



“Milton” by William Blake

A Marathon Reading of *Paradise Lost*

In conjunction with the English and
Philosophy Ph.D. Program’s Conference “The
Problem of Evil,” April 1-3, 2005

Location: Stewart Center Art Gallery, 1st floor Stewart, Purdue Univ.

Dates/Times: Friday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Books 1-6

Sunday, April 3, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m., Books 7-12

Expanding on the story of the foundation of humanity in the Book of Genesis, *Paradise Lost* has for 3 centuries engaged readers to think about, feel the conflicts of, and work together through the difficult issues of good and evil. Its poetic beauty emerges boldly when read orally, perhaps because its author John Milton was compelled because of blindness to recite rather than write down the 10,565-line poem.

The nearly 100 readers for this truly epic, interdisciplinary effort include

- Professor Angelica Duran’s English 240 and English 201/FLL 230 undergraduate students, in charge of most of the reading and reciting the epic invocations to Books 1, 3, 7, and 9 blindfolded
- Visual and Performing Arts Department faculty members and students taking on the roles of “a few good devils” in Book 2
- Clergy and parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Church for the “Heaven Book,” Book 3
- Professor Ann Astell’s English 264 undergraduate students with voice, music, and scenery for Book 7’s description of Creation
- Foreign Language and Literature professors and students reading Book 11 – which recounts the division of languages at the Tower of Babel – in Chinese, French, Italian, and Spanish
- Purdue President Martin Jischke will read the closing lines of the epic and offer closing remarks.

Light refreshments throughout the day.

For information on reading, contact <duran0@cla.purdue.edu> or (765) 496-3957.

For a Conference schedule, see <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/academic/idis/phil%2Dlit/problem_of_evil.htm>

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