

Tribhuvan University

Political Milton: A New Historicist Reading of *Paradise Lost*

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
Of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of
Arts in English**

By

Komit Rai

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

April 2018

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my Profound Gratitude to my thesis supervisor, Mr. Mahesh Paudyal, Lecturer of Central Department of English.

I am also indebted to the Head of the Central Department of English Prof. Dr. Ammar Raj Joshi for the valuable direction in conducting the research.

I would like to extend sincere acknowledgement to Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya, Mr. Keshab Sigdel and all the entire group of Professors, Readers, Lecturers, and the teaching Assistants of the Department for their valued inspiration. I would like to express my sincere gratitude towards my whole family and my father Kamal Kumar Rai my Mother Karna Kumari Rai, hearty thanks for help, cooperation and support. I would like to thank my colleagues and all my well- wishers who directly and internally help me to complete this work.

Komit Rai

April 2018

Abstract

Paradise Lost is a fictional work that portrays the carnal nature of man since the fall. Although the poem is religiously based, Milton takes many liberties with the destructiveness of man's pride and lust. Milton uses angels and otherworldly characters to reveal the relationships between man, morality, freedom and divinity. Milton justifies the ways of God to man. Justify here means to explain and defend, and ultimately to vindicate, God's course of action in dealing with Adam and Eve after they succumb to the temptation of Satan and eat forbidden fruit. At the end, Adam and Eve enter the imperfect world with hope; they can yet attain eternal salvation. The papers also describe the significance on political portfolio beyond the historical overview with Milton's perception about hell and heaven. It also analyzes the assumptions of some scholars' who claimed that Milton's translations of *Paradise Lost* are an epic.

Paradise Lost is not, of course, a thinly disguised allegory designed to interpret the tumultuous events of seventeenth century England. Milton's explicit purpose of justifying the ways of God to men leaves little ground for considering the poem to be mainly political. The bare Old Testament story of the creation and the fall hardly afforded scope for a narrative whose ambitious purpose is to justify the ways of God, to men. Although Adam was created superior to Eve and Given "Absolute rule" over her, few, if any, directly political implications are involved in Adams Acquiescing in her wish that he, too, taste of the apple; throughout most of *Paradise Lost* our first parents live, in the state of innocence and consequently. Like God, are far removed from the world of mundane politics.

Key words: Postlapsarian, John Milton, Paradise, Interregnum, ontology, antinomian

Contents

Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation of thesis Committee

Acknowledgements

Abstracts

Contents

Page No.

I. John Milton and his Time

1-11

II. Political Edge of the *Paradise Lost*

12-28

III. Hierarchy and Order of Heaven

29-30

Work Cited