



Milton and the Natural World: Science and Poetry in Paradise Lost

By Karen L. Edwards

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Karen Edwards offers a fresh view of *Paradise Lost*, in which Milton is shown to represent Eden's plants and animals in the light of the century's new, scientific natural history. Debunking the fabulous lore of the old science, the poem embraces new imaginative and symbolic possibilities for depicting the natural world, suggested by the speculations of Milton's scientific contemporaries including Robert Boyle, Thomas Browne and John Evelyn. The natural world in *Paradise Lost*, with its flowers and trees, insects and beasts, emerges as a text alive with meaning.

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"Karen L. Edwards's revisionist account of John Milton's relation to seventeenth-century science retells an old story in an important new way that has significant implications for seventeenth-century scholars, historians of science, and students of Paradise Lost alike...Edwards's work is as refreshing as it is important." Modern Philology

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