Paradise Lost Excerpt

Into this wild Abyss

The  womb of Nature and perhaps her grave

Of neither sea, nor shore, nor air, nor fire

But all these things in their pregnant causes mixed

Confusedly, thus must ever fight

Unless the Almighty Maker them ordain

His dark materials to create more worlds

Into this wild Abyss the wary Fiend

Stood on the brink of Hell and looked a while

Pondering his voyage

Paradise Lost Poem Analysis

In the beginning Satan addresses the devils in Hell sitting atop a golden throne and leads a debate on what to do to. Moloch who is a devil who either wants to have it all or nothing. He says to have an open war and either win or lose. He wants revenge and is willing to sacrifice everything for it. Belial who doesn’t want to be killed so that Moloch’s revenge will be fulfilled tells the devils to wait and see if God’s anger will fade over time and maybe they will be let back into heaven. Mammon, who loves money, suggests that they make the best of the situation. That appeals to the majority because no one will die. Beelzebub suggests that one of the devils go to earth where they can invade and poison man with sin. Beelzebub presents it as his idea but Satan later says that it was his idea in the first place. When Beelzebub asks for volunteers no one volunteers until Satan, scheming, finally volunteers, and is admired for his bravery. His bravery is really fake, and all he wants to do is escape the horrors of Hell. He does that by not going back to heaven but going to Earth instead where he can also poison the minds of man. At the gates of Hell Satan discovers his daughter Sin, which he created in Heaven at the first thought of sin. Sin is surrounded by hellhounds and a figure surrounded in shadows. The figure is Death, Sin and Satan’s son. Death and Satan are about to have a fight but then Sin comes in and stops the fight. Satan persuaded Sin to open the gates of Hell, which when she opened she could not close. Satan makes his way through the realms to the realm where Chaos lived. Satan told Chaos about the idea and as Chaos approves he tells Satan where Earth is. It is suspended from Heaven connected by a golden chain. Satan starts his journey there and then Book 3 starts.

Line by Line Analysis

“Into this wild abyss” means journing to a wild place/land which is to be discovered and to be found.

“The womb of nature and perhaps her grave” means the wild majestic beauty of mother nature will be a amazing site and her final resting place.

“Of neither sea, nor shore, nor air, nor fire” means all of these make mother nature and not just one of them.

“But all these in their pregnant causes mix confusedly and which thus must ever fight” means all those elements might fight to be the best but they all need each other.

“Unless the almighty makes them again his dark materials to create more worlds” means unless the devil himself takes all of those elements to make other worlds they will stay there and never leave.

“Into this wild abyss the wary fiend stood on the brink of hell and looked a while pondering his voyage” means journing to a new place/land where the devil stood on the edge of hell while he looked and wondered what his voyage would be like.

Connection to Poet’s Life

Milton was a man who just wanted the best for his country.  He had ideas on how to improve the United Kingdom, but his ideas were unpopular and landed him in prison, waiting for his death sentence.  He ended up avoiding the death sentence from King Charles II, and later wrote “the most profound, inspiring and politically minded poem of early-modern England: *Paradise Lost*”. This poem was a collection of Milton’s life.  He infused this piece with ideology of a new government.  God represents the all-powerful monarch, and Satan, the Archdemon and orchestrator of the Fall of Man.  This shows Milton’s interesting views of monarchy. One of the biggest points that Milton constantly made was that the monarchy was terrible and useless.  Milton expresses the idea that anyone who willingly installs a monarchy over themselves is literally insane. Milton makes Hell represent a new way of government that is helpful.  He presents Hell as a far more rational, fair place/government. Milton, in this way, is asking the reader ‘What is better; a powerful ruler demanding loyalty (God), or a loyal ruler given power (Satan)?’

**Imagery**

The poem has imagery because it describes hell and what it looks likes. It uses visual imagery, describing the kaleidoscope of colors that lead into the gates of Hell. Also, it describes the never ending darkness of the abyss, it leaches color and life out of the landscape, luring the intrepid explorer into its dreary depths. The devil, however, knows the dangers, but still must journey the darkness. For, it symbolizes that no one is truly safe in their own kingdom, especially when your kingdom is formed out of anger and betrayal. It is saying how Hell is not just one form of life, it is from every corner of the earth, how no one can truly escape their sins, no matter how far they run. It is also saying how it is something beyond nature, something more. It is saying how the multiple different evils must always fight unless the devil wants the evils to be free in the world and create more powerful kingdoms with their battles.

Rhythm, Mood, Figurative Language

**Rhythm**

The rhythm of the poem is that each part of each phrase complements the second part even though it does not necessarily rhyme. For example “ The womb of nature and perhaps her grave”. Nature and grave do not rhyme but when used together creates a flow unique to most epic poems. It is used to create the essence of a poem without using the common rhyming pattern that is used in shorter and less complicated poems.

**Mood and Tone**

The mood and tone of the poem is somber with an air of expectancy and fascination. This is because Satan is waiting to cross the void of Chaos, unsure whether he could survive the journey. He is gazing at the mixture of colors pondering his pathway. It is somber because it is the place of life and death. Hope and despair mingling in an eternal circle of resurrection and demise.

**John Milton’s Message and Main Themes**

The main purpose of Paradise Lost is to explain the fall of Satan from Heaven in ways that are understandable because the Bible’s version of events are difficult to understand and are often incomplete. It is used “ to justify the ways of God to Man.”

Explanation of the Board

The diorama is broken in multiple parts. The back of the board represents the swirl of color that are the gates of Hell. Most people think the gates of Hell are dark and dreary but our interpretation of the gates are explosion of hues and shades. The gates of Hell are rejoicing because they are open and able to unleash the horrors within on the innocent minds of man. The right wall shows how the colors are gradually fading as they are being sucked into the void of chaos.The left wall has drips of paint because it symbolizes the many angels that fell during the battles of Satan and God’s forces.

We chose a modernistic approach to Satan himself by adding colors. However, all of this is distraction for if you look underneath all of the decorative adornments it is just a normal person that is apprehensive to be in the position of power. It symbolizes that Satan’s evil is present throughout the ages and how in reality everyone can commit evil for we all have free will.

We programmed Satan to shake and look around, as if he knows the journey into Hell will be a dangerous one, even for Satan himself. We programmed lights to add to the color, to make the color seem more vibrant and realistic.

Reflection

1. The most enjoyable part of the project was making the board itself. From Evan’s drawing of a modern Satan to the drips of paint on the walls. All of us enjoyed some aspect of the decoration process. Matilda and Sydney enjoyed the pompoms and the paint as well as the hot glue gun. Adam’s favorite part was the programming, especially programming the song.
2. We learned that there are many different ways to think about Satan and his falling from Heaven, and God’s supreme power. We also learned that God is a King of Heaven. We learned how to attach different types of motors and other programming items to the board. We also learned how to divide responsibilities  within our group.

The most difficult part of the project was to get the servo to stick to the board and to successfully stay on task. Our group had some problems staying to our own group and not getting work done, but in the end, our group worked well and our board was satisfactory.