know
(Paradise Lost by John Milton, Book 4, Lines :106–113)*

God witness all of these and sends Raphael to warn Adam and Eve about Satan; also prohibits the fruits from the tree of knowledge. God knows that if Adam and Eve have not been adequately warned, they could defend that they were seized by surprise and accuse Satan for their fall. God might appear cold and calculating here, but he understands that if Adam and Eve do not take full blame for their actions, they would be deprived of true suffering and repentance, and therefore, God's grace.

*Late falln himself from Heav'n, is plotting now
The fall of others from like state of bliss;
By violence, no, for that shall be withstood,
But by deceit and lies; this let him know,
Lest wilfully transgressing he pretend
Surprisal, unadmonisht, unforwarn'd.
(Paradise Lost by John Milton, Book 5, Lines: 240-245)*

In response to the warning, Adam wonders how any being God created would choose to be disobedient. Showing trust in God's benevolent strategy, he credits God with constructing man's desires and ambitions and flawlessly fulfilling them. Adam's rationalization and questions for Raphael disclose his great capability for justification. On the other hand, Satan, disguised as a serpent, tempts Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Satan argues that eating from the tree of knowledge will allow her and Adam to differentiate right from wrong. Furthermore, he explains that God could not be just if he wanted to hurt them. Satan's comparable understanding into intention and sentiment allow him to tempt the innocent, his greatest strength.

*of evil, if what is evil
Be real, why not known, since easier shunnd?
God therefore cannot hurt ye, and be just; [700]
Not just, not God; not feard then, nor obeyd:
Your feare it self of Death removes the feare.
Why then was this forbid?*

(*Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Book 9, Lines : 698–703)

Eve conveys the complication she senses when she first meets Satan disguised as a serpent. She wonders how the animal can speak since she knows God has not given animals the gift of speech or sense. The fact that the serpent can speak conspiracies Eve and contributes to her opinion to taste the fruit. Eve becomes tempted by the power of the fruit appears to give to the animal and this inquisitiveness directs her to downfall. Eve eats the fruit even though God prohibits them to eat it. She also decided to share the fruit with Adam. That moment in *Paradise Lost*, Adam must decide whether to eat the forbidden fruit and condemn himself to be with Eve, or decline the fruit and lose Eve. In this critical moment, Adam decides Eve over God, perception that he cannot live without Eve since they are one and the same. Adam's choice exemplifies the flaw that leads to his downfall: choosing enthusiasm over justification. Adam understands that Eve disobeyed God but with knowing everything he also eats the fruit because he cannot imagine a life without Eve. Because of the disobedience of Adam & Eve God sent Michael to escort Adam and Eve out of the Garden. Meanwhile, Satan returns to Hell as a victorious and Sin with Death have built a bridge from hell to earth so that Satan can reign over Earth also. Milton shows Satan as the victorious who won against God by provoking God's favorite creation man and becomes successful to repulse them from Eden.

The idea we get about Satan from the Bible is different from the Milton's idea. To know the truth of Satan we have to go through The Bible. The Bible is the Holy Scripture to Christian. Jews, Samaritans, Rastafarian & others which tell the history of the Earth from its earliest creation. Bible's verses are called God's word and they describe to us in detail about Satan's nature, acts and his future. From the beginning Satan is identified habitual, slimy source of sin and perceptive provocateur of all that is evil in Bible. Satan's sinful spirit and rebelliousness to God brought him towards his downfall from Heaven. Some verses about Satan's fall from Heaven in Bible:

Satan was an angel created by God who turned against God's authority (Isaiah 14:13) and became the head of a kingdom of evil spirits called demons, his "angels" (Matthew 25:41). His power both in the heavenly realm and on earth is great and should not be underestimated. However, while Satan and his forces are formidable enemies, Jesus Christ crushed Satan's power, fulfilling the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. The cross of Christ won the victory (John 12:31). "The prince of this world now stands condemned" (John 16:11), and Jesus will one day destroy Satan's power completely and purify creation (2 Peter 3:10).

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

(The Bible - Isaiah 14:12-14).

You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

(The Bible - Ezekiel 28:13-17).

So, putting these Scriptures together, Satan had been a 'guardian cherub' of high office but apparently became overcome by vanity and even attempted to invade Heaven and dethrone God. This was the original satanic rebellion. This was prior to the creation of the world. (A. Brace, 2012) Lucifer apparently became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone. The sin that corrupted Lucifer was self-generated pride. (Rhodes,2007.) Because of this God threw Satan from Heaven and his Destiny will be decided after the second coming of Christ & generally he will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Satan was against God. God is untouchable but God's creations are not. So Satan goes after one of God's creation - Man. He schemes to allure Adam and Eve to make them sinful and against God. He deceived Eve & Adam and they disobeyed God's command

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings (The Bible – Book of Genesis 3 bnm:1–7)

"Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (The Bible – Book of Genesis 3 bnm:12–13)

With the Fall, sin became our nature. Believers who are walking in obedience to God's Word have nothing to fear because they are protected by Christ.

"He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves"
(The Bible – Colossians 1:13).

However, when we knowingly commit sin, we open ourselves up to Satan's deception. when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. (The Bible – John 3:8)

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

(The Bible – John 8:3)

According to Bible Devil or Satan is someone who is sinner from the beginning & Son of God appeared to destroy Satan's work. When Human does something it shows that they are following Devil's path. Bible also reveals Satan's untruthful nature.

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.(The Bible - John 8:44)

Satan is not teachable. Nothing changes his mind. While God acts in a way that could instruct Satan, he neither learns nor changes. So, God declares Satan's future.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel (The Bible-Book of Genesis 3:15)

The defeat of Satan in one sense has already occurred. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ guaranteed Satan's doom. The Bible is clear. There will be no relief for Satan and the enemies of God. There is not even the prospect of annihilation. The eternal suffering they endure will be a just punishment for their sins against the infinitely holy God, whose righteousness, justice, and holy wrath will be displayed forever. (Ham, 2011)

In the Quran Satan is known as Iblis. Iblis was an angel but he was arrogant, rebellious and unappreciative. He refuses to obey the command of Allah. Some verses from Quran about Iblis's disobedience are:

And [mention] when We said to the angels, "Prostrate before Adam"; so they prostrated, except for Iblees. He refused and was arrogant and became of the disbelievers/kafir. (Al Quran, Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse: 34)

Iblis shows his pride and arrogancy as jinn and disobeyed his creator Allah. Because of desobdying Allah, Allah has banished him from Heaven. Allah also warns satan that His curse will be on him till the day of judgement. And Satan asks for prission to mislead human till judgement day & God have permitted it.

[Allah] said, "What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you?" [Satan] said, "I am better than him. You created me from fire and created him (Adam) from clay. (Al Quran, Surah Al-A'raf, Verse:12)

[Allah] said, "Descend from Paradise, for it is not for you to be arrogant therein. So get out; indeed, you are of the debased. [Satan] said, "Reprieve me until the Day they are resurrected." [Allah] said, "Indeed, you are of those reprieved." [Satan] said, "Because You have put me in error, I will surely sit in wait for them on Your straight path. Then I will come to them from before them and from behind them and on their right and on their left, and You will not find most of them grateful [to You]." [Allah] said, "Get out of Paradise, reproached and expelled. Whoever follows you among them - I will surely fill Hell with you, all together. (Al Quran, Surah Al-A'raf, Verse: 13-18)

After the banishment Satan scheme to Mans fall from heaven. He has deceived Hawa and Adam and both of them have broken Allah's order not eat forbidden tree's fruit. God sends Adam, his wife and Satan down to earth. Adam and his wife ask for forgiveness and Allah gives them another chance to salvation. Allah said he will guide man on earth sending His laws and who will follow them will reign in heaven. And who will not follow them and will be provoked by Satan's scheme will be punished along with Satan.

Then Satan whispered to him; he said, "O Adam, shall I direct you to the tree of eternity and possession that will not deteriorate?" And Adam and his wife ate of it, and their private parts became apparent to them, and they began to fasten over

themselves from the leaves of Paradise. And Adam disobeyed his Lord and erred. Then his Lord chose him and turned to him in forgiveness and guided [him] .[Allah] said, "Descend from Paradise - all, [your descendants] being enemies to one another. And if there should come to you guidance from Me - then whoever follows My guidance will neither go astray [in the world] nor suffer [in the Hereafter]. And whoever turns away from My remembrance - indeed, he will have a depressed life, and We will gather him on the Day of Resurrection blind." (Al Quran, Surah Taha, Verse: 120-124)

John Milton's idea on Satan is very much different than that of the Bible and the Quran. Milton's idea on Satan, Bible and Quran's message on Satan create a contrasting situation among us. He presents Satan in a heroic way which has no reference. On the other hand, the Bible and the Quran are ancient Evidence which are known as God/Allah's message. Milton got the idea of Satan, Satan's fall, Mans fall from Bible or Quran but he told the story in a different way or view where Satan looks like the victim. In *Paradise Lost* we can see the rebellion of Satan against God and Satan's victorious picture. From the Bible and the Quran we get the idea that Satan's pride, arrogance and disobedience is responsible for his fall. Punishment is awaiting for him. God will never mercy him for his deeds. God also has give Satan the ability to test man's obedience towards God. It is also a way of human to beg Salvation from God for their First sin (Adam & Eve's Fall).

Material and Methods: Primary and secondary materials are used to decorate the paper. Primary data is taken from self analysis and creativity and interviews of various students. Secondary data is used from the Quran, Hadith and the Bible according to the necessity of the article.

Results and Discussion: From the research of the topic it is found that John Milton has obtained or expressed a poor knowledge on Satan on the hero of his epic poem *Paradise Lost*. *The Bible and the Quran do not support the strength of Satan in the hell as hell is the place of torture by the torturing angels and helplessness for its dwellers. Satan has no power of rebel calling other associates in hell. All these are the assumptions or myths of Milton himself.*

Conclusion: In conclusion it can be asserted that Milton's created Satan in *Paradise Lost* is not that of the Satan described in the Quran and that of the Bible. The verse from the holy Quran says, "Indeed, the plot of Satan has ever been weak."

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