

COMPARISON

Comparison is seen as the root ^{cause} of civil society in Rousseau's work. In page 63, he ~~mentions~~ the discovery of the first tools "being deprived of them became much more cruel than possessing them was sweet; and they were unhappy about losing them without being happy about possessing them." They were ungrateful because they compared the ease they had in labor with and without tools. Eventually, ~~the~~ proximity of people brings people together: "Eventually a permanent proximity cannot fail to engender some intercourse among different families... People become accustomed to consider different objects and make comparisons. Imperceptibly they acquire the ideas of merit and beauty, which produce feelings of preference." Being in a society with different people, each person wants what is most beautiful, the most useful, the best. ~~And this congregates people together~~

Comparison in Milton

→ Satan compares himself to God, wondering why he cannot be equal to God. This leads to his Fall, as he proceeds to attempt to be like God. Milton essentially notes this comparison as a root of evil, as Satan was thrown to Hell and began seeking revenge.
(Book 5)

→ Satan compares himself to Adam and Eve when arriving at Paradise. He sees the beautiful creation made for them by God. Comparing his demise to their good fortune fuels his envy and anger, motivating him further to lead man to the Fall.
(Book 4, lines 358-392, pg 88-89)

→ Satan encourages Eve to compare her current life to a life after eating from the Tree of Knowledge. They conclude that life would be better after eating the apple, Eve wants that life, and eats of the tree, starting the process of the Fall of Man.
(unconscious decision)
(Book 9, lines 685-702)

Descartes

pg. 20 #35

Thus I saw that doubt, inconstancy, sadness, and the like could not be in God, since I myself would have been happy to be exempt from them.

"everything else I knew I lacked"

"82, faculty of judging the truth, which I got from God, is not, in my case, infinite,

Descartes constant comparisons make him acutely aware of his imperfection, which leads him to question the extent to which his reasoning can be true.

Locke

Desiring something leads to property "We see in commons that it is the taking any part of what is common and removing it out of the state of nature leaves it in, which begins the property" pg 19

↳ Because people may be envious of some one else's property they enter into a civil state

"The chief end whereof is the preservation of property"

pg 116- fall of civility

"pride, ambition, and turbulence of private men have sometimes caused great disorders in common-wealths"