THE TOWNELEY CYCLE OF PLAYS

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David Parry 1985

Part I

TOWNELE	Y CYCLE 1: THE CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN	Final Draft
GOD:	Ego sum alpha et 0:	
	I am the first, the last also:	
	One God in majesty;	
	Marvellous, of might most;	
	Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost:	5
	One God in Trinity.	
	l am without beginning;	
	My godhead hath no ending;	
	I am God in throne:	
	One God in persons three,	10
	Which never may divided be,	, 0
	For I am God alone.	
	All mannner of things are in my thought;	
	Without me there dmay be nought,	
	For all is in my sight.	15
	It shall be done after my will:	
	That I have thought, I shall fulfil,	
	And maintain with my might.	
	At the beginning of this tide,	
	Make we heaven and earth so wide,	20
	Also lights fair to see.	
	Since it is good so to do,	
	Darkness from light we part in two,	
	In time to serve and be.	
	Darkness we call the night;	25
	The brightness call we light:	
	It shall be as I say.	
	After my will this is forth brought;	

Even and morn, both are they wrought --

30

And thus is made a day.

Amidst the water, by our assent,		
Be now made the firmament,		
And parted, each from other:		
The water above is laid.		
Even and morn is this made:	35	
A day as was the other.		
Waters, that so wide be spread,		
Be gathered together, into one stead:		
The earth may thus seem dry.		
That which is dry the earth shall be;	40	
And the waters I call the sea:		
This work doth please mine eye.		
Out of the earth, now, herbs shall spring,		
Trees shall flourish, and fruit forth bring:		
Their kind thus shall you see.	45	
This, after my will is done;		
Made is thereunto, even and morn:		
A day. Now is this three.		
Sun and moon set in the heaven,		
With stars now, and the planets seven,	50	
To stand in their degree:		
The sun to serve thus the day light;		
The moon also to serve the night.		
The fourth day shall this be.		
The water to nourish the fish swimming;	55	
The earth to nourish the beasts creeping,		
That fly or go may.		
Mulfiply in earth, and be		
In my blessing: now wax ye!		
This is the fifth day.	60	

CHERUBI'N:

Our Lord God in Trinity, Mirth and loving be to thee: Mirth and loving over all thing; For thou has made, with thy bidding, Heaven and earth, and all that is, And given us joy that never shall miss. Lord, thou art so much of might, That has made Lucifer so bright. We love thee, Lord; bright are we, But none of us so bright as he. He is named well as "Luci-fere" For lovely light that he doth bear. He is so lovely, and so bright, It is great joy to see that sight.

75

80

85

70

65

We love thee, Lord, with all our thought, That such thing can make of nought.

Here God withdraws from his throne, and Lucifer shall sit in that throne.

LUCIFER:

Surely it is a seemly sight, Since that we are all angels bright,

And ever in bliss to be:

If that ye will behold me right,

This mast'ry belongs to me.

I am so fair and bright,

Of me comes all this light,

This play and pleasantry.

Against my great might

May no thing stand nor be.

If ye will me behold, I am a thousandfold

Brighter than sun so bright.

My strength may not be told;

None may withstand my might.

90

TOWNELEY CYCL	E 1: THE CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN	Final Draft
7. ¥ {	In heaven, who is so bold Above me to sit on height? For I am Lord of Bliss; Over all this world that is; My mirth is most of all. Therefore my will is this: "Master" ye shall me call!	95
	And ye shall all see soon, anon, How seemly it is fisit in throne As King of Bliss. I am so seemly, blood and bone, My seat shall be there, where was his.	100
	Say, fellows, how suits it me To sit in seat of Trinity? I am so bright in every limb, Sure, it suits me as well as him.	105
BAD ANGEL 1:	Thou art so fair unto my sight, It suits thee well to sit on height, Truly, I think it does.	110
	I warn you, leave that foolish praise, For that seat may no angel fill So well as him that shall judge all. Cease that ye say, I warn again, For well I know ye carp in vain. He filled it never, nor never shall, So well as him that has made all.	115
	Now, as it seems to my wise wit, It suits him well thereon to sit. He is so fair, without a lie, It suits him well to sit on high.	120

Therefore, fellow, hold thy tale, And think again before you rail! He seems as suited to sif there As God himself, if he were here.

125

LUCIFER:

Dear fellow, think thee not so?

BAD ANGEL 1: Yea, God knows, so do others too.

GOOD ANGEL 1: Nay, forsooth, so think not we!

LUCIFER:

A fig for you: Now what think ye? Since I am myself so bright, Therefore will I take a flight:

130

Then the devils will leave, crying out, and the first says:

DEVIL 1:

Alas, alas! Oh wicked woe! Lucifer, why fell thou so? We that angels were, so fair, And sat so high above the air, Now are we grown black as any coal,

135

And ugly, tattered as a fool!
What ailed thee, Lucifer, to fall?
Were ye not fairest of angels all?
Brightest and best, and most of love

140

With God himself, that sits above? Thou has made nine, where there were ten;

Thou art parted foully from thy kin.

Thou art fallen, the tenth, that brightly gleamed,

From an angel to a fiend.

145

Thou hast done to us foul wrong,

And brought thyself to sorrows strong.

Alas! there is nought else to say —

But we are lost eternally!

WINELET CIC	LE I: THE CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN	inal	Draft
	Of this that I make thy dwelling place,		180
	Full of mirth and of solace,		
	Possession I thee give.		
	And yet you should not be alone		
	To walk here in this seemly home		
	In joy as you shall live.		185
	Therefore a rib from thee I take:		
	From it thy mate shall I make,		
	Who shall be to thy helping,		
	With you to govern all that here is,		
	And ever more to be in bliss;		190
	Ye grow in my blessing.		
	Ye shall have joy and bliss therein:		
	Whilst ye will keep you out of sin,		
	You shall enjoy no less.		
	Rise up, mine angel Cherubin!		195
	Take, and lead them both now in,		
	And leave them there in peace.		
	The the cherubin takes Adam by the hand, and the Lo	ord s	ays
	to them:		

Hear thou, Adam, and Eventhy, wife;
I forbid you the tree of life;
That tree I made, I say, leave be:

Take which ye will; touch not that tree!
If this my rule thou break or bend,
Thou shall meet a fearful end.

205

CHERUBIN:

Our Lord, our God, thy will be done;
I shall go with them full soon.
In truth, I shall not stay my tread
Till I have them thither led.

	We thank thee, Lord, with all good cheer,	
	That has made man to be our peer.	
	Come forth, Adam: I shall thee lead.	210
	I shall instruct thee. Now pay heed.	
	I tell thee, think how thou art wrought,	
	And love my Lord in all thy thought,	
	That has made thee through his will,	
	The angels' order to fulfil.	215
	Many things to thee he gives,	
	And makes thee master of all that lives.	
	He has forbad thee but a tree:	
	Look then that thou let it be!	
	If his commandment now thou break,	220
	Destruction thou shall not escape.	
	Wend herein to paradise,	
	And see to it that ye be wise,	
	And keep you well I mustabergone	
	Unto my Lord, that I came from.	225
ADAM:	Almighty Lord, now I thank thee	
	That are, and were, and shall be;	
	Of thy love and of thy grace,	
	For now is here a merry place:	
	Eve, my fellow, how think ye this?	230
EVE:	A place, methinks, of joy and bliss	
	That God has given to thee and me.	
	Ah, without end, blessed be he!	
ADAM:	Eve, fellow, now abide me here:	
	I shall go visit far and near	235
	To see what trees that here there be.	
	Here are far more than yet we did see:	
	Grasses, and other small flowers	
	That smell so sweet, of many colours.	
	- ·	

	TOWNELEY C'	YCLE !: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
	EVE:	Cladly oir I will ware to	
	LVL.	Gladly, sir, I will remain;	240
		When ye have seen them, come again.	
	45.44		
	ADAM:	But look well now, Eve my wife,	
		Thou come not near the tree of life;	
		For if thou do, he is ill paid.	
		Then are we lost, as he has said.	245
	EVE:	Go forth, and play thee all about:	
		I shall not near it while you are out.	
		For be thou sure now, I am loath	
		To do a thing to make him wroth.	
-	LUCIFER:	Who would have thought this time to have seen?	250
		That we, that in such joy have been,	-2
		Should suffer now in so much woe	
		Who would ever believe it should be so?	
		Ten orders in heaven there were	
		Of angels, each with office there,	255
		Of every order in their degree.	233
		The tenth part of them fell with me,	
		For they held with me in that tide,	
		And they maintained me in my pride.	
		But hearken, fellows, what I say:	260
		The joy that we have lost for aye,	200
		God has made man with his hand	
		To have: that bliss without an end,	
		And the nine orders to fulfil	
		That we left there such is his will.	265
		And now are they in Paradise;	203
		But thence they shall, if we be wise!	
		We were so fair, so shining bright,	
		So seemly set before his sight,	
talle	7, 5	This thought was ever in my mind:	270
- Just	\(\)\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	He should have taken angel's kind,	270

Of the degrees that he had made; When he did not, I was dismayed. And when man's kind he thought to take, At that, great envy then had I! 275 But he has made for him a mate, And fast to her I shall draw nigh That ready way. To try and put his purpose by, And strive to pick from him that prey. 280 My work will be well-wrought, If I him thus betray --His pleasure bring to nought! --Soon shall I try this way. In a worm's likeness will I wend, 285 And there shall try a lie cunning: Eve! Eve! EVE: Who is there? LUCIFER: l, a friend --And for thy good is my coming Here, that I sought. Of all the fruits that ye see hang 290

EVE:

We may of them, each one, All we think good freely take, Save for one tree alone: To near that, great harm would make.

In Paradise, why eat ye not?

295

LUCIFER:

And why that tree -- that would I know --More than all others here by?

TOWNELEY CYC	LE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
EVE:	Because Lord God forbids us go	
LVL.	The fruit to touch, Adam nor I	
	To come it near:	300
	And if we did, we both should die,	300
	He said, and cease our solace here.	
LUCIFER:	Oh, Eve! attend to me:	
	Take heed, and thou shalt hear	
	What that matter meant that he	305
	Moved thus it is quite clear!	
	To eat of it he you forbade	
	I know it well simply for this:	
	Because he would none other had	
	These great virtues it does possess.	310
	For you shall see,	
	Who eats the fruit of good and ill	
	Shall have knowledge as great as he.	
EVE:	What kind of thing art thou	
	That tells this tale to me?	315
LUCIFER:	A worm, that knows well how	
	Ye too may worshipped be.	
	*	
EVE:	What worship should we win thereby?	
	To eat of it, we need it not.	
	We have lordship to make mastery	320
	Of each thing that in earth is wrought.	
LUCIFER:	Woman, away!	
	To greater state ye may be brought	
	If ye will do as I shall say.	
EVE:	We are loath to displease	325
	Our God in any way.	

TOWNELEY CYC	LE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
LUCIFER:	There is no danger be at ease! Eat it safely ye may. No prick of peril therein lies,	
	But worship and a great winning. For just as God shall ye be wise, And peers to him in every thing. Aye, Gods shall ye be!	330
	Of good and ill to have knowing Thus to be as wise as he.	335
EVE:	Do you speak truth in this?	
LUCIFER:	Aye why trust ye not me? For I would never, as have I bliss, Tell anything but truth to thee!	
EVE:	Then I will to thy teaching trust, And fetch this fruit to be our food. And then she must take the apple.	340
LUCIFER;	Bite on boldly: be the first! Then take it to Adam, amend his mood Aye, and his bliss!	
	Then Lucifer withdraws.	
EVE:	Adam, have here this fruit so good.	345
ADAM:	Alas, woman! Why took ye this? Our Lord commanded us both To tend this tree of his. Thy work will make him wroth Alas, thou hast done amiss!	750
	Aras, thou has done amiss:	350

Nay, Adam, now let thy grief be --And I'll tell thee the reason why:

EVE:

TOWNELEY CYC	CLE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
	A snake assured me solemnly	
	We shall be as gods, thou and I,	
	If we but eat	355
	Here of this tree. Adam, now try:	
	Give all, that greatness for to get!	
	For we shall be as wise	
	As God that is so great,	
	And as mighty of praise	360
	Therefore, eat of this meat!	
ADAM:	To eat it would I never rue,	
	Might I be sure of thy saying.	
EVE:	Bite on boldly, for it is true:	
	We shall be Gods! know everything!	365
ADAM:	To win that name,	
	I shall taste it at thy teaching.	
	And he takes it and eats it.	
	Alas! What have I done, for shame?	
	III counsel, woe be with thee!	
	Ah, Eve, thou art to blame:	370
	To this enticed thou me.	2.0
	Of my body I have great shame,	
	For I am naked, as I think.	
EVE:	Alas, Adam! And so am I.	

And for sorrow sore now should we sink,

For we have grieved our God almighty

Broken his bidding utterly --Alas, that ever we this began!

That made me man;

375

ADAM:

TOWNELEY CYC	CLE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
	This work, Eve, has thou wrought, And made this bad bargain.	380
EVE:	Nay, Adam, blame me not.	
ADAM:	Away, dear Eve! Whom then?	
EVE:	The worm is well worthy to blame: With tales untrue he me betrayed.	385
ADAM:	Alas, that I agreed to your game, Or listened to the lies you relayed! I repent that I did! I curse that bad bargain ! made, That ever I did that dreadful deed! Our nakedness greatly me grieves:	390
	Wherewith shall our bodies be hid?	
EVE:	Let us cover them there with fig leaves, Since it is thus, I bid.	
ADAM:	Just as you say, so shall it be, For we are naked and all bare. With heavy heart I would hide me	395
	From my Lord's sight, if I knew where Where I care not!	
GOD:	Adam! Adam!	
ADAM:	Lord?	400
GOD:	Where art thou? Where?	
15.44		

I hear thee, Lord, and see thee not.

ADAM:

TOWNELEY CYC	LE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
GOD:	Say, why didst thou pursue	
	This work which thou hast wrought?	*
ADAM:	Lord, Eve made me wrong do,	405
	And to that end me brought.	
GOD:	Say, Eve, why has thou made thy mate	
	Eat fruit I bade should hang on tree,	
	And commanded none of it to take?	Same of the same o
EVE:	A snake it was so enticed me.	410
	Oh dreadful day,	
	That ever I did so wickedly!	
GOD:	Ah, wicked worm! Woe be ye aye!	
	Since thou in this manner	
	Hast played them such foul play,	415
	My curse eternal have thou here,	
	With all the might I may!	
	And on thy womb, then, shall thou glide,	
	Forever full of enmity.	
	To all mankind on every side;	420
	And earth henceforth thy sustenance be,	
	To drink and eat.	
	Adam and Eve also, ye	
	On the earth shall work and sweat.	
ADAM:	Away when may we creep?	425
	We that enjoyed all the world's good,	
	Woefully may we weep!	
GOD:	Now Cherubin, mine angel bright,	
	To earth directly drive these two!	

TOWNELEY CY	CLE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
CHERUBIN;	Already, Lord, as it is right,	430
	Since thy will is that it be so,	
	And thy liking.	
	All creatures that on earth now go,	
	From God of heaven this news I bring	
	To those wretches that wrong have wrought:	435
	Sorely now may they sing;	
	The bliss that heaven them brought	
	Is now come to ending.	V = 0
	They have now lost both game and glee.	
	He bade that they should masters be	440
	Over everything all but the tree	
	Of good and ill;	
	And to that tree went she and he,	
	Against his will.	
	Against his will, thus have they wrought;	445
	To grieve great God thus gave they nought,	
	Of their will free;	
	And therefore sorrow has them caught,	
	As ye shall see.	
	Ye fools that fell from faith: ye two!	450
	Attend to me now, ere ye go:	
	From God of heaven unto you	
	Sent am I now,	
	For to warn you what kind of woe	
	Is wrought for you.	455
ADAM:	For us is wrought oh welaway!	
	Pain perpetual, night and day.	
	This lovely land, once ours for aye,	
	Slips from our sight.	
	For this misfortune, well we may	460
	Forever mourn our plight!	

TOWNELLT	CYCLE 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Dr
ANGEL:	Adam, you brought yourself this blight: To the tree thou went, against all right, And boldly on that fruit did bite My Lord forbade.	46
ADAM:	Yea, alas! My wife may I indict She made me mad!	
ANGEL:	Adam, since you trusted her tale, He sends you word that never shall Pain ever cease thee, Where ye abide in bitter bale Till he release thee.	47
ADAM:	Alas, wretches! What have we wrought? To bounteous bliss we both were brought. While we were there We had enough — now have we nought! Alas, for care!	47!
EVE:	Our cares are come, both keen and cold, With fierce misfortunes manifold. Those tales that tyrant to me told With guileful power That pleasures peerless we should hold Oh curse that hour!	480
ANGEL :	That hour ye did so unwisely, Thus to grieve great God almighty; That now must ye buy most dearly Before ye go, And live, as ye are most worthy, In grief and woe!	485
	Adam, have this, and on it think How ye shall till for meat and drink	490

For evermore.

TOWNELEY CYCLE 1: The Creation and ths Fall of Man	Final Draft
ADAM: Alas, for sorrow might I sink:	
This shames me sore!	
EVE: Sore shames us both, and will for ever:	495
This perilous plight pains us together.	
Alas for woe! Would we had never	
Come near that tree!	
With dread now must we buy most dear	
Our deeds guilty.	500
ANGEL: If thus ye betrayed him so,	
Hard labour for that shall ye know:	
Thy bairns to bear with mighty woe,	
This warn ! thee.	
Obedient ever to man shalt thou	505
And all maids be.	
EVC.	
EVE: Alas! For grief where may I go?	
Now never may I rest, I know.	
ADAM: Nay, now our king commands us so	
To labour long,	510
Both breached and broken are we two	
Such is our song!	
Alas, for sighing and sorrow sad,	
This mourning makes me mazed and mad	
To ponder in heart what help I had,	515
And now have none!	
On ground may I never go glad	
My games are gone!	
Gone are my games; gone is my glee.	
Alas! In bliss could we not be?	520
Pleasured we were with great plenty	
At prime of day;	

As now are we.

But by the noon, all lost had we Oh welaway!	jan 1
For wailful woe now have we found.	525
All beasts were to my bidding bound:	
Fish and fowl dwelt all around	
With me in mirth;	
Against me now are all things turned	
in all the earth.	530
The earth uneasy I walk upon,	
To suffer sorely pains so strong,	
All for this thing I have done wrong	
Through wicked guile.	
This life, methinks, I live too long	535
Alas the while!	223
Ah, Lord! A dreadful doom indeed	
Thou hast ordained for my misdeed!	
If I do wrong, who shall me heed	
In any way?	540
How best in this I may proceed,	
I shall assay.	
This bitter bondage, what may it be?	
In world unwisely wrought have we!	
All earth now trembles for this tree,	545
And rings my knell:	
Angered is all this world with me,	
This know I well!	
Oh, well I know my wealth is fled:	
Earth, elements, all are led	550
To sorrow for my sinful deed,	
This well I see.	
Never was wretch so sadly sped	* .

TOWNELEY CYCL	E 1: The Creation and the Fall of Man	Final Draft
EVE:	We are well worthy to suffer this	555
	We are well worthy to suffer this: To sorrow for what we did amiss;	555
	For we were brought to bounteous bliss	
	Ever therein to be.	
	Now my sad sorrow surely it is	
	Myself to see.	560
ADAM:	To see this is a corry sight.	
ADAM:	To see this is a sorry sight:	
	We both, that were in bliss so bright, Now must go naked every night	
	And day, each one.	
	Alas, that woman's wit was light!	565
	It was ill done!	909
	,	
EVE:	Since it was so, it grives me sore;	
	But if women witless be, therefore	
	Man's mastery should have been more	
	Against the guilt.	570
ADAM:	Nay, all my speech thou would pass o'er:	
	Thou hast us spilt!	
	,	
EVE:	If I said things that would us spill,	
	You should have warned my wayward will,	
	And turned my thought!	575
ADAM:	Away, woman, and name it not!	
	For at my bidding you would not be,	
	And therefore my woe I blame on thee.	
	Through thy ill counsel, cast are we	
	To bitter pain.	580
	Now God let never man after me	
	Trust woman again!	

TOWNELEY CY	Final Draft	
	For certainly I rue it sore	£.
	That ever I listened to thy lore:	
	Thy counsel has cast me in care	585
	Without an end.	
EVE:	Be still, Adam: speak it no more;	
	It may not mend.	\$.3 s
	For well I know I have done wrong:	
	Therefore my mournful grief is strong	590
	Alas the while I live so long!	
	Dead would ! be!	
ADAM:	Glad shall I go never these glades among:	
	Gone is my glee!	
	Joyless I go, and ache;	595
	This grief my heart will break;	
	This tree unto me will I take,	
	That he to me doth send.	
	He keep us from woe, that did us make,	
	Wherever we wend.	600