

Paradise Lost

2^d Book

n^o 2

Paradise Lost 2^d book. Bk. 2 -
("And thrice three fold the gates") The
gates had nine folds, nine plates, or
linings - ("Impaled with circling fire")
Inclosed, paled in as it were. This word
is so used in Spenser. It is commonly
applied to that kind of execution, when
a pale or stake is driven thro' a male-
factor's body. ("Before the gates there
sat") Here begins the famous allegory
of Milton, which is a work of para-
phrase on that text of the Apostle
James 1st chap. 15 ver: Then when Lust
hath conceived, it bringeth forth Sin,
and Sin when it is finished bringeth
forth Death. ("In the sea that parts
Calabria") the farthest part of Italy
towards the Mediterranean. ("from
the hoarse Trinacrian shore") that
is from Sicily, which was formerly

called Trinacria from its three promontories lying in the form of a triangle; and ("The lab'ring moon") The ancients believed the moon greatly affected by magical practices, & the Latin poets call the eclipses of the moon "the labours of the moon". The three foregoing lines and the former part of this contain a short account of what was once believed, & in Mitrons time not so ridiculous as now.

("Heh-doom'd") As Satan had called Death Heh-born, Death returns it by calling Satan Heh-doom'd. ("False fugitive") He is here called false, because he had called himself a spirit of Heaven - and like a comet bur'n'd") The

ancient poets frequently compare a hero in his shining armour to a comet, But this comet is so large as to "fire the length" of the constellation Ophiuchus or Serpentarius as it is commonly called, a length of about 40 degrees ("in the arctic sky") or rather hemisphere ("and from his horrid hair shakes pestilence & war") Poetry delights in omens, prodigies, and such wonderful events as were supposed to follow upon the appearance of comets, eclipses & the like. ("Heaven's artillery") Thunder. ("Over the Caspian") That sea being particularly noted for storms & tempests. ("So great a foe") Jesus Christ, who as it follows, will one day destroy both Death, & him that has the power of Death, that is the Devil 2^d. Hebrews. 14th verse.

("wing silently the buxom air") Buxom is vulgarly understood for merry, but its proper by signification is flexible, from a Saxon word signifying to bend. its original meaning obedient. ("The lowest bottom throb of Erebus") The most profound depth of hell. ("where eldest Night & Chaos") As the ancient naturalists, poets & philosophers hold that Chaos was the first principle of all things, and the poets particularly make Night a goddess, and represent Night on darkness, and Chaos or confusion as exercising uncontroled dominion from the beginning. Milton's system of the universe is, that the emp'tean Heaven, and Chaos, and Darkness were before the Creation; Heaven above, and Chaos beneath, and then upon the

rebellion of the angels, ("first Hell") was formed out of Chaos, ("Stretching far and wide beneath") and afterwards, ~~Heaven~~ & Earth, another world, hanging o'er the realm of Chaos, and won from his dominion") ("Of Barca or Cyrene's torrid soil") A city and province of dry sandy Libya. ("As when a gryphon") Satan, ("half on foot, half flying") in quest of the new world is here compared to a gryphon, ("with winged course") both flying and running in pursuit of the Arimaspean who had stolen his gold. Gryphons are fabulous creatures, in the upper part like an eagle, in the lower resembling a lion, and were said to guard gold mines. The Arimaspeans were a one-eyed people of Scythia, who adorned their hair with gold. It is related that

were continual wars, between the gry- as being able to look upon the Gorgon-
phons, and Arimaspians about gold, which turned all other Spectators
the gryphons guarding it, and the Ari- to Stone, and ("the name of Demogorgon")
-maspians taking it whenever they had is as much as to say, Demogorgon
an opportunity. ("Sat ~~saved~~ vested light) himself. we have a memorable ins-
tance of this way of speaking in
Clothed in her sable fur, a Sable is
a creature whose skin is of the grea-
ter skin, the blacker it is. ("Orens
and Rdes") Orens is generally by the
poets taken for Pluto, as Rdes for
any dark place. ("And the dreaded
name of Demogorgon") There was
a notion among the ancients of a
certain Deity, whose very name
they supposed capable of producing
the most terrible effects, and which
they dreaded to pronounce. The name
of this Deity is Demogorgon, which
some think a corruption of Demingus,
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in Greece, in which Jason, and his
companions sailed to Colchis to
to fetch the Golden Fleece. Who was
Jason? A celebrated hero, son of Pe-
lasmus, & Robson, the son Cretheus &
Tyro. Tyro, the mother of Robson, before
she married his father Cretheus, had
two sons by her first husband, Pelias, and
Helius. ^{Cretheus} Robson, was king of Iolchos, and
at his death his throne was usurped
by his half brother Pelias. ^{and Robson's sons.} To whom
was the education of Jason intrusted?
To the centaur Chiron, and he was
removed from the presence of the u-
rder, because he had been informed
by the oracle, that one of the de-
scendants of Eolus would determine
him. Eolus was the father of Cre-
theus, and grandfather of Robson. What
did Jason do, after he grew up? He left
the centaur, and by his advice went

to consult the oracle. What did it order
him to do? To go to Iolchos his na-
tive country, covered with the spoils
of a leopard, and dressed in the gar-
ments of a Magaesian. What throve
him in his journey? The inundation
of the river Euenus, or Enipeus. Who
carried him over it? Juno, who chan-
ged herself into an old woman.
What did he lose in crossing the
stream? One of his sandals. Did
his appearance attract attention
at Iolchos? Yes, every one crowded
to see him, amongst the rest Pelias.
What alarmed Pelias? The oracle
had warned him to beware of a man
who should appear at Iolchos, with
one foot bare. What did Jason do?
He repaired to the palace of Pelias
accompanied by his friends, and de-

-manded the kingdom. What was the
conduct of Pelias? He reminded him
that Aetes king of Colchis, had mur-
dered their kinsman Phryxus, and
that if he w^d go to Colchis, and avenge
his death, he w^d give him up the
kingdom on his return. Did Jason
accept the proposal? Yes, and his
intended expedition was made
known in every part of Greece.
He was joined by the youths & tra-
versers of the Greeks. They embarked
on board a ship called Argo, and
they arrived at Colchis. What was
the name given to these heroes? They
were called Argonauts. Who was Phryx-
us, whose death Jason went to avenge?
He was the son of Athamas king
of Thebes, & Nephele. Athamas divor-
ced Nephele, and married Ino, the

daughter of Cadmus. Ino conceived
a hatred against Phryxus & his sis-
ter Hebe, because they w^d inherit
the kingdom; she caused a pestilence
to visit the city of Thebes, by poi-
soning all the grain which had
been sowed in the earth. The oracle
was consulted, and the answer was
that Nephele's children sh^d be
sacrificed to the gods. Phryxus &
Hebe fled upon a ram, which had
a golden fleece & wings, & the power
of speech. On their way Hebe
was giddy, & fell into that part
of the sea which from her was
called the Hellespont. Aetes king
of Colchis, to whom Phryxus fled re-
ceived him kindly, but afterwards
murdered him to obtain the golden
fleece. Did Jason succeed in obtaining

The golden fleece? He promised to re-
store it on certain conditions; Jason
was to tame bulls who breathed flames,
and who had feet & horns of brass, and
to plough with them a field sacred to
Pluto, and then he was to sow in the
ground the teeth of a serpent from which
armed men would arise, whose fury would
be converted against him. He was also
to kill a dragon, who watched the golden
fleece. Medea, the king's daughter fell
in love with Jason, & promised to aid
him by her skill in herbs, magic &c if
he would promise her eternal fidelity.
He did so, & she provided him with
such instruments & herbs, as would pro-
tect him. He conquered all the dif-
ficulties & obtained the golden fleece.
After this Jason set sail for Europe
with Medea. Ates sent his son Ab-
ortus to pursue them. Medea piloted