

Module 4: Examining Love, Friendship, and Power

Topic 3 Content: "Eve's Apology in Defense of Women" by Amelia Lanier

But surely Adam cannot be excused,
Her fault though great, yet he was most to blame;
What weakness offered, strength might have refused,
Being Lord of all, the greater was his shame:
Although the serpent's craft had her abused,
God's holy word ought all his actions frame,
 For he was Lord and King of all the earth,
 Before poor Eve had either life or breath.

Who being framed by God's eternal hand,
The perfectest man that ever breathed on earth;
And from God's mouth received that strait command,
The breach whereof he knew was present death:
Yea, having power to rule both sea and land,
Yet with one apple won to lose that breath
 Which God had breathéd in his beauteous face,
 Bringing us all in danger and disgrace.

And then to lay the fault on patience's back,
That we poor women must endure it all;
We know right well he did discretion lack,
Being not persuaded thereunto at all;
If Eve did err, it was for knowledge sake,
The fruit being fair persuaded him to fall:
 No subtle serpent's falsehood did betray him,
 If he would eat it, who had power to stay him?

Not Eve, whose fault was only too much love,
Which made her give this present to her dear,
That what she tasted, he likewise might prove,
Whereby his knowledge might become more clear;
He never sought her weakness to reprove,
With those sharp words, which he of God did hear:
 Yet men will boast of knowledge, which he took
 From Eve's fair hand, as from a learned book.