

**THE POEMS, VOL.  
II, PP. 17-299**

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The Poems, Vol. II, pp. 17-299 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

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P O E M S

OF

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

THE  
P O E M S  
OF  
ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

A NEW EDITION,  
CAREFULLY CORRECTED BY THE LAST LONDON EDITION,  
WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

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A DRAMA OF EXILE.





## A DRAMA OF EXILE.

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### PERSONS OF THE DRAMA.

ADAM.	LUCIFER.	Earth Spirits and Phantasms.
EVE.	Angels.	The Morning Star.
GABRIEL.	Eden Spirits.	CHRIST, in a Vision.

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SCENE—*The outer side of the gate of Eden shut fast with clouds, from the depth of which revolves the sword of fire, self-moved. A watch of innumerable ANGELS, rank above rank, slopes up from around it to the south; and the glare, cast from their brightness and from the sword, extends many miles into the wilderness. ADAM and EVE are seen in the distance, flying along the glare. The ANGEL GABRIEL and LUCIFER are beside the gate.*

*Lucifer.* Hail Gabriel, the keeper of the gate!  
Now that the fruit is plucked, prince Gabriel,  
I hold that Eden is impregnable  
Under thy keeping.

*Gabriel.* Angel of the sin,  
Such as thou standest,—pale in the drear light  
Which rounds the rebel's work with Maker's wrath,—  
Thou shalt be an Idea to all souls;—  
A monumental melancholy gloom  
Seen down all ages; whence to mark despair,  
And measure out the distances from good!  
Go from us straightway.

*Lucifer.* Wherefore ?

*Gabriel.* Lucifer,

Thy last step in this place, trod sorrow up.  
Recoil before that sorrow, if not this sword.

*Lucifer.* Angels are in the world—wherefore not I ?  
Exiles are in the world—wherefore not I ?  
The cursed are in the world—wherefore not I ?

*Gabriel.* Depart.

*Lucifer.* And where's the logic of "depart ?"  
Our lady Eve had half been satisfied  
To obey her Maker, if I had not learnt  
To fix my postulate better. Dost thou dream  
Of guarding some monopoly in heaven  
Instead of earth ? Why I can dream with thee  
To the length of thy wings.

*Gabriel.* I do not dream.

This is not Heaven, even in a dream ; nor earth,  
As earth was once,—first breathed among the stars,—  
Articulate glory from the mouth divine,—  
To which the myriad spheres thrilled audibly,  
Touched like a lute-string,—and the sons of God  
Said AMEN, singing it. I know that this  
Is earth, not new created, but new cursed—  
This, Eden's gate, not opened, but built up  
With a final cloud of sunset. Do I dream ?  
Alas, not so ! this is the Eden lost  
By Lucifer the serpent ! this the sword  
(This sword, alive with justice and with fire !)  
That smote upon the forehead, Lucifer  
The angel ! Wherefore, angel, go . . . depart—  
Enough is sinned and suffered.