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978-0-521-66076-1 - Adam and Eve in Seventeenth-Century Thought

Philip C. Almond

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ADAM AND EVE IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY THOUGHT

This book offers a fascinating account of the central myth of Western culture – the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Philip Almond examines the way in which the gaps, hints, and allusions within this biblical story were filled out in seventeenth-century English thought. At this time, the Bible formed a fundamental basis for studies in all subjects, and influenced greatly the way that people understood the world. Drawing extensively on primary sources, he covers subjects as diverse as theology, history, philosophy, botany, language, anthropology, geology, vegetarianism, and women. He demonstrates the way in which the story of Adam and Eve was the fulcrum around which moved lively discussions on topics such as the place and nature of Paradise, the date of creation, the nature of Adamic language, the origins of the American Indians, agrarian communism, and the necessity and meaning of love, labour, and marriage.

PHILIP C. ALMOND is Professor of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is the author of many articles and a number of books, including *Mystical Experience and Religious Doctrine* (1982), *The British Discovery of Buddhism* (1988), *Heretic and Hero: Muhammad and the Victorians* (1989), and *Heaven and Hell in Enlightenment England* (1994).

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK <http://www.cup.ac.uk>
 40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA <http://www.cup.org>
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1999

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in Baskerville 11/12.5pt [vN]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Almond, Philip C.

Adam and Eve in seventeenth-century thought / Philip C. Almond.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 66076 9

1. Adam (Biblical figure) 2. Eve (Biblical figure) 3. Eden –
 History of doctrines – 17th century. 4. England – Intellectual life –
 17th century. 5. Bible. O.T. Genesis 1–III – Influence.
 I. Title.

BS580.A4A55 1999

222'.1106'09032 – dc21 99–10370 CIP

ISBN 0 521 66076 9 hardback

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To Tennyson K. Almond

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Acknowledgements

For the past fifteen years, the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland has provided a stimulating context in which to teach and to pursue research. I owe debts of gratitude to many of my friends and colleagues. For many stimulating conversations, I am once again indebted to my friend Associate Professor Peter Harrison. I continue to be grateful for long friendships with my colleagues Associate Professor Ed Conrad and Professor Michael Lattke. And my friend Natalie Bell has been a continuing source of support and encouragement for which I am very grateful. The original stimulus for this work came from Professor Paul Morris of the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and I thank him for it.

I owe debts of gratitude also to the University of Queensland for supporting this research with a Special Study Program in England, and to the Australian Research Council, who provided funds for teaching relief in 1997, during which this work was written. I am very much aware too of the many scholars who have laboured in this particular garden before, and I hope I have used the fruits of their labours carefully and wisely.

This book is dedicated, with love and gratitude, to my father.