

Satan, Paradise, & The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

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...This would surpass
Common revenge, and interrupt his joy
In our Confusion, and our Joy upraise
In his disturbance; when his darling Sons
Hurl'd headlong to partake with us, shall curse
Thir frail Original, and faded bliss,
Faded so soon.
Milton, *Paradise Lost* 2:370-376



Blake's "The Ancient of Days"

In *Paradise Lost*, Satan seeks to interrupt God's joy.

Joy in the creation is God's vulnerable spot.
To interrupt God's joy can undo creation.
Such a transgression is the ultimate sin.

Satan transgresses Eden: as mist, he crosses its boundary.

Transgression makes Satan a psychopomp.

Psychopomps are boundary crossers,
transgressors and enablers of further
transgression.

Other psychopomps include Hermes and
Prometheus.

Psychopomps enrich human joy.

How does Milton's Satan enrich the world?

PL follows a *felix culpa* (fortunate
fall) pattern.

Sin leads to contrition and redemption through
Grace.

Grace doesn't restore pre-lapsarian Eden; Grace
augments the joy of the original creation.



Milton's Satan

Brontë's Psychopomps

- Arthur as psychopomp.
 - His transgressions disrupt Helen's and Markham's joy for many years. (438)
 - Like Satan, he interrupts God's joy, and so transgresses beyond his ability to find redemption. (441, 443, 445-446)
 - Like Satan, he does not help others find redemption or grace. (456-457)
 - His illness and death, however, do stimulate Hattersley's desire to seek redemption. (442, 457)
- Helen as psychopomp.
 - Like Eve, she transgressed the boundaries of propriety. (459)
 - Her transgression provides new pathways for women. (434)
 - Her act restores and augments joy:
 - Helen and her aunt—redux. (484, 487)
 - Esther and Frederick (435, 465)

Markham as Psychopomp.

Psychopomp outside Paradise.
(472, 473, 480)

A rose by any other name would
be... fruit of knowledge? (482, 483)

**Felix Culpa: without the fall
there can be no Grace.**

Reconfiguration of
marriage. (450)

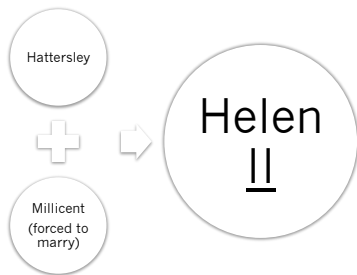
And unto them a child was,
well, raised.

So regeneration becomes
possible. (486)



William Blake, "Michael
Binding Satan"

"Traditional" Process



Nature v. Nurture?

