

Questions from Journals, Paradise Lost, Books X-XII

What is Adam's tirade against Eve and women meant to suggest?

Does it represent Milton's view of women? Why must Eve stay asleep during Michael's conversation with Adam?

What is the purpose of the "Reader's Digest" condensed version of Biblical history?

Why is God's judgement so harsh? Why must the poor, innocent serpent be punished? Why must after generations of humankind suffer for Adam and Eve's sin? Why is Christ sent to issue God's judgement? How can he be both judge and mediator? Why does Christ pretend not to know what A & E have done?

Why does Michael tell Adam he shouldn't love his life?

Why does Book XII end as it does, without coming back to God or Satan or the Muse? Is it part of Milton's use of epic conventions that he has Michael showing Adam human history like Aeneas in the underworld?

Why were angels standing guard over Paradise when they were unable to protect it from Satan anyway?

Why do Sin and Death build the bridge from Hell to Paradise?