**Milton and the Romantics: The Conundrum of Romantic Language**

**Courtesy of R.F.W. Kroll**

1. Raphael to Adam in *Paradise Lost,* 5.563ff:

 O prime of men,

 Sad task and hard, for how shall I relate

 To human sense th’invisible exploits

 Of warring Spirits: . . .

 . . . I shall delineate so,

 By lik’ning spiritual to corporal forms,

 As may express them best, though what if Earth

 Be but the shaddow of Heav’n, and things therein

 Each to other like, more then on earth is thought?

2. Raphael to Adam, *Paradise Lost,* 7.112ff:

 … to recount Almightie works

 What words or tongue of Seraph can suffice,

 Or heart of man suffice to comprehend?

3. The narrator in *Paradise Lost,* 7 after God has just addressed the Son (lines 174-179):

 So spake th’ Almightie, and to what he spake

 His Word, the Filial Godhead, gave effect.

 Immediate are the Acts of God, more swift

 Then time or motion, but to human ears

 Cannot without process of speech be told,

 So told as earthly notion can receave.

4. Michael tells Adam what will happen in human history after the Fall: God’s Providential design results in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in *Acts* 2 (*Paradise Lost,* 12.498ff):

 … for the Spirit

 Powr’d first on his Apostles, whom he sends

 To evangelize the Nations, then on all

 Baptiz’d, shall them with wondrous gifts endue

 To speak all Tongues, and do all Miracles,

 As did thir Lord before them. Thus they win

 Great numbers of each Nation to receave

 With joy the tidings brought from Heav’n: at length

 Thir Ministry perform’d, and race well run,

 Thir doctrine and thir story written left,

 They die ….

(Excerpts are from a public domain edition)