

Fall 2015

# The Marriage of Blake and Milton: Is it Heaven or Hell?

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## Recommended Citation

Whitmire, Shawn, "The Marriage of Blake and Milton: Is it Heaven or Hell?" (2015). *Department of English Capstone Abstracts*. 7.  
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10 December 2015

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**Title:** “The Marriage of Blake and Milton: Is it Heaven or Hell?”

**Abstract:**

My senior thesis is a comparative analysis of *Paradise Lost* by John Milton and *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* by William Blake. The crux of my argument is that the juxtaposition of Milton’s Satan in *Paradise Lost* and Blake’s Satan in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* illuminates the difference in the theodicies of Blake and Milton. Milton’s Satan is a tyrannical leader of the devils in hell, and Milton links Satan to King Charles I. Milton favored the revolution against Charles I, and the depiction of Satan in *Paradise Lost* illustrates Milton’s position. On the other hand, Blake’s Satan is the worldly energy that causes revolution. I use the Freudian model of superego, ego, and id to illustrate my points. I compare God to the superego, societal convention, and reason. Milton emphasizes the importance of Godly reason and using free will. Contrarily, Blake stresses the importance of energy, i.e., Satan. I label energy and Satan as the id, or animal instincts. Blake argues that suppression of the id leads to oppression, as in a monarchical system. Blake wrote during The French Revolution, and his unorthodox view of Satan reflects energy against monarchical government. In *Paradise Lost*, God is clearly superior to Satan. In *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, God and Satan are opposites, and both catalysts of progress. Despite their differences, Milton and Blake agree that free will is the most important resource available to man.