Naming In Paradise: Milton And The Language Of Adam And Eve

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In John Milton's epic poem Paradise Lost, the relationship between Adam and Eve changes radically after the fall in Book 9. The relationship between the first couple, as it is presented in Book 4 (for instance), emphasizes mutual love of God and of one another; their relationship after the fall, however, is characterized first by lust and then by bickering. In Book 4, Milton reports that Adam was devoted to God and that Eve... Thus Milton writes of Adam that he, inflamed with fleshly lust, ... on Eve. Began to cast lascivious eyes, she him. As wantonly repaid; [so that] in lust they burn ... On The Nativities of Adam and Eve In Paradise Lost, by John Milton. On Combat by W. Roberts. The Sunlight on the Garden. This site is owned and maintained by William Ames, a member of the Modern Language Association. On Adam and Eve's Nativities in Paradise Lost. John Milton sets up a hierarchical relationship between Adam and Eve in the parallel recollections of their creation. Eve occupies the lower position in the hierarchy. Furthermore, Adam has the ability to name the things he sees, whereas Eve has only adjectives or general words for things, like "shape" instead of "face". Adam makes the logical conclusion that a creator must exist, as he states: "Tell me, if ye saw, how came I thus, how here? / Not of myself; by some great maker then," (VIII.