

Paradise Lost
by
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Based on the epic poem by John Milton

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FADE IN:

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY - EXTREME CLOSE UP

of a distorted image of white clouds floating in a blue sky, the wind WHIPPING them around. We PULL BACK slowly and begin to move along the image.

We SWING AROUND the image and a sharp edge passes in front of us -- as if the sky were suddenly compressed into one dimension -- and then we're back viewing the image of the sky again on a flat surface.

As we continue to PULL BACK, parallel outer edges of the surface come into frame, and we realize we've been viewing our surroundings in reflection off the two flat sides of a polished metal sword.

We MOVE DOWN the sword until we pass by two eyes on either side of it, staring at us with deadly intent, then DOWN to the hilt gripped with two hands in front of a massive, hairless chest.

We PULL BACK further to see on either side of this massive torso an enormous pair of wings (wings like we've never seen - they will twist and move as he does, as if alive).

We continue to PULL BACK and see further that the man is naked -- and further still, that he has no genitals. Smooth androgeny where his scrotum should be.

This is, in fact, no man at all, but the archangel MICHAEL, standing in front of a multitude of other angels, also naked, also wing-backed.

We continue to PULL BACK as armor materializes over Michael's body and then over the bodies of the angels in the first row behind him.

As we continue to PULL BACK we also RISE UP to see standing behind the first rows of angels even more angels, and as they come into view, armor materializes on their bodies as well --

We continue to RISE UP HIGHER to see not just thousands or tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands but rather what must be several million angels lined up behind Michael over this plain of Heaven, stretching literally to the horizon.

As they come into view, armor materializes on them as well, like a wave spreading backwards to infinity. The light of Heaven is reflected off their armor and weapons in a dazzling pattern of gleaming points.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

From the distant horizon behind this multitude, then, dark clouds begin to swirl menacingly, approaching us fast.

As these clouds advance over the angels, the bright reflections from their weapons and armor blink out.

The dark clouds reach us. CAMERA ADJUSTS straight up at their leading edge and then OVER and AROUND to follow the clouds as they move away from us now, towards the opposite horizon where we see in the distance

ANOTHER LEGION OF ANGELS

smaller in number than the first (we can see the back end of them), though still enormous. These, too, are armored and armed.

We PUSH IN to focus on one angel standing at the front of this second legion of angels. This is LUCIFER, in his hand a great spear.

The legions of angels behind him draw back in fear as the dark clouds swirl towards them.

Lucifer's gaze remains fixed on Michael, however, his face contorting with rage.

Lucifer launches himself into the air with two mighty FLAPS of his wings, hovers for a moment inches off the ground, then flings himself across the floor of the plain.

Michael launches himself towards Lucifer as well, his sword trailing under and behind him.

Emboldened by their leader's charge, Lucifer's legions leap forward behind him with a great NOISE, some running, some flying.

Michael's legions follow suit. The air fills with charging angels.

Lucifer's wings start to beat faster and faster, becoming nearly invisible, like a hummingbird's, and suddenly he accelerates with thunderous speed, his spear pointed out in front of him, a deadly angelic arrow.

Michael's wings accelerate their FLAPPING too, obscuring them from our sight as well, and his sword comes up as he accelerates forward like a rocket.

The two are heading straight for one another at blinding speed, the sounds of their BEATING wings filling the air --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They meet mid-air with a thunderous CRASH and Michael's sword pierces straight through into Lucifer's shoulder!

Both legions halt, stunned.

Lucifer falls to the ground, still alive but writhing in agony.

He tugs at the sword but can't pull it out. A clear liquid flows out of the wound -- angel's blood.

Michael lands in front of him. He bends down low to Lucifer -
-

MICHAEL

Author of evil, your act of hateful
strife has disturbed Heaven's
peace, and now Heaven casts you out
--

Michael grips his sword and yanks it from Lucifer's shoulder.

Lucifer SHRIEKS.

Michael raises his sword to strike again, but then pauses as he sees --

Lucifer's wound sealing up as if it had never been. Panting, still in pain, Lucifer smiles ruefully.

LUCIFER

You think to subdue me with airy
threats, Michael? Have you turned
the least of us to flight, or
felled even one who didn't
immediately rise up unvanquished?

Lucifer rises into a fighting stance. As he reaches his full height, his full strength has already returned.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

This strife of glory you call
hateful won't end so quickly. We
mean to turn this Heaven into Hell
itself if we must.

They're about to run at each other again when suddenly a piercing light strikes the plain through a break in the cloud cover above them.

Lucifer and Michael are both momentarily blinded and cover their eyes with their wings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A powerful RUMBLING begins building in the air and then --

A massive chariot BURSTS through the cloud cover, it's flaming wheels the source of the blinding light. It's pulled by four cherubic shapes with colossal wings.

At the helm is THE SON of God himself, his face grim.

Lucifer and Michael withdraw their wings from over their eyes to see the chariot bearing down on them.

MICHAEL

Contend directly then, Lucifer,
with the Son of God.

Lucifer's eyes go wide with fear. The chariot touches down and begins careening towards him at breakneck speed, the ground of Heaven SHAKING as it comes.

Lucifer turns to glance at his army of rebel angels for a moment --

-- and then turns and flees.

Seeing this, his army scatters.

On and on Lucifer flies, his wings again moving almost to fast for us to see.

He follows the ground, glancing behind him occasionally only to see the chariot gaining.

From his chariot, The Son fires arrows from a great bow that arc out and MORPH into THUNDEROUS strikes of lightning that barely miss Lucifer as he frantically weaves back and forth.

In desperation, Lucifer shoots up into the sky, skirts around a mountain, dips down into a valley --

Still the chariot comes.

Lucifer's speed seems to increase then, the scenery of Heaven flowing by so fast it blurs -- past mountains, forests and lakes, on to the very edge of Heaven itself and the enormous

GATES OF HEAVEN

outside of which lies Chaos, vast beyond imagining, endless.

Lucifer sees he's run out of room and slows to land before the Gates.

He looks out at Chaos, fearful --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- then spins around, spear raised as --

The Son's chariot ROARS to a stop in front of him.

The Son looks down at Lucifer from atop the chariot. Then --

-- stands before Lucifer in the blink of an eye. Lucifer aims his spear at The Son's head --

But The Son plucks it from Lucifer's hands as an adult would take a toy from a child. The Son sends the spear spinning through the open Gates over the edge.

THE SON

Of all my Father's creations,
Lucifer, truly you've despised only
me. Thus to me is your doom
assigned.

The Son grasps Lucifer by the throat.

THE SON (CONT'D)

No longer are you Lucifer, the
Light Bringer, highest of God's
archangels --

Lucifer grabs The Son's arm, tries to break his grip, fails.

THE SON (CONT'D)

Your former brightness
extinguished, instead now I name
you Satan. The Adversary.

With the merest flick of his arm, The Son flings Lucifer (now Satan) through the Gates and over the edge!

SATAN'S POV - THE GATES OF HEAVEN

as the Son watches him fall into the abyss.

BACK TO SCENE

Satan falls SCREAMING into Chaos, twisting and turning, as if buffeted by a great wind.

On and on he falls feet first, tears streaming down his face as he looks upwards, clawing at the air as if to climb it back to Heaven.

He falls past colors and gases and twisted space, chaos shapes as large as planets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Gradually, as his fall continues, his tears stop, soon then replaced by a look of resignation. He surrenders to the force pulling him downwards, ever downwards.

And then -- a hard, determined look shapes itself on his face.

He flips over to point his head down in the direction he's falling, stretches his body out straight like an arrow, and brings his arms in front of him like a diver's.

He picks up speed --

He begins to heat up like a comet passing into the atmosphere, smoke beginning to ripple off his body. He screams in pain but aims himself even straighter down, ever down.

SATAN'S POV - A PATTERN OF LIGHT

in the far distance, rushing up fast to meet him.

BACK TO SCENE

Suddenly he draws up, trying desperately to avoid falling into

A LAKE OF FIRE

which swallows him whole with an enormous molten SPLASH.

We HOLD a moment on his point of entry into the molten water as it swirls and then flattens as if filling in a hole. Then --

The supine form of Satan slowly floats to the surface -- but now transformed. His wings seem to have melted and hardened into the wings of a giant bat. His flesh has scarred and buckled into the flesh of a devil. And though he doesn't actually have horns, his face has been completely transformed.

He lies there, floating on the molten lake, his eyes open but unblinking, unseeing...

... as hundreds and thousands more rebel angels plummet into the molten lake in the b.g.

A beat.

Satan blinks. Then again. He breathes deeply, sucking wisps of sulfur fumes in and out of his nostrils. Slowly he becomes aware of his surroundings and --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- lets out a horrible SHRIEK of pain as he becomes aware of the fire burning him --

He tries to leap out of the lake but finds his arms are chained to the bottom with only enough slack to raise his hands slightly above the surface of the molten water.

He looks next to him and sees BEELZEBUB, his second-in-command, also now demonic in appearance, floating unconscious in the violent fire of the lake.

He tries to reach over to him but the chains around his arms hold him fast.

Enraged, he summons all his strength and SNAPS the chains from both his arms.

He surges forward to take Beelzebub gently in his arms. He secures him, SNAPS the chains that hold him as well, then begins to beat his great bat wings, indenting the molten surface of the lake and sending its flames billowing out.

He rises with Beelzebub out of the lake, rights himself and heads for shore.

EXT. HELL - SHORE - NIGHT

Satan reaches the shore and collapses onto its hard, hot surface, tossing Beelzebub down next to him. Steam HISSES up from their bodies where they touch the ground.

They lie there together, exhausted.

Satan rolls over and rises to one knee, bending over his fallen comrade. Beelzebub looks at him in dazed confusion.

BEELZEBUB

Can this be my prince, who was
Lucifer?

SATAN

It is.

BEELZEBUB

How changed you are! How fallen!
Who knew the force of God's dire
arms!

Satan says nothing, but stands painfully and surveys the plains of Hell. A desolate, hopeless landscape.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN

Is this the seat I must exchange
for Heaven then, this mournful
gloom for that celestial light?

(beat)

So be it. Better to reign in Hell
than serve in Heaven.

(to Beelzebub)

Gather your strength, faithful
cherub. To be weak is miserable,
however fallen we may be.

Beelzebub rises with effort.

BEELZEBUB

(shakily)

Vigor and spirit return... my
prince...

Seeing Beelzebub discouraged --

SATAN

Our glory has grown dim but not
blown out, Beelzebub. The mind is
its own place, and in itself can
make a Hell of Heaven, or a Heaven
of Hell.

Beelzebub looks around Hell --

BEELZEBUB

Your words are a cool balm on my
burning flesh, my prince. But what
if our Conqueror -- whom I now
believe Almighty since nothing less
could overpower such a force as
ours -- what if He's only left us
strength enough to endure His
punishment? What advantage is
strength if not enough to win back
Heaven?

SATAN

What would you have us do? Bow and
beg for grace on bended knee? That
would be a shame far greater than
this fall. No, Beelzebub, we take
this war back to our grand Foe.

Dismayed, Beelzebub looks out over the lake of fire at the
strewn forms of the fallen angels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BEELZEBUB

With our faithful friends thus
confounded?

Satan walks to the shore, leaning for support on his great
spear, his footsteps hissing up steam. He ignores the pain.

SATAN

(shouting)

Princes, potentates, spirits of
Heaven! Have you chosen this place
to rest? Or in this abject posture
have you sworn to adore our
Conqueror? Awake and arise, or be
forever fallen!

In answer to their leader's call, first one, then ten, then a
hundred, then many thousands of the rebel angels POP their
chains.

They lift themselves from the burning lake and fly over the
heads of Satan and Beelzebub to land on the shore.

A horrible cacophony of HISSING rises up as several thousand
feet touch the ground, steam billowing up in the gloom. All
have been transformed by the lake into demons.

In front stand Satan's generals: MOLOCH, MAMMON, BELIAL, and
CHEMOS, all wearing downcast expressions, all shaken and
weary.

Satan pauses to survey his troops, and seeing them
disheartened, raises himself up to his full height. When he
speaks, his voice reaches to the farthest ends of his
legions.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Matchless powers, though the
outcome was dire, as this place now
testifies, the struggle was not
inglorious!

Some of them look up at him.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Who could foresee such a force as
stands before me now could ever be
repulsed?

They start to straighten where they stand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SATAN (CONT'D)

The Monarch of Heaven concealed His
true strength, His deception
tempting our attempt and yielding
our fall.

They're listening to him carefully now --

SATAN (CONT'D)

But it matters not! Outwardly
changed I may be, but my will, my
courage never to submit, my
immortal hate -- these have not
been conquered yet! Have they in
you?

A resounding "No!" rises up defiantly from the host. Renewed
energy begins rising in them --

SATAN (CONT'D)

Then unfurl your banners --

-- Satan's own magnificent banner suddenly unfurls in front --

SATAN (CONT'D)

-- for submission is unthinkable!

A thousand banners rise amid the gathered throng. Hope
gleams restored in a thousand faces, just from the sound of
his voice --

SATAN (CONT'D)

Here at least we shall be free!

Satan thrusts his spear in the air and --

-- in final answer, a million swords and spears thrust
suddenly skyward, igniting into flame and illuminating the
vast plain of Hell, as another deafening SHOUT explodes,
"Free!"

With great difficulty, the legions move themselves into
formation.

Moved, Satan pauses to revel in the moment.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Repair your losses then, and
consult how we may from this day
forward offend our Enemy most.

(to his generals)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SATAN (CONT'D)

War it will be -- but war open or
in subterfuge, that we must now
debate.

CUT TO:

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

The Son and the archangel GABRIEL look back at the ruin of
Heaven.

Hills have been split, trees uprooted, grassy plains
scorched. Rubble lies all around as angels tend to their
wounds.

GABRIEL

Our Adversary drew many into fraud,
Lord.

THE SON

Yet I see the far greater part have
kept their station.

Some angels are trying to repair the damage done by the
battle with Satan's minions.

GABRIEL

Still, much of the fertile acreage
remains unoccupied and in want of
care.

The Son nods.

THE SON

Lest his heart exalt in the harm
already done, to have dispeopled
Heaven, I'll repair that detriment -
-

-- across Heaven, hills suddenly mend --

GABRIEL

Is all hope then lost for our once
friend?

-- trees grow --

THE SON (V.O.)

Divine rule demands we fight evil
without compromise, even as we pity
it --

HEAVEN

is restored, God's light once again shining down on it brightly.

THE SON

turns from the restored landscape to look out through the Gates of Heaven.

THE SON

-- thus as God Almighty wills --

He walks through the Gates of Heaven to stand at Heaven's edge. Chaos roars back defiantly.

THE SON (CONT'D)

-- I'll set in motion a new
creation in answer to Satan's crime
--

A storm of Chaos rises up, thunder and lightning flashing, wind whipping an assault on The Son, who stands unmoved.

He holds up his hand --

THE SON (CONT'D)

Let there be light --

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Far off in Chaos, a small spark ignites --

-- and then a deafening EXPLOSION!

Rocketing outwards with incalculable speed go all the matter that will constitute our universe -- stars, gases, planets, energy -- literally, the BIG BANG.

All this matter and energy pushes Chaos outward, straining against it mightily.

Nebulas swirl and stars ignite, spreading out from one another immediately.

In moments we recognize the familiar view of empty space.

We begin to MOVE FORWARD then, traveling in a single direction now --

-- past galaxies, past solar systems --

-- past stars and planets, moving faster --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- past Pluto and Saturn to arrive finally at our Sun and then

EARTH

We dive into the atmosphere, heading towards the ground like a meteor --

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The day is warm, brilliant.

We MOVE SLOWLY through the trees. No animals lie in sight, but plenty of foliage and fruit.

We emerge into a clearing and stop. Dust swirls on the ground in front of us and gradually begins twirling in small funnel shapes.

A larger shape begins to form from these small funnels, indistinct at first. Then its edges sharpen and we begin to recognize

THE FIGURE OF A MAN

lying supine.

His skeleton forms first, then vital organs around it --

-- then arteries, veins and muscles --

-- and finally skin, hair and fingernails.

This is ADAM. He is perfectly proportioned and naked.

He breathes in his first breath and exhales. He opens his eyes and sees the sky.

He sits up. He gazes around himself in wonder.

He stands. He looks down at himself, bends his arms, then his legs. He takes a few tentative steps, trying them out. They work.

He looks around some more. He touches the ground, touches leaves. He walks off to explore.

EXT. EDEN - FOREST - DAY

Adam moves through the forest slowly, all the while looking around in amazement and growing joy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He emerges from the trees at the foot of a vast plain. Then he smiles --

-- and leaps off into a run. He runs for the sheer joy of it and enters another dense forest on the opposite side of the plain. A few birds appear, swooping down across the plain and following him into the forest.

Through the trees he runs on and soon breaks out into another clearing --

-- only to find a menagerie of animals milling about a stream, eating, drinking, playing. He stops.

Delighted, he walks among them, examines them, strokes them.

He follows the stream. Several of the animals follow.

He comes to a small lake and stops. A male lion that had been following with him yawns and plops down at the pool's edge. Adam strokes his large head affectionately.

He looks around at the animals thoughtfully. Then he looks at his own hands.

ADAM

How did I come here?

He squeezes his hand into a fist and answers his own question --

ADAM (CONT'D)

Not of myself. By some great Maker, then.

He looks off at an upward slope of land from which a glowing light seems to be emanating.

He walks to the hill. He looks up.

EXT. EDEN - HILL - SAME

Adam scales the hill quickly and as he crests the top he sees --

THE SON

wings FLAPPING as he lands before Adam. He's the source of the glowing light, which dims as Adam drops reverently to one knee. The Son gazes at Adam gently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE SON

Rise, Adam, first of Men. I am
whom you seek, the author of all
you see.

Tentatively, Adam rises.

ADAM

Heavenly vision, what is this
place?

THE SON

This garden paradise I give to you
to till and keep. Fear no death,
Adam, nor beast, for you and yours
shall be lords over all the Earth.
Of every pleasure here you may
partake freely with a glad heart.
Of every fruit in the garden you
may eat -- save one.

The Son turns and we follow his gaze to

A GREAT TREE

behind him, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, planted
next to an even greater tree, the Tree of Life. Delicious-
looking fruit hangs from both.

Adam gazes at both trees in wonder.

THE SON

Of this Tree of Knowledge of Good
and Evil, placed next to the Tree
of Life at Eden's center, you may
not eat, as a pledge of your
obedience and faith.

Adam notes the tree well.

THE SON (CONT'D)

If you transgress this sole
command, from that point mortal,
you shall lose this happy state you
now enjoy and be expelled into a
world of sorrow, on that day to
surely die.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

I vow to obey, my Maker, not for
fear of such a consequence, but
rather that following Your command
brings more joy than any pleasing
result of disobedience ever could.

One by one, then, animals start coming up the hill. Adam
looks at them, then back to The Son with a question in his
eyes.

THE SON

(smiling)

Your subjects come to greet you.

ADAM

With what purpose?

THE SON

To learn of you their names.

Adam turns to the animals, delighted. A large group has
already assembled.

He looks them over, as if searching for something in
particular. When he doesn't seem to find it, he frowns
slightly.

THE SON (CONT'D)

What disturbs you, Adam?

ADAM

It's... nothing, Lord...

THE SON

Don't you find this garden
beautiful?

ADAM

Beyond my words to express. I
adore all these good things offered
for me alone!

(beat)

But what happiness is there in
solitude?

THE SON

Solitude? Don't various living
creatures stretch beyond your
sight, all at your command?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

Let my words not offend You,
Heavenly Power, but... have you not
made me here Your substitute,
setting these before me far
inferior?

THE SON

I have.

ADAM

Among unequals, what true harmony
can there be? The fellowship I
seek shares delight in exchange of
reason.

THE SON

What of me, Adam? Do I not seem to
possess sufficient happiness, alone
and unequaled as I am?

ADAM

You in Yourself are perfect,
without deficiency. Not so is Man,
whose faults are many. But by
interaction with his kind, he may
by degree improve, or find comfort
in his defects. You have no need
to propagate, being infinite,
though only one. Man remains
imperfect in his oneness, but if he
is many who are of one mind, united
in purpose, though imperfect, he
may achieve wondrous things.

The Son smiles.

THE SON

I'm well pleased in you, Adam.
You've expressed well the free
spirit within your heart. Before
you spoke I knew it poor for Man to
be alone.

The Son gently touches Adam on his forehead. Adam's eyes
swim and he gently lowers himself to the ground.

THE SON (CONT'D)

What therefore I bring next will
please you, be assured -- your
other self, your wish, exactly as
your heart desires.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Adam's eyes close.

CUT TO:

EXT. HELL - PLAIN - DAY

A hill belches forth molten fire and smoke, sending lava flowing downwards. Devils use pick axes and shovels to open a wide cavity in the hill's side. They begin extracting rugged veins of solid gold.

THE SHORELINE

Other devils dig irrigation ditches from the lake, sending veins of liquid fire snaking inward towards land.

THE PLAIN

Here devils melt gold and other ores in cells held over the burning irrigation ditches.

Elsewhere, devils carve enormous shapes of doors and columns in the ground into which they pour the melted ore.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. PANDEMONIUM - DAY

Satan's great palace, completed. Towers, spires, pillars. Enormous.

RAMPARTS

Two devils SOUND enormous trumpets.

EXT. HELL - PLAIN - DAY

The SOUNDS of the trumpets ECHO over the encampments on the shoreline. In response to this summons, devils begin moving towards Pandemonium.

EXT. PANDEMONIUM - DAY

Its great door opens to reveal

INT. PANDEMONIUM - DAY

Satan and his generals enter, flanked by a multitude of devils who pause here and there to admire their work as they fill its roomy interior.

Soon the enormous outer courtyards are filled to the brim with devils milling about peacefully.

INT. HALL OF PANDEMONIUM - DAY

Spacious, like an enormous covered arena. Devils file in as -
-

Satan ascends his throne and sits. He surveys the hall.

A beat.

SATAN

Powers and dominions, deities of
Heaven, I've not given up Heaven
for lost! From this fall can come
virtue more glorious than if we'd
never fallen at all. Unlike
Heaven, there's no risk of envy
here when I stand as your leader
fully exposed to the Thunderer's
aim. Here, where there exists no
good for which to strive, no
advantage for one to have over
another -- except in pain --
dissension cannot rise. With this
advantage then, united as one mind
in firm faith and firm accord,
let's now debate how best to
reclaim what's justly ours. Who
will speak?

At first, there's no response. Then Moloch steps to the
center of the throng.

MOLOCH

My vote is for open war! Let those
who love to scheme, scheme another
time. Why should we fear to
provoke His strength again? Is
there some worse way He can punish
us? What could be worse than being
here, driven out from Heaven's
bliss?

BELIAL (O.S.)

Many things, fallen angel, many
things --

Moloch searches for, then finds, Belial as he emerges into
the center of the hall.

BELIAL (CONT'D)

-- obliteration chief among them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOLOCH

Far preferred, Belial, than to live
in pain of unextinguishable fire
without hope of end.

(to Satan)

But if our substance is indeed
divine and cannot cease to be, nor
our condition made worse, what's to
fear in the attempt?

BELIAL

Is this truly the worst your mind
can summon, Moloch? Loyal friends
sitting here sheltered in this
great hall of Pandemonium,
consulting in safety? Have you so
soon forgotten Heaven's thunder?
Lying confounded in the lake of
fire? Surely that was worse! What
if the breath that kindled that
fire should blow it into sevenfold
more rage and plunge us back into
flame?

MOLOCH

(to Satan)

We've already proven our power
sufficient to disturb Heaven's
rule. If we can't take His throne,
at least we can threaten it. If
not victory, yet then stalemate.

BELIAL

(to the throng)

I would be for war as well, hating
our Conqueror as much as Moloch,
except the very reasons he gives
for war dissuade me most. He
grounds his courage on despair with
stalemate as his sole aim? First,
what stalemate is possible? The
towers of Heaven are filled with
cherubs heavily armed. Even if we
could break through their watch,
our great Enemy would be certain to
remain impervious on His throne.

(to Moloch)

Thus impotent, our final hope only
to provoke Him to expend His rage
and end us? To be no more, that
must be our cure? A sad cure!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BELIAL (CONT'D)

Who would relinquish this
intellectual being, though full of
pain, swallowed up and lost in the
wide womb of uncreated night?

MOLOCH

If done for glory and right
purpose, many more than I alone.

BELIAL

If obliteration is a good end,
then, do you think our angry Foe
would give it? Will He, supreme in
wisdom, let loose His anger and
give us, His enemies, our wish to
be no more, whom He would rather
save to punish endlessly?

MOLOCH

(to Satan)

My prince, I will lead the force
myself, if Belial's argument
overpowers you.

SATAN

No, Moloch. What we decide here
will hold for all. Without unity
we have no hope of success in any
venture. While we debate, many
views may come. Once over and
decided, all views must narrow to
one.

Chemos steps forward --

CHEMOS

Count my voice against war as well
then, my prince. What good is
force or subtlety against Him whose
eye sees all things at one view?
No, better this Hell than worse.
This is now our doom. If we were
strong enough to fight, we're
strong enough to endure.

All at once a great cry goes out from the throng, "Endure!"

BELIAL

And if we can endure, in time our
supreme Foe may remit His anger,
and with us so far removed may
cease to call us to mind, and these
fires may yet slacken.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BELIAL (CONT'D)

Perhaps in time our natures will adapt and cease to feel this heat's horrid pain. And who may know what hope future days may bring, what chance or change worth waiting for may come? Perhaps even, if we might so wish, a readmittance to Heaven's bliss.

Moloch eyes Belial warily. Mammon stands at the front of the throng, stately and reserved.

MAMMON

(to Moloch)

A vain hope that we could wage a war to unseat the King of Heaven.

(to Belial)

But suppose He should relent, and grant grace to all on a promise of renewed subjection. Could we stand humbly in His presence, receiving His strict laws, filling His altar with our servile offerings? This, our old burden, now to be our new delight?

(a beat)

How wearisome to spend eternity in worship of Him we hate. I, for one, counsel Hell's hard liberty over Heaven's easy yoke.

A supportive CHEER goes up. Satan looks around the hall, takes in its measure. Then he gives a surreptitious nod to Beelzebub.

Beelzebub moves to the center of the room and a hush comes over the throng.

BEELZEBUB

Thrones, imperial powers, ethereal virtues -- or should we renounce these titles and be called rather princes of Hell? For so the popular vote now inclines: that we continue here and build a growing empire.

(shaking his head)

The King of Heaven has doomed this place our dungeon, not our safe retreat beyond His potent arm! Mark this well -- in all places and in all times, first and last, He will reign sole King.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BEELZEBUB (CONT'D)

He's lost no portion of His kingdom by our revolt but extends His empire over Hell. We sit here arguing peace or war? He laughs at our presumption. The war has been lost. Here is our result. No terms of peace can be asked or offered by those already enslaved.

Satan looks around the room, sees the truth of Beelzebub's argument in the defeated faces of his followers.

SATAN

What then remains our hope, Beelzebub?

BEELZEBUB

Revenge.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN OF EDEN - DAY

Adam wakes with a start under the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He moves to get up, but feels a pain in his side and winces.

He stands. He looks around. The animals have all gone.

He looks out over the garden in the direction from which he'd ascended the hill. Something near the small lake where he'd previously paused catches his eye.

He descends the hill.

EXT. SHORE - DAY

Adam approaches the small lake and stops when he sees

A WOMAN

naked, bending over the lake at the water's edge, staring enrapt at her reflection. This is EVE.

For a moment, Adam can only stare at this vision before him. She is radiant beyond his dreams.

ADAM

Eve.

Eve startles at the sound of her name and, standing, turns to look at him. She studies him a moment --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- then starts to turn back towards the lake.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Wait!

She stops.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Why do you turn away?

EVE

The form in the water seems less stern than yours before me.

Adam can't help smiling --

ADAM

Before me I see bone of my bone,
flesh of my flesh. Woman is your
name, of Man extracted.

Eve cocks a rebellious eyebrow.

EVE

Extracted?

ADAM

(quickly)

But equal in powers of reason and
freedom of choice. Come with me,
Eve, and be my wife, and we shall
be one heart, one soul.

He holds out his hand to her. She hesitates.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Be fruitful and multiply, our
Creator has commanded us, Eve.

(smiling)

I can't do it alone.

Eve thinks.

EVE

Are you then our Maker's slave, and
I yours? Or are we truly free to
choose our own way?

Adam drops his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

If not free, what proof could we give of true allegiance, of constant faith and love? If we can do only what by constraint we must, then we would deserve no praise for any good act, nor give any pleasure to God -- or to one another -- for such obedience, not chosen but compelled.

EVE

So if I like I may choose another?

Adam looks around him, bewildered --

ADAM

If you can find him...

Eve looks around herself as if searching, then looks back and Adam, decided --

EVE

It's enough to know I could --

Adam laughs in amazement and looks at her.

She smiles back at him a radiant, joyful smile.

Adam holds out his hand again and this time she takes it. Adam kisses her. After a moment, she returns his kiss with equal passion.

EXT. HILL - DAY

Adam and Eve climb back up the hill together.

EVE

(excited)

Where do you take me, Adam, husband of mine?

He just looks back at her, smiling in delight. He holds out his hand and pulls her up to the top.

They pause to catch their breath.

Adam turns then to look back out at the garden, even as something behind him catches Eve's eye.

ADAM

(proudly)

What do think of our home, Eve?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But Eve has walked to the foot of the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. She looks from one to the other.

EVE
Magnificent.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OF PANDEMONIUM - DAY

Beelzebub still commands the floor --

BEELZEBUB
To do good of any kind can never be our goal, but ever its opposite. Every thought, every action must now work to lessen our Conqueror's joy in our defeat.

MOLOCH
And if not by means of war -- ?

BEELZEBUB
There is a place, if ancient prophecy in Heaven is true, another world, which is the happy seat of some new race called Man, rumored to be created like us, though less in power and excellence, but favored more by Him who rules above. Let us bend our thoughts to learn what creatures may live there and to learn what way, by force or guile, we may assail their weakness. Though Heaven may be shut, this place may lie exposed.

MOLOCH
And there we'll go to waste His whole creation -- ?

BEELZEBUB
Or possess it as our own, and drive out, as we were driven, those who live there now.

MAMMON
Or if not drive out, seduce them to our side so that their God may prove their Foe, and in anger abolish their world He made.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Beelzebub looks out at the throng amid growing murmurs of approval --

BEELZEBUB
(to the throng)
That would surpass common revenge,
would it not?

A wild CHEER erupts. Beelzebub glances to Satan knowingly. Satan watches the room, pleased. He looks at his generals. One by one they nod. Only Moloch looks away.

Satan stands. The crowd quiets.

SATAN
Well have you judged and ended this
long debate. Hope is now reborn.

BEELZEBUB
(to the throng)
It only remains to choose. Whom
shall we send in search of this new
world? Who shall test the dark
unbottomed abyss to find the way up
to the light from Hell?

Silence. Satan waits. No one speaks. He looks around the room. Then he nods --

SATAN
Feel no shame in silence. I should
ill become this throne, matchless
peers, if difficulty or danger in
what's proposed could deter me from
its attempt. I will seek
deliverance for us all.

Another CHEER goes up. As it dies down --

MOLOCH
And if you fail in this, perhaps
debate may be reopened...

SATAN
Fail in this I won't.

Starting with Moloch himself, then, and those in front, the devils bow, sparking a wave of bowing that spreads rapidly backwards to the edges of the hall. Satan looks out over them.

EXT. PANDEMONIUM - DAY

From the ground, Beelzebub looks up to the top of the highest spire. Then he launches himself into the air and flies a circular path around it up to the top to find

SATAN

standing on its edge, looking down over his kingdom. They greet one another silently. Beelzebub looks down with him.

SATAN

How faithful they all stood,
Beelzebub. How proud to be free.

A beat.

BEELZEBUB

My prince -- for the mass I argued
revenge as we'd conspired. But,
need this revenge truly be? Where
lies the wisdom in drinking deep of
that concoction, though at first
sweet, certain to poison the
drinker in the end?

Satan regards him bitterly --

SATAN

What father casts out even the
least of his sons?

To this, Beelzebub has no answer.

Satan turns and FLAPS his great wings, rising up --

-- and then plummets down from the spire like an arrow aimed
at the earth.

He swoops down over his minions, then shoots back up with
equal speed. His minions CHEER.

Beelzebub watches him go.

SATAN

continues up like a missile, quickly leaving Pandemonium a
small speck in the distance behind him.

Faster and faster he climbs, his wings again becoming a blur
until at last, in the distance, he spots --

THE CEILING OF HELL

a great curved rocky dome covering Hell from horizon to horizon.

Momentarily surprised, but undaunted, Satan thrusts his arms out in front of him, balling his hands into fists as he speeds upwards. He clenches his jaw and --

-- strikes Hell's ceiling with a thunderous SMASH!

He's flung back, stunned, and falls.

He quickly comes to his senses mid-air and hovers.

A beat.

Satan removes his great spear and flies back down for several miles.

He turns and faces the ceiling, again hovering. He positions his spear in front of him.

Then he charges upwards again, up, up, up --

-- into Hell's ceiling once more. His spear splinters with a CRACK, flying out of his hands painfully. The ceiling remains undented.

Satan hovers close to the ceiling, thinking. He looks along the ceiling's length as far as he can, first in one direction, then in the other. He sees no opening.

Slowly then he starts to skim along its surface upside down, in a crisscrossing pattern, searching for a way through it.

Miles of ceiling stretch before him. On and on he flies.

The curvature of the ceiling becomes sharper gradually, and he stops weaving and resumes flying straight. It becomes clear he's now following the curve of the ceiling back down to where its edge meets the floor of Hell.

He flips over to right himself, bringing suddenly into view, in the distance, the edge of the floor of Hell and

THE GATES OF HELL

similar to those of Heaven in size, stretching literally beyond what can be taken in at one glance, rising up all the way to Hell's ceiling. It's really, really big.

CONTINUED:

Satan flies straight towards it and lands in front of it half a mile away. He begins walking towards it.

AT THE GATES OF HELL

Two figures stand in front, a distance apart from one another. One is an enormous dark shadow, nearly formless but with four limbs, a torso and a head barely perceptible. The only things clearly visible about him is the large golden crown on his head. A long serpentine stinger lifts out from his back and over his head like a scorpion's. Venom drips from its end. This is DEATH.

The other figure is a beautiful naked WOMAN from the waist up. Below that, instead of having legs, she tapers to the bodies and tails of ten serpents. Surrounding her are three enormous hellhounds, growling, gnashing and drooling at her. She watches them nervously out of the corner of her eye at all times, constantly on guard.

Death turns his head suddenly from watching the Woman and the hellhounds to Satan off in the distance. A horrid CRY rises from his throat and he starts running at terrifying speed towards Satan, Hell shaking as he goes.

WOMAN

No!

SATAN

sees Death coming and readies himself, unafraid.

THE WOMAN

starts to launch herself forward, but the hellhounds hold her at bay.

DEATH

reaches Satan and SLAMS into him at full speed, knocking him down, falling on top of him.

Death crushes Satan's arms to his sides around Satan's waist. Satan cries out in pain.

Death's stinger launches itself at Satan's head.

Satan moves his head out of the way at the last minute, Death's stinger burying itself in the ground.

Satan flips Death up, over, and down with a SLAM so that Satan now lies on top of him, Death's stinger buried underneath them both.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

From this position, Satan is able to grab Death's stinger with one of his hands, his arms still pinned to his sides.

Satan squeezes Death's stinger with all his might. Death SCREECHES and releases Satan's arms.

Satan rolls off Death, Death's stinger still grasped in his hand. He pulls on the stinger like a rope and flips Death up in the air and then down into the ground.

Satan flings Death away from him with tremendous force. Death goes flying.

Death slams into the wall of a hill. He rights himself immediately.

SATAN

What are you, execrable shape, that dares to bar my way?

When Death speaks, his voice is a metallic HISS --

DEATH

Are you then that traitor angel who first broke peace in Heaven?

SATAN

King of Hell now, I am he. Now withdraw, thing of Hell, or learn the folly of contending with a spirit of Heaven.

DEATH

By what merit do you still claim kinship with that brighter place, and breathe defiance here where I reign king?

SATAN

I mean to pass, be assured, without leave asked of you.

DEATH

Back to your punishment, false fugitive, or feel with one stroke of this dart pangs unfelt before.

Satan launches his spear at Death. It travels like a missile, almost too fast for the eye to follow, WHIZZING by Death at the last moment --

-- followed by Satan himself leaping forward to follow his spear. He crashes into Death knocking them both over.

THE WOMAN

looks on in horror. She tries to move forward again, but the barking hellhounds bar her way still.

With great determination then, she leaps with her snakes' tails, ignoring the bites from the dogs, one of which clamps his jaws around her arm.

She HOWLS, shakes him off and starts undulating forward towards Satan and Death in great rising waves of her snakes' bodies. The three hellhounds continue to circle around her as she goes, snapping and barking.

SATAN AND DEATH

wrestle mightily. Death wraps his stinger around Satan's neck and begins to choke him.

Satan claws at the stinger, digging into it with his fingers. Death grabs Satan's hands with his own and tries to pry them away from his stinger --

Satan manages to grab the end of Death's stinger and suddenly spins quickly away, unrolling the stinger from his neck --

-- and turns to face Death again.

The Woman reaches them --

WOMAN

Stop! Stop!

(to Satan)

Father, what does your hand intend
against your only son?

Satan freezes.

SATAN

My son -- ?

WOMAN

(to Death)

What fury, Death, possesses you to
bend that mortal dart against your
father's head?

Death, too, has stopped, but says nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN

(to the Woman)

What sort of thing are you, thus
double-formed, and why do you call
me father and this phantasm my son?

Death looks at Satan and then to the Woman --

WOMAN

Have you forgotten me so quickly
then? Do I seem now to your eye so
foul when I was deemed so fair in
Heaven once, when at the assembly
and in sight of all the seraphim I
joined with you in bold conspiracy
against Almighty God?

IN FLASHBACK

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

Thousands upon thousands of angels stand arranged in
concentric circles, glittering banners held aloft. At the
center of these circles of angels stands God's Mountain, the
highest point in all of Heaven. The top of it is obscured by
a light just dim enough for us to tolerate. This, God's
throne, is the source of all light in Heaven.

The angels are BUZZING with excitement, waiting.

The light from God's Mountain begins to pulse, then, and
suddenly becomes so bright we can no longer look directly at
it.

The multitude of angels bow and bring their wings over their
faces to cover their eyes.

WOMAN (V.O.)

"Hear all you angels," God spoke.
"This day have I begot My one and
only Son -- "

We see Satan as he was before his fall, as Lucifer, beautiful
and pure, standing at the head of the innermost circle with
God's greatest angels, his head bowed and eyes shielded with
the rest.

The Son BURSTS forth from God's light at the top of God's
Mountain, riding his massive chariot pulled by the same four
winged cherubic shapes we saw before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The light from God's Mountain dims again to more tolerable levels as the chariot THUNDERS to the ground at the foot of God's Mountain.

WOMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 " -- he shall reign at My right
 hand -- "

It stops in front of Lucifer and the other archangels: Michael, Gabriel, URIEL, ABDIEL, Raphael and Aniel. Standing there also, though more difficult to recognize in their angelic forms, are Beelzebub, Belial, Mammon, Chemos and Moloch.

WOMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 " -- before Him shall all knees
 bend -- "

The angels bow before the Son, including, after a brief hesitation, Lucifer. His eyes are narrowed.

WOMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 " -- and all Heavenly spirits shall
 call him Lord."

A great CRY of joy rises up from the Heavenly host and all the angels begin dancing and SINGING.

In the midst of this celebration, Lucifer smiles wanly to the archangels. He steps to the side, rubbing his temple.

He grimaces as if in pain. He hurries behind an enclave and suddenly collapses to the ground, gripping his head in his hands as if he were having the worst headache of his life, and then --

-- the top of his head literally splits open and a full-grown woman, naked and wet, erupts out of it!

She collapses beside him, her face pointed away from us, panting and shivering from the trauma of her birth.

The split in Lucifer's head heals. Lucifer recovers himself and stands. He stares in wonder at the woman before him.

The woman stops shivering and panting. Then she turns her face to him and us and we recognize her as the Woman. Slowly, she stands.

WOMAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Out of your head I sprung, your
 daughter, Sin, birthed from the
 first thought of your rebellion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLOSE SHOT of Lucifer and the Woman (Sin) facing each other. Lucifer looks at her now with lust. He looks down, off screen where we can't see, presumably at his groin, and smiles at what he sees has formed there now. Sin looks down and smiles as well.

CUT TO:

LUCIFER AND SIN

making love.

SIN (V.O.)
I pleased you then...

TIME CUT TO:

ARMY OF REBEL ANGELS

as they are routed by Michael's legions to jump through the Gates of Heaven into Chaos, following their leader, Satan.

CLOSE ON Sin as she falls with them.

SIN (V.O.)
Down into the deep your faithful
fell, I among them.

CUT TO:

SIN

impacts the ground in front of the Gates of Hell with a sickening THUD, alone. She lies there, moaning.

Then she manages to stand shakily, leaving behind a deep impression of her body in the ground.

She looks at the Gates of Hell. Then she spies

MICHAEL

just outside them, standing in silence, watching her. She approaches him timidly. Through the Gates he hands her a key.

MICHAEL
Take this key, Sin. You're charged
to keep this Gate forever shut.

Michael withdraws, flying back up to Heaven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sin turns to regard the inside of Hell, her expression hopeless.

TIME CUT TO:

SIN

writhing in pain on the ground in front of the Gates of Hell, her belly swollen. She is giving birth.

SIN (V.O.)
At last this odious offspring,
breaking its violent way, tore
through my entrails.

We see the shadowy shape of Death emerge from between her legs. As he is born, Sin's legs lengthen and divide to form the bodies and tails of the ten serpents.

SIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Thus was I transformed.

Death stands and faces the transformed Sin. He stares at her.

In mortal terror, Sin slithers quickly away at great speed.

Death pursues her and overtakes her easily. He slams her down on the floor of Hell.

Death mounts Sin and rapes her. She SCREAMS.

BACK TO SCENE

Satan stares in revulsion at Sin, Death, and the three hellhounds.

SIN
Of that rape begot these yelling
monsters. And between them and
grim Death, my son and foe, my
punishment extends perpetually.

A beat.

SATAN
Dear daughter, I come as no enemy
but to set you both free from this
house of pain, and all the Heavenly
spirits who fell.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEATH

What do I care to be here or there
when all I know is inexhaustible
hunger?

SATAN

(to Death)

I go to find a world of upstart
creatures, and once found will
return to bring you where you shall
live at ease. All things there
shall be your prey.

Death grins horribly at this. He nods. Sin considers.

SIN

What do I owe to Him who hates me
and thrust me down into this gloom?

(to Satan)

If you'll bring me soon to that new
world of light and bliss where I
may reign, without end, at your
right hand, your daughter and your
darling, I'll unlock this gate and
set you free.

Satan suppresses a small shudder. Then, with grim
determination --

SATAN

It shall be so.

A key appears in Sin's hand. She turns and undulates back to
the Gates of Hell. Satan follows.

AT THE GATES OF HELL

Satan retrieves his spear, buried half-way into one of the
Gates' colossal bars.

Sin sets the key into the Gates' massive lock and turns it. A
thunderous CLANG rings out, followed by a JARRING of
tumblers, and then the immense vertical bolt that secures the
Gate CLAMORS upwards out of the ground.

It comes to rest in the open position with another CLANG.

Satan stands at the Gates' center, dwarfed by their size. He
puts out one hand to either side and --

-- with a mighty push sends them swinging out into Chaos,
their ponderous hinges GRATING as they go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Smoke and fire belch out of Hell, flowing over Satan, Death, and Sin as if pulled outwards into Chaos by its vacuum.

Satan folds his wings in reflexively to prevent himself from being blown out and looks out into Chaos.

A harsh cacophony of sound rises up. Chaos: sometimes solid, sometimes liquid, sometimes both, but always constant motion. Chaos winds blow dust and color and warped space violently.

Satan stares, contemplative.

He looks back once at Sin and Death. Then he turns back to Chaos, spreads his wings as wide as they go --

-- and leaps.

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Satan finds himself tossed about in a Chaos storm -- as if a great tidal wave had flowed over him and was washing him violently about. Light flashes like lightning.

He beats his wings intensely and heads into the source of the storm.

Suddenly, he catches an updraft and is flung vertically upwards with bone-crushing force and speed. He grits his teeth, momentarily helpless.

He slams upside down into a boggy, half-fluid terrain, his feet sinking half-way in and then stopping.

A beat. CAMERA ADJUSTS to right our view.

Satan begins to take a few tentative steps when suddenly a twisting of space, like a tornado, scoops him up and flings him spinning off into the void once more.

Around and around he spins at the edge of the tornado, hopelessly disoriented until --

-- he's slammed into a giant chaos shape, half-solid, half-liquid, flowing and changing as it moves, the force of the collision so great it buries him in the chaos-stuff up to his mid-thighs. It hardens around his legs instantly.

He pauses, exhausted. He looks across the void. Utter randomness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN
(despairing)
What to guide me -- ?

He tries to free himself but he's stuck fast. He looks into the void, overwhelmed.

CUT TO:

THE GATES OF HELL

where Death and Sin look out into Chaos.

SIN
The path he carves already begins
to fade.

DEATH
Then best not to wait for his
return --

And with that, Death's stinger flashes out into Chaos and scoops up a mound of chaos-stuff. He slams it into the ground at the Gates of Hell and blows on it with chilling breath.

The chaos-stuff hardens instantly. He repeats the process and then takes a step out onto the beginnings of a bridge. His stinger flashes out once again.

Sin realizes what he's doing and joins him on the bridge on its opposite side. Her many serpent's tails flash out to beat mounds of chaos-stuff towards the bridge's leading edge. She blows her own chilling breath to freeze it in place.

The hellhounds stop at the edge of Hell, wanting to follow Sin but afraid of Chaos, WHINING, licking their chops --

-- then BARKING at Sin and Death as they begin to build their bridge off into the abyss.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Satan lies still stuck in the chaos shape, eyes downcast.

Then a subtle light begins to shine across his face, catching his attention. He looks up.

Off in the immeasurable distance, barely perceptible, he spots with his devil's sight a

JAGGED SLIVER OF LIGHT

as if Chaos had been ripped horizontally and a light was shining through the tear from the other side.

SATAN

Light --

He redoubles his efforts to free himself as --

-- the chaos shape in which he's stuck starts to turn, carrying him away from the light, like a planet rotating on its axis.

Panicked, Satan tries harder to escape. The sliver of light is getting smaller, moving slowly farther away and beyond of his view...

SATAN (CONT'D)

No! No!

... and then the chaos shape has rotated far enough around that it's gone from his sight. He's plunged back into the dimness of Chaos.

Satan struggles madly and manages to free one leg.

Still the chaos shape turns. Satan looks behind him in the direction he'd last seen the light, desperate to reach it.

Suddenly another chaos shape looms, heading straight towards him!

With a herculean effort, he frees his other leg, SCREAMING as it pops free --

-- and flings himself out into the void, into a pocket of silence --

-- a split second before the second chaos shape collides with the first with an ear splitting CRASH that shatters the silence and seems to shake the fabric of Chaos itself.

The force of the collision sends visible three dimensional shock waves out into the abyss. They slam into Satan, sending him off into the void.

As he's flung away from the chaos shapes, from behind them the sliver of light reappears in his field of vision, growing smaller and smaller as he's raced away from it by the shock wave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With two mighty FLAPS of his wings, he reorients himself in parallel with the shock wave and begins darting, almost swimming, along its edge.

In this way, even as the wave continues to force him outwards, he's able to "surf" along it far enough around that it begins to push him, no longer away from, but now towards, the sliver of light.

He rides the shock wave on --

TIME CUT TO:

JAGGED SLIVER OF LIGHT

The shock wave long since dissipated, Satan approaches under his own power, darting adroitly around huge chaos shapes.

As he comes nearer, we realize this isn't a tear in Chaos at all, but rather an island of light floating inside it.

He comes even closer and we begin to appreciate how truly enormous this gleaming oasis really is -- much larger than any chaos shape we've yet seen by many million times.

As he approaches, details gradually sharpen until

THE GATES OF HEAVEN

come suddenly into focus, adorned with brilliant gems and masonry.

Satan stops in surprise as he realizes where he is. He hovers, staring in wonder at Heaven's walls, her battlements, her towers. No angels are in sight.

A GOLDEN CHAIN

now extends from the underside of the Gates of Heaven down into the distance.

As Satan watches, a magnificent stairway begins forming suddenly, spiraling down around the chain starting from the foot of the Gates of Heaven.

Satan looks down the chain to follow the forming stairway as it tapers off into the distant dark of Chaos.

He plunges towards the chain then, down, down, trying to keep up with the stairway as it forms, until he sees in the distance a

CRYSTALLINE SHELL

spread out below him, extending as far as he can see from horizon to horizon. He sees that this is the weight that hangs from Heaven anchored in place by the golden chain.

He follows the chain and stairway down to the surface of the Shell to the point where the chain hooks into it and the stairway now finishes forming.

He lands on the Shell's surface at the foot of the stairs. There is a portal here leading in to the Shell.

Satan peers over the edge of the portal and sees

OUR UNIVERSE

as created by The Son, filled with stars.

Exulting, he takes one more look above him at Heaven, then dives headlong into the Shell.

SPACE

Millions and millions of stars. Galaxies. Nebulas. Comets.

Satan sweeps the universe with his gaze until he sees the thing he seeks an immeasurable distance away, beyond our sight, and begins flying towards it.

On and on he flies, light years and light years.

TIME CUT TO:

THE SUN

Satan arrives at our Sun. It boils and pops, sending vast columns of fire out into space.

Satan dives for its surface.

He lands. All around him fires blaze, similar to Hell, but not as hot. In the far distance he sees a colored glow, not of the Sun.

Satan begins walking towards the glow. As he comes nearer, we realize the source of the glow is, in fact, an angel, his back turned towards us.

As Satan nears the angel, he MORPHS himself into the form of an innocent cherub.

THE ANGEL

turns as he hears Satan approach, and we recognize Uriel from the angels assembled around God's Mountain.

SATAN

Uriel of the seven spirits that stand in sight of the Almighty's throne, honored watchman of Heaven and God's new world, I greet you from the choirs of the cherubim, wandering unaccompanied.

URIEL

Your fellowship is most welcome, young cherub. How may I serve?

SATAN

I come with intense desire to see God's new creation, chiefly Man, for whom He ordained all these wondrous works. Tell me, brightest seraph, in which of all these shining orbs has Man his furnished seat?

URIEL

For what purpose do you wish to see?

SATAN

That I may praise our Maker's works with open admiration, to witness with my own eyes what some report in Heaven.

URIEL

Fair angel, your desire to know the works of God merits praise the more it grows in excess. For what created mind can comprehend their number or the wisdom that brought them forth?

SATAN

Who, indeed?

Uriel points.

URIEL

Look downward on that globe whose side shines light from here reflected.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

URIEL (CONT'D)

That place is Earth, the seat of
Man. The spot I point is Paradise,
the abode of Adam and Eve, his
wife.

Satan bows low.

SATAN

Thank you.

URIEL

Glory be to God.

Without replying, Satan leaps upwards and away.

Uriel pauses, as if vaguely troubled by Satan's lack of
answer. Then evidently he dismisses the worry, for in the
next moment he smiles.

SATAN

flies straight towards Earth.

He breaks the atmosphere and heads down to a mountaintop.

He lands on it and surveys his surroundings. Mountains
stretch to his left and right, ardent valleys beneath them,
and beyond those, forests and lakes. Truly beautiful, our
unadulterated Earth.

As he looks around, Satan becomes more and more upset at the
beauty he sees, reminded of a similar beauty forever now
denied him.

Finally, unable to hold in his rage any longer, he lets loose
a piercing SCREAM. It ECHOES out into the world, past

EDEN

where Adam and Eve stop in the midst of tending the garden,
frightened; out to

THE SUN

where Uriel jerks his head suddenly and narrows his eyes as
he stares across space to Earth, seeing with his angel's
sight

SATAN

now reverted back to his true demonic form.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Satan throws a contemptuous glance over his shoulder sunward, uncaring in his anger and arrogance if Uriel sees him, and then looks across to

E DEN

which we now see sits on mountain nearby, its top a broad plateau, its edges surrounded by a thick rim of trees. Jutting just above this tree rim Satan sees the very top of the Tree of Life at Eden's center.

Satan flies down to the foot of the mountain on which Eden is housed. He looks up the high slope.

Then all at once he springs and leaps a mile upwards and over Eden's tree lined border, falling back down to land in Eden with a heavy THUD.

He spreads his wings once more and flies up to a thick branch of the Tree of Life. From there he surveys Eden.

A fresh fountain spring gushes near the Tree of Life from which several veins of water flow down to feed into Eden's many streams and brooks, golden sand glittering under clear water at their shores.

Grassy expanses are filled with herds of all sorts of animals grazing peacefully, hills covered with flowers of brilliant color, fruit of every shape dangling from vines and trees, shaded groves. The SOUNDS of animals, SINGING birds, FLUTTERING leaves on trees. Truly, the Garden of Eden.

Off in the distance, then, wandering down near the shore of a stream, Satan spots

ADAM AND EVE

facing towards him now, holding hands, naked.

Together, they dive into the water and swim.

They play with each other, obviously very much in love.

A lion innocently fondles a lamb with its paw by the shore, making Adam and Eve laugh. A dolphin breaks through the surface in front of them, splashing them playfully. Eve squeals in delight.

SATAN

stares at them, enrapt. His expression grows thoughtful, and then sad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With a small gesture he shrugs off any regret and becomes determined once more.

He flies down from the Tree of Life and into a herd of antelope, MORPHING as he lands into the shape of one of them. The herd moves towards the stream.

Satan breaks off from the herd, next joining a small colony of beavers, MORPHING into one of them as well. He slides into the stream and floats across.

He lands on the opposite shore, near to Adam and Eve, and slowly climbs out, unnoticed. As he enters some tall grass, he MORPHS again, this time into a tiger.

He crouches by the shore and slowly, by degrees, begins inching towards them as they continue to play in the stream, low in the grass, as if stalking a deer he was about to attack.

Adam and Eve come ashore and sit down together facing the water. Satan, as a tiger, is only a few yards behind them. He inches forward a little more.

A small monkey brings Adam and Eve some fruit.

EVE

Truly, Adam, does our Maker require
no other service from us than to
keep this one easy charge?

Satan, as a tiger, creeps forward two smooth steps more --

ADAM

(nodding)

To be the only sign of our
obedience to Him, among so many
other signs of our power...

(indicating animals across the shore)
... over them. God has pronounced
it death to taste that Tree of
Knowledge of Good and Evil --
whatever death is, some dreadful
thing, no doubt.

Satan freezes.

EVE

We shall not think this one
prohibition hard then when we enjoy
such unlimited choice of manifold
delights.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVE (CONT'D)

We owe Him many praises, I chiefly,
 who enjoy the happier lot having
 you, while you have no one like
 yourself, but only me.

Adam smiles and reaches for her. They lay down on the shore
 and begin to make love.

Satan, still in tiger form, watches for a moment, then peels
 away silently and rushes off into the brush.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Once far away, Satan MORPHS back into his true form as he
 continues to move --

SATAN

While I'm thrust to Hell where
 neither joy nor love but only
 unquenched desire burns, these two
 enjoy their fill of bliss on bliss -
 - !

He comes to a stop. A beat.

He plucks fruit from a tree. He stares at it.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Knowledge forbidden? Suspicious.
 Reasonless. Can it be a sin to
 know? From ignorance grows their
 happy state? And, more, serves as
 a sign of their obedience and
 faith?

He takes a bite of the fruit, savors its taste. He nods to
 himself.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Then that a fair foundation upon
 which to build their ruin.

CUT TO:

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

Uriel flies with all speed in through the Gates. They close
 slowly behind him.

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY

Uriel flies over Heaven's plain to arrive at

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

Uriel lands at the foot of the Mountain in front of The Son and the other archangels: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Abdiel and Aniel. He bows before The Son.

URIEL

My Lord, this day came to my sphere
a spirit seeming zealous to know
more of the Almighty's works,
chiefly Man. I described the way,
to which he bent with all speed.
But from the mount that lies north
of Eden upon which first he lit
came a horrid cry, and when I
looked down, I saw not an innocent
cherub, but a thing of Hell.

MICHAEL

One of the banished throng has
ventured from the deep?

GABRIEL

(to Uriel)
-- who can dim his celestial glow
beneath what even your sight can
see?

THE SON

Go now, you six, to Eden. This is
none less than Satan, here to raise
new trouble. Find him and drive
him back to where he now rightly
belongs.

The six archangels bow and then together fly up.

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

The Gates of Heaven open majestically and the six archangels come streaking out of Heaven.

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Down the golden chain they fly to the

CRYSTALLINE SHELL

through its portal and into the universe they go.

EXT. EDEN - SUNDOWN

The six archangels reach Earth and streak towards Eden like missiles.

They spot Satan standing out in the open of Eden and aim towards him.

Satan sees them coming and starts sprinting towards a forest.

Down the archangels come, swords out.

Satan makes it to the forest, speeds between the trees.

The archangels drop low and follow him into the forest. It's getting dark and hard to see.

Satan lunges over a bower and drops down, MORPHING at the last second into a huge SERPENT as --

-- the archangels come up behind him, and then over him, missing him completely.

The archangels pull up and land in a clearing.

GABRIEL

Uriel, what do you see?

Uriel looks around in a three hundred sixty degree arc.

URIEL

No sign.

GABRIEL

He may yet be hiding in some form disguised, or gone from this place altogether.

(to Abdiel)

Return to Heaven and bring back with you a cherubim choir.

(to the group)

Divide their ranks among yourselves and scour the Earth -- Michael, this garden. I go to warn Man's parents. In whatever shape he lurks, by tomorrow we'll know.

The five archangels nod and depart.

SATAN

still in the form of a Serpent, watches through the trees as they go.

EXT. EDEN - NIGHT

Gabriel approaches Adam and Eve's bower.

He enters to find them sleeping. He gently touches Adam on the shoulder. Adam wakes. He stares in wonder at the splendor of Gabriel.

Gabriel motions him outside. Adam follows. Eve still sleeps.

Once outside --

GABRIEL

That you are happy, Adam, you owe to God. That you continue so, you owe to yourself and your obedience.

Adam falls to his knees --

ADAM

Archangel, are we in lack of obedience to God in some way? If so, we don't know it.

GABRIEL

Rise, Adam. This is merely a caution I bring. Come.

They start to walk.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

A great fiend has escaped the bowels of Hell and now hides here on some errand of mischief.

ADAM

The source today of that chilling cry -- ?

Gabriel nods.

GABRIEL

Satan, once called Lucifer, God's greatest angel, now His greatest foe. And yours.

IN FLASHBACK

We continue from where we last left Lucifer and Sin --

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

Angels are still celebrating the birth of The Son, SINGING and dancing around him at the foot of God's Mountain, even as its light is growing dim.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
 God had anointed His one and only
 Son, and all seemed well pleased...

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - TWILIGHT

Darker now, the angels lie in their pavilions. Beelzebub, in his original angelic form, lies sleeping in one of them.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
 ... all seemed -- but not all
 were...

Lucifer gently rouses Beelzebub.

BEELZEBUB
 My prince -- ?

LUCIFER
 (whispering)
 What sleep can close your lids,
 dear friend, remembering today's
 decree? Though new laws from Him
 who reigns are thus imposed, new
 minds may rise in us who serve.

Beelzebub starts to reply, but Lucifer stops him.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)
 To say more here isn't safe. In
 silence, assemble those we lead.
 Tell them, by my command, we march
 homeward to our quarters of the
 North.

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - NIGHT

The Son rides his chariot back up God's Mountain.

Behind him, about a third of all the angels present silently break camp.

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - NIGHT

Lucifer's forces move quickly.

EXT. PALACE OF LUCIFER - NIGHT

Placed high up on a hill. Lucifer's forces enter.

INT. PALACE OF LUCIFER - NIGHT

Lucifer stands in the middle of the throng of gathered angels.

LUCIFER

Thrones, dominations, virtues -- if these titles aren't empty, eclipsed as they are now by this other, anointed our new king -- we must now consult how best to pay tribute to Him who will demand from us vile prostration.

(beat)

Will you submit your necks to this new yoke and bend your knees? You won't, if I know you right, or if you know yourselves. None have possessed us before this, and though not all were equal perhaps before, all here were equally free. Who can assume monarchy over us then, who live by right his equals?

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Only one among them remained true --

-- as out of the throng surrounding Lucifer steps Abdiel.

ABDIEL

Blasphemy, Lucifer! A false and proud argument! Words no one ever expected to hear in Heaven, least of all from you. Shall you give law to God? Shall you dispute with Him the points of liberty, He who made you what you are?

Lucifer waits to see if any other angel will join Abdiel. When none does --

LUCIFER

Made me? Made you? Do you remember your own making, Abdiel?

(to one in the throng)

Do you?

(to another)

Or you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

None do.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

(to Abdiel)

We know no time when we were not as now. We know none who existed before us. We are self-made and self-raised by our own quickening power!

(to the throng)

Is our courage not our own?

(raising his right hand)

Are these right hands not our own, to try by proof who is our equal?

A MURMUR of approval ripples through the crowd. Abdiel looks around, dismayed.

Lucifer surveys his angels and nods.

LUCIFER (CONT'D)

(to Abdiel)

Go now and carry this report to your anointed king: He'll soon learn whether we intend to approach His throne beseeching or besieging.

ABDIEL

(unafraid)

Accursed spirit, I see your fall determined.

(to the throng)

Don't be troubled how to quit the yoke of our Maker's Son. His indulgent laws won't be for you. His golden scepter you've refused is soon to be an iron rod to break you.

The ranks part and Abdiel walks slowly and calmly out of Lucifer's palace.

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - TWILIGHT

Abdiel flies back to God's Mountain.

He lands and kneels before The Son at the foot of the Mountain. The other archangels are behind him. Abdiel speaks M.O.S.

We see The Son's expression darken.

Daylight breaks from God's Mountain, lighting up them all.

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Strange though it seemed to us, we
angels went to war...

Gabriel and Michael at the head of God's army fly into battle. It's as if the air were filled with a million armored birds.

EXT. PALACE OF LUCIFER - DAY

God's and Lucifer's armies clash! Complete chaos.

Lucifer, in full armor, surveys the field of battle from in front of his palace, atop its hill.

Swords cut and spears stab, causing horrible wounds.

Lucifer watches as both sides realize that, while they can be grievously wounded, none of them can actually be killed.

From the battlefield, Abdiel sees Lucifer watching.

Abdiel starts making his way through the sea of fighting angels to reach him.

Lucifer descends the hill, his great spear out before him.

Abdiel comes up to meet him. They prepare to battle --

ABDIEL
You're a fool, Lucifer, to think
rising in arms against the Almighty
not in vain.

LUCIFER
Abdiel, returned from flight to
receive your just reward...!

Lucifer pulls back his arm to toss his spear at Abdiel at point blank range.

But before he can release it, Abdiel lunges forward and strikes a blow with his arm into Lucifer's unguarded chest. So powerful is it that Lucifer is knocked back five steps and falls to one knee, on his face a look of complete surprise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Armed with God's might, in the end,
the saints and sinners became
unmixed.

CUT TO:

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

As we saw before, with the merest flick of his arm, The Son
flings Lucifer through the Gates and over the edge.

POV - THE SON

as Lucifer drops away from the edge of Heaven into Chaos,
SCREAMING.

He vanishes into the abyss.

A long beat.

Then hundreds and thousands more of his rebel angels are
flung over the edge of Heaven into Chaos after their leader.

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Images of thousands of angels falling through Chaos.

GABRIEL (V.O.)
Nine days they fell through Chaos,
confounded, until at last Hell
yawned open to receive them.

The ceiling of Hell, dwarfing the angels in size, opens to
receive them.

They fall through the ceiling and into the lake of fire.

As the ceiling of Hell then slowly starts to close --

GABRIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He who aspired too high and fell
envies your happy state, and plots
how he may seduce you to his side.
Profit from his fall, Adam, or join
with him, not in victory, but in
punishment, then only to serve his
solace and revenge.

The ceiling of Hell closes shut, sealing them in with an
echoing SMASH.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. EDEN - ADAM AND EVE'S BOWER - NIGHT

Adam awakes with a start.

Profoundly uneasy, he looks over at Eve, sleeping peacefully. He calms himself.

He goes back to sleep.

EXT. GATES OF EDEN - NIGHT

Gabriel now keeps watch.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. EDEN - ADAM AND EVE'S BOWER - NIGHT

The night is quiet. Still in the form of a Serpent, Satan slithers into the bower.

He moves to Eve's side of the bed.

He MORPHS back into his true form. He looks down on the sleeping Eve. He pauses, apparently taken with her beauty.

He sighs. Then he moves to bend down towards her ear.

A SWORD

suddenly touches his throat, blocking his way to Eve. He looks up along its length to see

GABRIEL

holding the sword, his expression solemn.

GABRIEL

Your true form betrays you, Satan.

Satan glances back at Adam and Eve.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

They'll not hear you.

They do indeed seem to be oblivious to the angels' presence, as if in a trance more than asleep.

Gabriel uses his sword held at Satan's throat to force him outside.

EXT. EDEN - NIGHT

Gabriel swings Satan around so that Gabriel stands between him and the entrance to the bower.

GABRIEL

Why have you broken the bounds
prescribed for your transgression?

SATAN

You were esteemed wise in Heaven,
Gabriel, but this question puts me
in doubt. Do any live who love
pain? Who would not, finding a
way, break loose from Hell?

GABRIEL

So wise you judge it, then, to fly
from pain? So you may, till the
wrath incurred by your flight rises
seven-fold or more.

Satan says nothing.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

And why then come alone? Is the
pain of your seditious crew less
than yours, or is it equal and you
merely less fit than they?

SATAN

The opposite, as you well know. A
distinguished leader doesn't risk
others before himself. Thus I
alone undertook the desolate way
through Chaos to spy this newly
created world.

GABRIEL

First wise to fly pain, then the
courageous scout. Your
contradictions mark you not as a
distinguished leader but a
distinguished liar.

SATAN

A patron of liberty, faithful --

GABRIEL

(interrupting)

"Faithful" you say? Faithful? To
whom? Your minions?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

This is your brilliant leadership then, to dissolve their allegiance with Heaven's King? No, Satan. You didn't do this for them, but for yourself. Not to break their chains, but to exalt your pride.

A beat. Then Satan explodes --

SATAN

I was replaced!

Gabriel's expression grows cold --

GABRIEL

Back to the pit, profane Adversary, or I'll drag you there chained myself.

In answer, Satan suddenly flashes out his spear, and before Gabriel can move, runs it through Gabriel's chest with a sickening THUMP.

Gabriel stops, stunned. Clear liquid, angel's blood, trickles from the wound. Gabriel drops to the ground, his sword falling from his hand.

Satan yanks his spear free. Gabriel groans and bends forward to the ground. Satan kicks him viciously in the jaw, upending him and sending him sprawling onto his back.

Satan steps forward onto Gabriel's sword.

Gabriel lies supine for a moment, recovering. We see his chest wound partially heal. With effort, he stands himself.

Satan stabs forward with his spear again, but this time Gabriel grabs it in his hands and uses it to fling Satan into a thick tree.

Satan charges back at Gabriel as Gabriel recovers his sword --

Satan ducks as he reaches Gabriel, just barely avoiding a slash of Gabriel's sword.

In a succession of blindingly fast blows struck and parried between sword and spear, Satan and Gabriel dance back and forth. Neither holds an advantage over the other.

We hear the sound of a faint BEATING of wings.

They pause. Satan looks out into night and sees in the distance

MICHAEL

sluicing towards them, drawn by the sound of their battle and Satan's celestial light now revealed.

SATAN

feints in as if to stab at Gabriel again, but then instead spins his spear over his head like a staff, then down and around. As he does so, the spear's handle MORPHS into a sharp edge, which then slices into Gabriel's neck and completely severs his head!

MICHAEL

seeing this, pauses in mid-flight, in shock.

MICHAEL

No!

He rockets to the ground in front of Gabriel.

Gabriel falls, his divine essence spilling out from his severed neck. His body begins to shrivel.

Desperately, Michael tries to sit Gabriel up, but his body is a husk now that splinters in his hands.

Tears stream down Michael's face. He whirls on Satan.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

How did you do this?

Satan can only stare.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(stronger)

How did you do this?!

SATAN

(stunned himself)

... one stroke... to his head...

Quickly, Michael gathers up as much of Gabriel as he can find and leap upwards, out of Eden --

-- leaving Satan alone.

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

Michael whips through the Gates of Heaven.

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY

He flies over the plain to arrive at

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

He lands before The Son and places Gabriel's remains before him. Michael is still crying.

MICHAEL

My Lord, Gabriel is slain...

The Son looks down at Gabriel's remains, moved.

THE SON

God has avowed it so.

MICHAEL

Then I humbly beg... our merciful
God... to make this thing undone...

THE SON

If God foreknew this result, His
foreknowledge had no influence. He
formed all His creatures free,
Michael, and free they must remain,
authors to themselves in what they
judge and what they choose. No
return of consequence can come
without revoking this decree.

A beat. Michael is shocked, but --

MICHAEL

(still in tears)

Then I rejoice in God's benevolent
wisdom.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - NIGHT

Satan runs through Eden as if fleeing his worst nightmare.

Through the forest he runs, never looking back --

-- until at last he breaks through its edge and collapses at
the shore of a stream, taking in shuddering breaths.

SATAN

(anguished)

Why would our Maker permit your
unmaking at my hand?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He lies there, stunned.

SATAN (CONT'D)
To seal my fate, then, completely
lost to evil.

He stands and looks out at the stream. He begins to stumble
along it.

SATAN (CONT'D)
He deserved no such return from
me...

He reaches the same small lake as Adam did when he was first
created.

SATAN (CONT'D)
... nor He who created what I was
in Heaven once. His service wasn't
hard. What could be less than to
afford Him praise and thanks, His
rightful due? A grateful mind,
knowing its debt, need repay with
its awareness only, nothing more.

He comes to the same Hill where Adam had first seen The Son.
He looks to the top --

SATAN (CONT'D)
Whichever way I fly now is Hell. I
myself am Hell.

He climbs the hill.

Once he reaches the top, he stares out over Eden as the Sun
crests the horizon and dapples the garden with its brilliant
light.

SATAN (CONT'D)
Farewell then, hope. And with
hope, farewell fear.

He turns and stares at the Tree of Knowledge of Good and
Evil.

SATAN (CONT'D)
All good in me is lost. Evil be my
good now forever more.

CUT TO:

EXT. EARTH - DAY

Michael breaks back into Earth's atmosphere, headed towards Eden.

He reaches the sky above Eden and is met by the four other remaining archangels, returning from the ends of the Earth. They all descend into the garden.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Satan submerges himself into the fresh fountain spring near the Tree of Life, MORPHING back into the form of a Serpent. He begins swimming in a stream leading down from the hill.

EXT. EDEN - ADAM AND EVE'S BOWER - DAY

Adam and Eve are about to venture out to tend the garden.

EVE

Let's divide our labors today,
Adam, you where your choice leads,
I to that cluster of roses.

ADAM

Are you so soon tired of my
company, Eve?

EVE

Just it's opposite. What work we
do is undone by nature each day we
rise. What wonder even this little
is done at all, with the looks and
smiles we constantly exchange when
we're so close together.

ADAM

There's no strict need to complete
our work that bars a look or smile.

Eve smiles.

ADAM (CONT'D)

And with God's malicious enemy out
there somewhere watching, husband
and wife are strongest and safest
together.

EVE

That you should doubt my faith
because we have a foe to tempt it I
didn't expect to hear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Not for your sake, Eve, but mine.
I, too, am at great risk from an
enemy subtle enough to seduce
angels. Merely from the influence
of your look, I receive access to
every virtue: more wise, more
watchful, ever stronger. Isn't it
so with you?

EVE

If this is our condition, to live
in narrow bounds circumscribed by a
foe, how are we happy, always in
fear of harm? And if we're
unhappy, isn't this his victory
already achieved?

ADAM

Why seek temptation, the more
likely if we separate?

EVE

If a trial comes it comes, equally
unsought whether we're together or
apart.

Adam says nothing. Eve pouts. Finally, Adam relents.

ADAM

Go, then. If you stay against your
will I have you less than if you'd
gone. Rely always on your virtue,
Eve, and return to me mid-day.

Delighted, Eve kisses him and then runs off. Adam watches
her go, smiling in spite of himself.

EXT. EDEN - ROSE BOWER - DAY

Eve tends the roses, pulling vines away. She steps back to
admire her work. She nods, then moves off.

EXT. EDEN - BROOK - DAY

Eve comes to a small brook. She begins picking fruit from
trees that over hang the water slightly.

Satan, as a Serpent, comes quietly floating down a stream
that leads into the brook. He sees Eve and slowly slithers
ashore.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Satan rises up to the height of a man, his Serpent's plume glistening brightly. He's an impressive sight.

In this upright posture, he slithers towards Eve who, intent on gathering fruit, fails to see him.

As he comes nearer, she hears the faint RUSTLING of his movement and turns to see him right before her. She startles.

SERPENT

Don't be displeased, sovereign mistress, that I approach you and gaze so intently. All things in this garden adore your celestial beauty and wish to view it more closely.

EVE

What can this mean? The language of Man from the tongue of a serpent, admiring human beauty no less? I thought all beasts created mute.

SERPENT

Resplendent Eve, at first I was like other beasts, until I chanced a tree far distant with fruit of the fairest color and most savory scent. Around its trunk I wound to get my fill of food. Sated, I soon perceived in myself a strange alteration, and found reason and speech my own.

Eve is amazed.

EVE

Where does this tree grow, great serpent?

SERPENT

Not far from here. I can bring you, if you wish.

EVE

I do.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Eve follows the Serpent through the forest to the stream and up the hill.

EXT. EDEN - HILL - DAY

They arrive in front of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

EVE

Serpent, we might have spared our coming here. I know this tree. It's wondrous indeed if it's the cause of your new virtues, but we may not taste of it. God has so commanded.

SERPENT

Indeed? Has God not said you may eat of all these garden trees as lords of all the Earth?

EVE

Of the fruit of each tree in the garden we may eat, but if we eat the fruit of this fair tree, we will surely die.

SERPENT

Empress of this fair world, don't believe those threats of death. You shall not die. Look at me, who tasted and still live. The fruit grants not death but new life.

The Serpent begins to wind its way slowly up the trunk of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

EVE

New life?

SERPENT

By gain of knowledge. Why should God forbid this? Why but to keep you low and ignorant -- His worshippers. He knows the day you eat this fruit, you become like gods, knowing both good and evil as they know, as high above your current state as I now live above other beasts.

Eve considers this.

EVE

I'm loathe to risk God's anger, serpent --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SERPENT

Will God become angry at such a petty trespass or praise your courage for striving to reach beyond your lot, undaunted by fear of death? Is anger just that rises at an intent to end injustice?

EVE

I - I don't know --

The Serpent reaches a thick branch and begins to slither along its length.

SERPENT

How could you yet? You've not tasted and thereby gained the power to judge. So God couldn't punish you for eating and be just, even if eating is evil. And if He's not just, then He's not God. And if He's not God, you should neither fear nor obey Him.

EVE

Is not what God Himself pronounces right by itself right?

SERPENT

What of reason? Would God Himself call that which is wrong right and which is right wrong? What evil can there be in knowing good? How to avoid evil if evil is not recognized?

Eve is starting to become convinced --

EVE

What value is there in free will if it lacks judgment to discern right from wrong? How to intend good if what good is I have no knowledge?

SERPENT

What can your knowledge hurt Him or this tree impart against His will, if everything is in His power? If He truly meant you not to know, why place the tree in the Garden at all?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Serpent nudges a piece of fruit off its branch. It falls to the ground and rolls to Eve's feet.

SERPENT (CONT'D)

Reach down, Eve. Freely taste and
be reborn.

Eve looks down at the fruit at her feet.

EVE

The cure of all my doubt...

She reaches down and lifts the fruit. She looks at it.

She takes a bite.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Son looks up, startled, and his face becomes terribly,
unbearably sad.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - HILL - DAY

Eve finds the fruit delicious and quickly devours it. She
reaches for another.

The Serpent slithers down the Tree of Knowledge of Good and
Evil to coil at its base, watching.

A small sound begins to arise then, at first difficult to
make out, but then growing into what we soon realize is an
agonizing GROAN filling the air.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - ADAM AND EVE'S BOWER - DAY

Adam is weaving a garland. The sound of the GROAN reaches
him and he looks up, alarmed.

He walks out of the bower and looks in the direction from
which the sound reverberates.

He takes off running.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - HILL - DAY

Eve looks on in horror as

THE TREE OF LIFE

is now shedding all its leaves in a mountainous cascade of foliage and fruit.

She backs away.

THE TREE OF LIFE

is now completely bald, stripped and dying.

Eve stares at it, and slowly we see her face change as realization of what she's done begins to dawn. A new look of intelligence gleams in her eye as

ADAM

runs up the hill to reach her, panting. She turns, hearing him.

Adam looks in horror at the now lifeless Tree of Life. He sees the half-eaten fruit still in Eve's hand.

She follows his gaze down to her hand and then looks back up at him. She smiles. The garland falls from his grasp.

EVE

Have you wondered, Adam, at my stay? The cause has been strange and wonderful to hear --

Adam takes a step towards her, panic rising.

ADAM

Tell me you have not eaten from this tree forbidden us.

EVE

The tree isn't as we were told. Not evil, but of divine effect to open eyes and make them gods who taste.

Adam begins to panic in earnest.

ADAM

How are you lost now and doomed to death? What enemy has beguiled you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

No enemy, Adam, but yonder serpent,
who ate and didn't die but became
wise, endowed with human sense.

Adam glances at the Serpent, who says nothing but looks from
him to Eve.

ADAM

Perhaps your deed isn't so heinous
now with the fruit profaned by the
serpent first. He yet lives,
lives, as you say. I cannot think
that God, wise Creator, will truly
destroy us, His prime creatures.

SERPENT

Would God uncreate all his works,
which, since made for you, if you
fall, must fall as well? Not well
conceived by God if so.

Adam glares at the Serpent, even more worried. In reaction
to Adam's worry, Eve becomes slightly less sure of herself --

EVE

I live, Adam, and more, with ampler
heart, my eyes more open, my spirit
dilated --

Adam turns away in anguish.

EVE (CONT'D)

Shared with you this would be
bliss. Unshared, this is too much
to bear alone, with us then
unequal.

He turns back to look at her and sees she now holds out the
half-eaten fruit to him. He stares at it in horror, almost
in tears.

ADAM

A bold deed you have presumed, Eve,
a most bold deed.

EVE

Not for disobedience to God, but
for disjoining the two of us will I
regret it only. Bone of my bone.
Flesh of my flesh.

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

What's done is done and cannot be recalled --

SERPENT

(to Adam)

Will you leave her to her fate, then, to face God's wrath alone?

Eve looks sharply at the Serpent, surprised. Adam, however, can only look at Eve.

EVE

Adam... ?

ADAM

(tortured)

How can I live without you? To lose you is to lose myself.

A beat.

Adam lunges forward then, grabs the fruit in her outstretched hand and eats.

Barely audible from a far distance, thunder CRACKS. The Serpent's head turns abruptly towards it.

Adam's expression changes as he swallows the first bite. He finds it delicious and quickly consumes the whole thing.

He pauses and looks up and down Eve's body in way we've not seen before -- with naked lust.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Truly, Eve, we've missed much pleasure in abstaining from this delightful fruit.

Overhead, clouds begin to gather.

Adam drops the remaining core of the fruit to the ground as --

The Serpent slithers back up the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Facing her, Adam grasps Eve's hand. She looks first at his eyes, then down, out of shot, to his groin. She smiles.

Adam leads her to the foot of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

They kiss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Thunder CRACKS louder and closer than before. Their kiss becomes passionate. They drop to the ground. The wind kicks up.

They're mouths and tongues crawl over their limbs, their eyes, each other. If what we saw before was the wholesome conjugation of marriage, this now is raw lust.

It begins to rain, slickening their bodies as they make love in the grass under the Tree.

Coiled around a branch above them, the Serpent watches.

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - HILL - DAY

The clouds are gone and the sun is out. The rain has stopped. Some water still drips from tree branches. A few birds CALL.

Adam and Eve lie sleeping in one another's arms, naked at the foot of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

The Serpent, still coiled around a branch, looks around, waiting.

Adam wakes. He looks down at Eve, still sleeping, then at himself lying with her, and his expression darkens.

ADAM
(gently)
Eve...

She remains asleep.

ADAM (CONT'D)
(louder)
Eve.

She doesn't move.

Fed up, he sits up and she falls off him, waking with a start.

He sits apart from her. They stare at one another. She puts out her hand to him, but he doesn't move.

ADAM (CONT'D)
We should cover ourselves.

Eve's arm drops. She looks down at her own nakedness. She nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

From above, still coiled around a branch of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, the Serpent watches.

CUT TO:

FIG TREE

Adam pulls off leaves enough to cover his genitals. Eve does the same.

They use vines to tie the leaves over them.

They move out into the sunlight. From behind them, unseen, the Serpent follows, stopping in the shade to watch them.

Adam and Eve are having a hard time looking at one another. Each time their eyes meet, they look away, ashamed.

Instead, they look out at the beauty of the garden.

Silently, then, Adam starts to cry.

ADAM

Our eyes are opened now, Eve, and indeed we know both good and evil. Honor stained and innocence lost. How shall I behold the face of God or angel now? Their light will dazzle, its blaze insufferably bright.

Eve says nothing.

ADAM (CONT'D)

If only you'd stayed with me as I asked. What possessed you with that strange desire to wander alone?

EVE

Was I never to leave your side, then?

ADAM

I beseeched you --

EVE

Beseeched was all. Being as I am, why not command me not to go? Had you been firm in your dissent, I wouldn't have transgressed, nor you with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Am I owed you saying this,
ungrateful Eve, when I might still
have lived in immortal joy, but
willingly chose death instead with
you? Am I now the cause of your
transgression?

EVE

It might have happened as well with
us together. Or to you alone.
You'd likely not have discerned
fraud in the serpent either,
speaking as he did. Why should he
mean us harm? No known enmity lies
between us.

Adam pulls away from her --

ADAM

It doesn't matter! You were
warned! I was warned! And yet you
listened to that false worm! And I
to you. And I to you.

A beat. Eve is deeply hurt --

EVE

Indeed we do know both good and
evil. Evil embraced and all good,
lost.

Adam's expression changes suddenly as he looks over her
shoulder. Eve turns to follow his gaze to

MICHAEL

standing abruptly at a distance from them, his expression
inexpressibly sad.

ADAM

bows low, Eve quickly following suit --

ADAM

Native of Heaven, in that shade
please sit and rest with us a
while. Taste with us of the
garden's choicest fruit till this
meridian heat is over --

Michael says nothing. A single tear runs down his impassive
face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Then a great RUSTLING sound rises up from behind him --

Behind Adam and Eve, unseen, the Serpent looks out of the grass, straining to see above the treetops where

URIEL, ABDIEL, RAPHAEL, ANIEL, AND SCORES OF CHERUBIM

soar up and out of Eden.

MICHAEL

turns his back to Adam and Eve and then flies up and away as well.

ADAM AND EVE

their backs to the Serpent, watch in despair.

A beat.

Then a low RUMBLING begins to build. Adam and Eve look around, trying to pinpoint its source.

The Serpent dives back down into the grass and starts flowing quickly away --

CUT TO:

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

The Son bursts forth from the Gates at full speed on his chariot, the RUMBLING deafening here.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam and Eve feel the ground shaking. The RUMBLING grows louder.

CUT TO:

EXT. GATES OF EDEN - DAY

The Serpent slithers at breakneck speed out of the now unguarded Gates and heads down the mountain.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

The Son in his chariot RUMBLES down the golden chain, whipping through the portal into our universe.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam and Eve try to stay balanced as the RUMBLING grows louder and the shaking of the ground worsens.

They start to run.

CUT TO:

SPACE

as The Son ROCKETS past stars.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN SIDE - DAY

The Serpent slithers down the side of Eden's mountain, desperate to get away --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam and Eve run through Eden, barely able to stay on their feet, so violently is the ground is shaking.

They duck into a forest at a sprint --

The RUMBLING sound intensifies suddenly in front of them, so much so it almost splits their ears. They stop at the edge of

A CLEARING

culled out in the midst of the forest, as The Son SMASHES his chariot down inside it in all his terribly glory.

Adam and Eve hide behind a large tree, hyperventilating, terrified.

The Son steps out of his chariot. He faces the forest.

THE SON

Where are you, Adam? Where is your joy in meeting me? Come forth.

A beat.

Adam steps out from behind the tree. Eve follows. They're terrified.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE SON (CONT'D)
What cause detains you, Adam?

ADAM
I hid when I heard Your voice,
being naked. I was afraid.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

The Serpent lands at the base of Eden's mountain and starts
whipping across the valley --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son before Adam and Eve --

THE SON
You've heard my voice before and
felt no fear. How has it become so
dreadful to you now?

Adam has no answer --

THE SON (CONT'D)
Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten of that tree I
charged you not to eat?

A beat.

ADAM
This woman You gave me as Your
perfect gift, so divine that from
her hand I could suspect no ill,
she gave me fruit from the tree and
I did eat.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

The Serpent crests a hill and hurries down its other side,
racing madly --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son, still facing Adam and Eve --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE SON

Was she your God, then, that you
obeyed her before the King of
Heaven?

Adam says nothing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Serpent reaches the foot of the first mountain where he'd
landed when he'd first come to Earth.

He pauses, searching for a way up --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son turns to Eve --

THE SON

(to Eve)

What have you done, Eve?

EVE

The serpent beguiled me, and I did
eat.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Serpent slithers up the mountain side --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son walks towards Adam and Eve. They fall to their
knees. His face is grim and sad.

THE SON

Hear you both My judgment then:
because the serpent has done this,
between your seed and his, Eve, I
will put enmity. His shall bruise
your heel and yours shall bruise
his head --

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

A bolt of lightning arcs down from the sky and CLAPS into the Serpent's head, stunning him.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son faces Eve --

THE SON

(to Eve)

Your sorrow I shall greatly multiply in childbirth. All your children will come forth now in pain.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Serpent shakes his head, upon which now is a smouldering scar, then starts making his way up the mountain again, a little slower at first --

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

The Son turns to Adam --

THE SON

Because you listened to the voice of your wife and ate of the tree I forbade, cursed for you now is the ground from which it grew --

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

The Serpent reaches the summit, moving faster, and --

THE SON (V.O.)

Thorns shall it now bring forth unbidden, and you shall eat from it in sweat and toil, until your days end and you revert to the ground...

-- the Serpent leaps off into space, transforming at the last agonizing second into --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE SON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ... for dust you are and to dust
 you shall return.

-- Satan, his natural demonic form restored.

He FLAPS his wings madly and shoots out of Earth's
 atmosphere, into space.

SPACE

Satan flies frantically towards the Sun.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - CLEARING - DAY

Adam and Eve look down at themselves, now clad in animal
 skins by The Son.

The Son mounts his chariot.

THE SON
 You both must leave this Garden of
 Eden before this day is done, never
 to return.

And with that he leads his chariot up into the sky.

Adam and Eve duck from the fire the chariot spins off as it
 goes.

CUT TO:

THE SUN

as Satan reaches it and plunges directly into it just in time
 to hide from

THE SON

as he comes RUMBLING out of Earth's atmosphere, back towards
 Heaven. He passes by the Sun, never glancing towards it.

THE SUN

Satan emerges on the far side of the Sun and watches The Son
 rocket off into the distance. He touches the new scar on his
 forehead absently. Then abruptly he jerks his head towards

MICHAEL AND THE ARCHANGELS

plummeting back to Earth from the sky, their arms
outstretched, STRIKING the ground with terrific force as one.

Hands pressed to the ground, they start FLAPPING their wings
so fast we almost can't see them, their arms heaving against
the Earth itself.

SPACE

as the Earth circles the Sun, the axis of the Earth begins to
tilt from the force of the archangels' pushing.

NORTH POLE

A huge flow of ice CRACKS and breaks free --

MOUNTAIN RANGE

It begins to snow softly.

OCEAN

Huge waves pick up under a downpour of rain.

RAIN FOREST

The rain continues. Animals seek shelter.

SPACE

The six archangels fly out from Earth and the Sun, their work
completed.

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

The six archangels return to Heaven.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Here the sun still shines brightly.

A lion chases down a herd of antelope --

-- catching and killing one that lags behind the rest.

ADAM

watches from a hill. He turns away, dismayed.

CUT TO:

SPACE

Satan flies at a leisurely pace, watching the stars and planets he passes. He seems strangely unsettled.

EXT. EDEN - ADAM AND EVE'S BOWER - NIGHT

Adam lies in his bower, spent. Eve stands outside, afraid to enter.

ADAM

Why does death not come? Will God draw out, for anger's sake, finite punishment into penalty without end? Blameless posterity, why should all mankind be condemned for one man's fault?

Mustering her courage, Eve enters.

EVE

Not man's alone but woman's, too. Let's seek comfort together, Adam.

ADAM

Out of my sight, serpent!

EVE

S - serpent -- ?

ADAM

You're as false and hateful as he.

Eve struggles to control her tears.

EVE

Is this what our new knowledge brings then? Discord and spite?

Adam springs up and takes a threatening step towards Eve. Eve steps back, frightened.

ADAM

All I wish now is that your shape, like his, would show your inward fraud to warn all creatures, so that your heavenly form, breathing hellish falsehood, would fail to snare them. All your virtue was but a show.

EVE

Not so -- !

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Eve moves to embrace him but he pushes her away --

EVE (CONT'D)
Don't forsake me, Adam!

She falls at his feet, crying, grasping his legs --

EVE (CONT'D)
Don't take your gentle looks from
me! Heaven knows what love I bear
you! You're my only strength!
Without you I'm lost!

Adam pulls away from her embrace --

ADAM
If not for you, I'd still be happy.
If not for you I --
(to the air)
Cover me, you pines and cedars,
hide me that I might live in
solitude, obscured in some glade,
and never see Eve's face again.

Adam walks out. Eve collapses, crying and miserable.

CUT TO:

SPACE

Satan continues on, his expression neutral.

He begins to slow and look around him. He grows confused.

He stops, hovering. This is where the portal was, but now there's only empty space.

He checks his bearings again, looking around in all directions. He thinks.

Then he lets loose a great plume of chilling breath and suddenly the portal appears in front of him, like glass frosting over.

He puts his hands to it and pushes. It won't give. He tries to look through it, but can't see much.

He flies a good distance away. Then he turns around and flies straight at it --

-- SHATTERING through the portal with concussive force.

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Satan erupts onto the Crystalline Shell only to find

SIN AND DEATH

both standing on it by the golden chain and stairway. He looks at them in surprise, they back at him.

SATAN

Daughter, son and grandchild both,
how did you come to this place
through Chaos?

They glance back at

THE BRIDGE

now finished, ending at the foot of the stairway.

Satan looks along its length as it disappears into distant Chaos. Chaos-stuff swells and churns against it roughly, but the bridge is well-constructed and remains firmly anchored and undisturbed.

SIN

We followed your own illustrious
track, forming it from frozen chaos-
stuff through the dark abyss.

DEATH

What of you and your purpose? Have
you found the way to food as you
promised?

Satan looks back at the shattered portal. Then he turns to Sin and Death. When he answers, his voice almost seems tinged with regret --

SATAN

Our defeat in Heaven is fully
avenged. Man has fallen and the
way is open for Sin and Death to
enter.

Death swivels his head towards the shattered portal Satan has torn in the Crystalline Shell leading back into our universe.

Sin looks at Satan, curious at his tone.

Suddenly, from above them come faint but raucous SOUNDS, far distant. Satan looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN (CONT'D)

Word of Man's fall has reached
Heaven's ears.

Death looks up himself, considering. Then he looks back down
at Satan.

DEATH

No doubt.

Satan indicates the bridge.

SATAN

This bridge leads back down to
Hell?

SIN

It does.

SATAN

I must return to carry the news of
victory.

Sin gives Death an uneasy glance --

DEATH

If Man is now fallen and the way is
open, I must pass without delay.

Satan realizes he's standing between Death and the portal to
our universe. Satan glances back at the portal, then back to
Death.

A beat while the two look at one another.

Sadly, then, Satan steps out of Death's way.

Death flows through the portal, into our universe.

Sin moves to the edge of the portal and looks through it.
Then she looks back at Satan.

SIN

And of your promise to me?

SATAN

Descend to Paradise, Sin, and reign
in bliss.

SIN

And whatever you may find in Hell,
you will return to my side?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SATAN

Have I honor left that holds me to
my promise?

SIN

The honor of your word alone,
freely given, whatever recent
actions you may regret.

Satan looks at her sharply --

SATAN

Go, foul shade, and spread your
mayhem with your fitting partner,
Death. To speak of my regret names
only the day I conceived of you.

Sin looks at him, hurt. Then she jumps through the portal.

SPACE

through which Sin and Death go racing madly.

EXT. CHAOS - NIGHT

Satan looks out at the bridge into Chaos.

He moves to take his first step onto it when suddenly

A DEVIL

SLAMS down in front of him on the bridge.

The devil is missing his head, his essence pouring out of his
severed neck, his body shriveling, just like Gabriel's
before.

Satan rebounds in horror. He looks up, his eyes going wide.
Then he ducks suddenly as

HUNDREDS OF DEVILS MORE

start raining down, SMASHING into the Crystalline Shell and
bridge. All are without heads, their essence draining, their
bodies shriveling.

Satan is in shock. What are his devils doing in Heaven? He
looks back up at Heaven and anger begins to build.

He spreads his great bat wings and leaps --

-- only to land with a painful SMASH on the stairway, MORPHED
abruptly against his will back into the form of the Serpent.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He shakes his head to regain his bearings. He looks around at his dead minions beginning to pile up around him on the Crystalline Shell.

Then he looks up the golden chain to Heaven. He looks at the stairs.

Then he leaps up the first steps and begins winding up the stairway as fast as he can go.

Up, up he goes, all the while more and more headless devils falling around him.

He nears the top, the SOUNDS of mayhem growing louder until he reaches --

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

Satan crests the top of the stairway and stops before the Gates.

SATAN'S POV - HEAVEN

Devils are being massacred everywhere! Steel ringing on steel, swords and spears piercing armor! Pieces of cut wings flipping through the air!

BACK TO SCENE

Satan, still in Serpent form, is frozen in fear.

A beat.

He turns and slithers back to the stairway and onto its first step.

He stops. He glances back over his shoulder at Heaven.

His head sways as he tries to decide what to do. Will he run, or will he turn and fight?

A score of headless devils are launched through the Gates, over his head, and out into Chaos. He watches them fall --

-- and then makes his decision. He swings around and slithers back towards the Gates of Heaven.

He stops in front of the Gates.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He tries to MORPH back into his true shape -- and actually accomplishes the transformation part of the way -- but then some force seems to squish him violently back into the form of the Serpent. He tries again with even less success. He's stuck.

A beat.

Then Satan rises up to his full Serpent height, opens his jaws to reveal fangs dripping with venom and flings himself through the Gates.

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

As Satan comes through the Gates of Heaven, to his great surprise, he is MORPHED back into his true form.

Hardly pausing to wonder at his transformation, he spies a sword imbedded in the ground and yanks it free.

He dives into the melee, slashing at angels, severing limbs, wings and heads.

He begins cutting a path towards a hill.

He reaches the hill and fights his way up to the top. He quickly scans the battlefield until finally he spots

BEELZEBUB

surrounded by angels, fighting desperately.

SATAN

launches into space, only to find himself immediately fending off attacking angels from the air as he tries to reach Beelzebub.

BEELZEBUB

holds up his sword to block a sword cut, but his attacker's sword cuts through it, slicing deeply into Beelzebub's chest. He falls to the ground, stunned and bleeding.

He tries to get up but gets kicked in the chest and flips over on his back down on the ground.

A sword rises above his head and then swings down towards his neck as --

-- another sword suddenly flashes out to block it.

SATAN

whips his sword around from the parry and slices outwards, cutting off the head of Beelzebub's would-be executioner.

The angel falls, his essence spilling out, his body shriveling.

Satan stabs several of the angels surrounding Beelzebub. The rest are quickly engaged by other devils.

He grabs Beelzebub in his arms --

BEELZEBUB
My lord Satan... ?

-- and rises up and flies quickly away.

He dodges several aerial attacks and manages to land them both behind a secluded enclave.

He lays Beelzebub down gently.

BEELZEBUB (CONT'D)
Again, my prince, Fate requires
from you my protection from harm.
I fear I'm found weak once more.

SATAN
What madness is this, Beelzebub?

Beelzebub tries to sit up, but pain prevents him.

BEELZEBUB
Moloch.
(beat)
You were absent too long.

Satan stands and surveys the carnage going on around him.

SATAN
Faithless to their leader who
risked so much for them. They
deserve no less than this.

Beelzebub, beginning to heal, stands shakily.

BEELZEBUB
Not faithless, my prince, no.
Without you, bereft of hope. None
doubted the certain result of this
choice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Satan pauses, moved. He looks down at the ground.

Then he looks back up at Beelzebub, who he finds gazing back at him steadily.

SATAN

Victory is already secured,
Beelzebub. Man has fallen by my
hand --

Beelzebub looks at him, overcome with emotion --

Satan looks again at the battle raging around them, this time calculating just how --

SATAN (CONT'D)

We must collect our forces for
retreat back down to Hell --

A sudden, loud THUNK interrupts him --

He jerks his head back towards Beelzebub -- who now has a sword sticking out through his chest.

Satan and Beelzebub look at one another, astounded.

Then the sword withdraws and slices across Beelzebub's head, severing it from his neck!

SATAN (CONT'D)

No!

Beelzebub topples sideways. Revealed standing behind him is

MICHAEL

holding his terrible sword in a defensive posture now, his face grim.

Satan moves to grab Beelzebub's body as it falls to the ground. Beelzebub's essence is pouring out, his body already shriveling.

Satan tries to hold his body together, but like with Gabriel's before, it's too late. Tears run down Satan's cheeks as he kneels to the ground with Beelzebub's body.

Michael looks on, unmoving. Satan lies Beelzebub down gently as his body finishes shriveling and then turns to dust in his hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN

Truly... you were the brightest...
of us all...

Satan stands. He looks at Michael with hate.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Revenge for your fallen Gabriel?

MICHAEL

I wished for no revenge. I do only
as God commands.

Satan stares at him through tears.

SATAN

I fear... my heart... is less
forgiving.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam stands by the Tree of Life, staring at it.

Finally, he turns away, with a sideways glance at the Tree of
Knowledge of Good and Evil.

He walks to the edge of the hill and looks out at Eden. This
side of the hill drops precipitously down into a gorge.

EVE (O.S.)

While we still live, only one short
hour more perhaps, let there be
peace between us, Adam.

Adam turns to see Eve standing in front of the Tree of Life.

EVE (CONT'D)

Both of us have sinned, but you
against God only. I, against God
and you together.

Adam moves to speak, but Eve continues over him --

EVE (CONT'D)

I shall return to that place of
judgment and beg Heaven that all
the sentence on your head may be
moved to fall on me, the sole cause
of all this affliction.

Adam at last looks at her with pity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

(gently)

You're unwary and too desirous for what you don't know, just as before, soliciting our punishment all on yourself when you can hardly bear the weight of my own displeasure.

(beat)

If prayers could alter God's decree, I would speed before you to that place and be heard louder than you, that all might be visited on my head, and you be forgiven.

Eve approaches Adam timidly.

EVE

Let's contend no more, nor blame each other, but strive how we may each lighten the other's burden.

Adam holds out his hand to her. She takes it.

ADAM

I have no words of comfort, Eve. I think now our deaths will not be sudden, but a slow-paced evil, a long day's dying to augment our pain.

EVE

While there's time then, there's still hope...

ADAM

It's miserable to be the cause of misery to others, especially to one's own begotten. If it's now our destiny to bring into this cursed world a woeful race, that after wretched life must be at last food for so foul a monster, then we should remain childless. So Death will be denied his glut, and be forced to satisfy his ravenous maw with only the two of us.

EVE

To block the race from being? Hard on us both to abstain from nuptial embraces, sweet Adam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM

Then why stand shivering under
fears that will have no end but
death? Let's inflict Death's
office on ourselves.

Eve follows his gaze to the ground below. A fall from this height would certainly kill them both. Eve looks down at Adam's hand in hers, then to Adam's face.

EXT. HEAVEN - DAY

Satan launches at Michael, striking out with his sword one, two, three times -- lightning quick, vicious cuts.

Michael parries them all, forced backwards by the violence of Satan's attack.

After the last cut, Satan kicks Michael in the chest, sending him flying backwards and out into the open field of battle.

Even as Michael stabilizes himself with his wings and lands on his feet, Satan has already launched himself through the air at him again.

Satan impacts Michael with powerful force, knocking Michael to the ground.

Satan grabs Michael's neck in his hands and tries literally to twist Michael's head from his body.

Michael manages to break Satan's grip and flings Satan off him, up into the air.

Satan whips back around and dives at Michael, his sword pointed straight at Michael's head.

At the last minute, Michael dodges Satan's sword thrust and smashes Satan with his fist.

Satan goes flying into a group of battling angels and devils, the force of his momentum sending the group sprawling.

By now Satan and Michael have carved out a space for themselves in the middle of the battlefield. Angels and devils around them both gradually cease their own fights to watch.

Satan rights himself. He takes several steps towards Michael, who waits, sword ready.

Satan looks about at the gathering throng. They recognize their leader excitedly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SATAN
Behind me, loyal spirits!

From all over the battlefield, what devils are left of Satan's forces turn towards his voice and leap into the air, their wings FLAPPING.

They land behind him. What few angels remain in their midst are quickly overwhelmed.

Satan turns to Michael, a knowing gleam in his eye and --

Michael attacks Satan with a series of punishing blows. Satan blocks them all.

Then Satan leaps upwards and over Michael, swinging his sword as he flips over --

-- and severs Michael's sword arm!

Michael SCREAMS and falls. The angels behind him are stunned.

Satan lands to loom over Michael, twirling his sword menacingly.

SATAN (CONT'D)
I see no Son of God to save you
this time, Michael.

MICHAEL
(through his pain)
He is with me always.

But instead of finishing him off, Satan leaps into the air towards his minions, just as behind him angels rush to Michael's aid.

Satan flies up and over the remaining throng of devils --

SATAN
(to his army)
Back! Back to the Gates!

-- and starts leading them in fast retreat.

The angels recover Michael and watch as Satan and his devils head towards the Gates of Heaven, some running, some flying, Satan in the lead.

The angels begin an angry rush forward by ground and air --

SATAN

looks back over his shoulder as he retreats, hearing the angels rushing towards them, and suddenly spots

MOLOCH

still alive, turning from the retreat to take a stand against the angels by himself --

SATAN

spins about to face his retreating minions --

SATAN

Stop!

Surprised, the devils obey --

MOLOCH

runs out towards the angels, SCREAMING --

SATAN

flies forward directly at the front of his army --

SATAN

Turn about!

His devils turn as --

MOLOCH

is almost upon the attacking angels --

SATAN

desperately flies back and forth along what is now the back of his army --

SATAN

Form a line! A single line!
Spread yourselves!

Quickly, his devils spread out to form a single-file line as Satan instructs, to face the attacking angels.

MOLOCH

reaches the front line of the attacking angels and

SATAN

arcs over his minions and plummets down in front of them, flipping around at the last moment to point his feet towards the ground.

He strikes his feet into the ground with a mighty CLAP.

The ground in front of him dips and then rises like a wave of water, rushing towards Moloch's back and the charging angels. The wave catches

MOLOCH

who is thrown backwards into the air, where he quickly recovers and starts hovering, and --

-- the angels in front of him, who lose their footing as the wave rumbles underneath them, but who then --

-- continue forward towards the devils --

Satan backs into the line with his army --

SATAN

Together now as one!

-- and each of them raises a leg --

-- and as one they bring their legs down on the ground with a tremendous BOOM!

A GIANT WAVE of land rises up in front of them like a fifty foot tidal wave and rushes towards the advancing angels.

Caught completely by surprise, the wave of land flings thousands of the angels into the air and out into Chaos.

The devils CHEER!

A beat.

Then they hear a WHISTLING sound, soft at first but then quickly growing LOUDER, as if something large were whipping through the air, and then literally --

A MOUNTAIN

lands on top of a large group of Satan's minions, completely crushing them. Moloch is among them.

Satan can't believe his eyes. He hears the same SOUND again and looks into the sky to see

ANOTHER MOUNTAIN

headed right for him. His minions scatter.

Satan leaps up and escapes being crushed by the smallest margin. He hovers in the sky as

A CASCADE OF MOUNTAINS

come sailing through the air at him and his minions, SMASHING into the ground everywhere, crushing devils as they IMplode into the earth.

CUT TO:

THE SON

off in a distant mountain range, cutting a path at the base of a mountain with his fiery chariot like a jeweler cuts a diamond.

He finishes one circuit around the mountain and --

A score of angels lift the mountain up and --

-- throw it with all their might across the plain of Heaven towards Satan's army.

The Son moves to the next mountain.

SATAN

sees him go. He looks down at his army, decimated, scattered, then back up across the plain at The Son.

His face determined, he goes flying across the plain like a bullet towards The Son.

THE SON

continues on his path around the base of the next mountain.

SATAN

speeds up, his wings accelerating again like a hummingbird's, becoming a blur and

THE SON

completes his path around the mountain. Angels lift and then toss the mountain at

SATAN

who dodges without slowing down and continues to aim straight for

THE SON

who waits now in his chariot, unafraid.

SATAN

comes into view as

THE SON

steps out of his chariot, into the open and

SATAN

flaming like a meteor, crashes into

THE SON

who backhands Satan with a thunderous SLAP, sending him flying across the plain of Heaven!

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY

Satan falls, stunned, backwards across the plain of Heaven to impact the ground with a CRASH!

Satan lies there, literally every bone in his body broken, in horrible agony.

CAMERA ADJUSTS to show us he's landed at the base of God's Mountain.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Eve pulls Adam away from the edge of the hill, both of them panting with fear at the nearness of their decision to jump --

EVE

If you covet death as an end to misery, thinking to evade our pronounced penalty, don't doubt that God is wise enough not to be so forestalled.

Adam looks at her defiantly for a moment, then slumps to the ground in despair.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM

Even death may not exempt us from
the doom we are to pay?

A beat. Then Eve bends down to him --

EVE

Remember with what mild and
gracious temper He both heard and
judged us. Pains only in child-
bearing were foretold, and bringing
forth fruit of the womb, soon
reimbursed in joy. And you must
earn your bread in labor? What
harm is there in that? Idleness
would be worse. Your labor will
sustain you.

A beat.

ADAM

His hands did clothe us, unworthy
as we are, pitying us while He
judged --

EVE

How much more, then, if we pray to
Him, might His ear be open? What
better can we do, Adam, than to
fall before Him reverent and beg
pardon for our sin?

Adam looks at her, astonished.

CUT TO:

EXT. HEAVEN - GOD'S MOUNTAIN - DAY

Satan swims in and out of consciousness. A shadow passes
over him.

Fighting for focus, he looks up and sees

THE SON

standing above him.

Satan struggles to rise, even as his body struggles to heal
itself, but finds himself unable.

THE SON

Repent, Satan. It's not too late
to receive Heaven's love.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Though still hurt, Satan laughs, then grimaces in pain.

SATAN

And be pardoned, then? By what means except submission?

THE SON

Is gratitude to your Creator, the King of Heaven and Earth, so heinous a thing?

SATAN

A son asks not to be born, nor once arrived, for the world that greets him.

THE SON

Was Heaven so against your liking that you have no repentance left for the wrong you've done?

SATAN

(honest)
Disdain forbids me.

(beat)
That, and my dread of shame among the spirits beneath whom I seduced, boasting as I did that I could subdue the Omnipotent.

THE SON

Pride forbids you, fallen angel. Nothing but your pride.

SATAN

Why did God make me prideful then? Had He only ordained me an inferior angel, no unbounded hope would have raised my vain ambition.

THE SON

God made you as He made all His angels, and Man: just and right, free to fall, but sufficient to have stood.

SATAN

Then this shall be my legacy: that I helped Man to fail and foiled my Father's plan.

The Son shakes his head sadly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THE SON

You still presume the whole of
God's design can fit inside your
tiny mind?

The Son bends down near to Satan's ear and almost whispers --

THE SON (CONT'D)

It is not so, little angel. It is
not so.

The Son starts walking away as --

Satan struggles to rise again, his face purple with rage.

THE SON

standing by his chariot now removes a scabbarded sword --

SATAN

heroically manages to get to one knee as --

THE SON

draws his sword from its scabbard with a metallic SHRRING.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam and Eve bow low to the ground together --

ADAM

(whispering)

With contrite hearts, we humbly
confess our faults and beg pardon
for our sin, Almighty God. We
repent --

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

A WIDE SHOT of the whole of Eden.

ADAM (V.O.)

(a soft echo)

... we repent...

EXT. EARTH - DAY

From space, the planet flashes by in its orbit around the
Sun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ADAM (V.O.)
 (a louder echo)
 ... we repent...

EXT. GATES OF HEAVEN - DAY

Past the Gates --

ADAM (V.O.)
 (a loud echoing shout)
 ... we repent...

EXT. HEAVEN - PLAIN - DAY

Across the plain, shaking Heaven to its core --

ADAM (V.O.)
 (with the sound of thunder)
 ... WE REPENT...

reaches the foot of

GOD'S MOUNTAIN

and the ears of

SATAN

leaning on one arm and knee, his body still broken. He pauses in his struggle to rise, astonished.

He looks at The Son who smiles beatifically and raises his sword above Satan's head.

Utterly devastated, exhausted and broken beyond reason, Satan shakes his head and lets loose an agonizing SCREAM, pulling himself up on two horribly mangled legs and --

-- before The Son can react, he flies up, his SCREAM continuing louder --

-- and he aims straight for the blinding light at the top of God's Mountain!

The screen brightens as Satan flies up, his face contorted with rage and pain.

He shuts his eyes, flying blind, but continues on towards the heat of God's glare even as --

-- his flesh starts to burn --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- he flies even higher, almost at the top, smoke now billowing off of him in plumes and he cries out --

SATAN
Freeeeeedom -- !

-- and burns into nothingness.

SCREEN GOES WHITE

A long beat.

Then the screen slowly dims to reveal

SATAN

restored to his original form as Lucifer. He is kneeling on one knee, his head bowed, his wings turned down.

He comes to his senses slowly, at first amazed just to be alive.

Then he raises his head to find --

-- he kneels now in the direct presence of

GOD

a brilliant pulsing pattern of light.

Satan is overwhelmed, all pretense stripped away. He struggles to control his emotions --

SATAN
Why did you send me away?

When God speaks, his voice vibrates Satan's chest, almost too painful to hear, and his form pulses more brightly, almost too painful to watch.

GOD
In this, My Kingdom and Creation,
it is not one's allies but one's
enemies who assist one's progress.
Thou art made by thine own hand an
enemy to Man -- and thus Man's
friend. And Mine.

SATAN
Father...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOD
Know that I am well pleased in
thee, Lucifer. My son.

CLOSE ON Lucifer's face as he stares in amazement, tears
streaming down his face.

And then his face MORPHS back into the face of Satan, his
tears vanishing, and --

-- we PULL BACK slowly, his surroundings now MORPHING into
those of the great hall of Pandemonium --

-- and as we continue to PULL BACK we find Satan sitting atop
his throne, staring into space, the same look of amazement
still on his face.

EXT. EDEN - DAY

Adam and Eve, hand in hand, walk out of the Gates of Eden --

-- and then slowly begin making their way down the mountain
and out into the wide world.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END