

The State of Innocence or the Fall of Man.

The first Stone represents a Chaos, or a confused Mass of matter; the Stage is almost wholly dark. A Symphony of War like Music is heard for some time from the Heavens (which are opened) fall the rebellious Angels, who lie in the air, and seeming transfixed with Thunderbolts. The bottom of y^e Stage being opened, retires y^e Angels, who fall out of sight. Clouds of Victory are plac'd, & an Hymn sung. Angels above discover'd brandishing their Swords: Music roaring & y^e Heavens being thos'd y^e Stone shifts, and on a sudden - represents Hell. Part of y^e Stone is a Lake of Brimstone, or roaring fire; the Earth of a burnt colour. The fallen Angels appear on y^e Lake, lying prostrate. A Cries of horror & Lamentation is heard.

Act 1. Scene 1.

Lucifer raising himself on the Lake.

Lucifer. **W**hat's this the Seat our Conquerour has giv'n?
And this the Climate we must thringe for Heav'n?
These Regions & these Regions my Wars have got
This mournfull Empire is the losers Lot:
In liquid burnings, or on dry to dwell,
Is all the sad variety of Hell.
But see the victor has retold from far,
The avenging storms, his Ministers of War;
His shafts are spent, & his tired Thunder sleep,
Nor longer follow through y^e boundless deep.
Best take y^e occasion, & these Waves for Lake,
While time is given. No, it's today, and so:
If thou art he, & art, ah! how thangu'd from him.
Companion of my Arms! how wan! how dim!
How faded all thy Glories are! I see
Thy self to woe, & mine own Change in thee.

Dryden, John, 1631–1700.

The state of innocence and fall of man. An opera, ca. 1677.

V.a.225, pg. 1.