

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts, (English), Year 4, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 4271 - John Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Two Hours

Answer TWO questions, selecting ONE (01) from Part A and ONE (01) from Part B

Part A

Either

1. Critics argue that the “exercise of ascribing fault for the fall either to Eve or to Adam” was a common discourse amongst Milton’s contemporaries, including male and female writers. They suggest that modern readers should take this context into account when analyzing what seem to be singular and misogynist attitudes to women, and to Eve in particular, in *Paradise Lost*. Do you agree? Critically comment on these views, making reference to Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.

Or

2. Tigner (2010) emphasizes “Eve’s seriousness about her work as it manifests particularly in her inherent aptitude associated with gardening, food acquisition, and meal preparation in Eden”, and claims that “it is this aptitude that eventually provides an avenue for her independence”. Explore this argument in light of your reading of John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.

Part B

Either

3. Liebert (2003) observes that, “[D]espite [Eve’s] role in continuing, prompting, and challenging Adam’s growth, it is impossible to ignore the fact that in *Paradise Lost* those who are in the position to disseminate knowledge of spiritual reality take for granted Adam’s superiority in matters of the intellect and his ability to apply knowledge gained to his own situation as well as to instruct Eve.” Critically assess these conflicting possibilities in your reading of John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.

Or

4. Kietzman (1997) suggests that “Eve turns her experience into stories and offers them as subjects for conversation and interpretation while remaining open to Adam’s point of view and to making his point of view a part of her self—a self continually under construction”. What difference do these insights make to your understanding of attitudes to women, and to Eve in particular, in *Paradise Lost*?

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