

Milton's Paradise Lost

Certain quotations in the poem assume great importance between the ideas they express resound throughout the work. See if you can crystallize your understanding of the poem by explaining the significance of the following lines:

- 1. The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven.

(Book I. 254 - 255)

- 2. -----from this descent
Celestial Virtues rising will appear
More glorious and more dread than from no fall:

(Book II. 14 - 16)

- 3. -----horror and doubt distract
His troubled thought, and from the bottom stir
The Hell within him, for within him Hell
He brings; and round about him, nor from Hell
One step, no more than from himself, can fly
By change of place.

(Book IV. 18 - 25)

- 4. O foul descent! that I, who erst contended
With Gods to sit the highest, am nor constrained.
Into a beast, and, mixed with bestial slime,
This essence to incarnate and imbrute,
That to the height of deity aspired;
But what will not ambition and revenge
Descend to? who aspires must down as low
As high he soared, obnoxious, first or last,
To basest things

(Book IX. 163 - 171)

- 5. -----then wilt thou not be torn
To leave this Paradise, but shalt possess
A Paradise within thee, happier far.

(Book XII. 585 - 587)

- 6. In me is no delay; with thee to go
Is to stay here; without thee here to stay
Is to go hence unwilling; thou to me
Art all things under Heaven, all places thou,
Who for my willful crime art banished hence.

(Book XII. 615 - 619)

You are required when making our interpretation of these excerpts to also consider the meaning as effective to the theme of the poem as a whole.

Correct headings: Write out the book numbers and line numbers correctly at the head of your interpretation and please work in the numerical order 1 - 6, as in the question paper.