

ABSTRACT

Rewriting the Fall: Varieties of the Garden of Eden Myth in the Western English Literary Tradition

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This thesis argues for the centrality of the Biblical Fall myth in the Western English literary tradition despite variance in diachronic, cultural and geographical determinants through its ubiquity in literature since Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The study is, therefore, cross-cultural in its examination of works from the British, American and West Indian literary traditions but also diachronic through the choice of literary pieces composed in disparate times. The endurance, versatility and variety of the modulations of the myth are, therefore, obvious through its extrapolation of the most universal themes in the human condition. The thesis, therefore, reveals a shared common ground among these works that in spite of individuality, one may conclude the universality of the human predicament.

Keywords: Giselle Anella Rampaul; Fall; Garden of Eden; *Paradise Lost*; British literature; American literature; West Indian literature.