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Lanyer vs. LORD

In the poem *Eve's Apology in Defense of Women*, written by Aemilia Lanyer, known as the first Englishwoman to publish poems, the author uses allusion, antithesis, and rhyme scheme in order to convey how Lanyer believed that Eve was not completely at fault for her actions that led to the subsequent fall, but that Adam held more blame for his inactions. In the poem, Eve is shown to hold some blame for her decision, but the majority is placed upon Adam and his lack of strength.

First, Lanyer's use of allusion in lines 33-48 helps to convey how she believes and interprets the story of the fall from a Biblical context. She uses phrases such as the "serpent's craft", "lord and king of all the earth", "God's eternal hand", and characters such as "Adam" in her interpretation of the fall. The Bible uses phrases such as "serpent was more crafty" in verse 1 of Genesis 3, "LORD God" throughout the text when referring to God, "LORD God had made" in verse 1 of Genesis 3, and characters such as "Adam" in verse 17 of Genesis 3 in the New International Version. She uses this allusion to show how she interprets the text while still drawing from the original text.

Secondly, Lanyer chooses to use antithesis to show the drastic and very polar sides within the story. She uses words such as "weakness offered, strength...refused" in line 35 and "sea and land" in line 45. The opposing words show the different sides of the story. The positive side being the "strength" "offered" and "land" where the words evoke a positive reaction. The

negative side is the “weakness”, “refused”, and “sea,” where these words evoke a negative reaction from the reader. The obvious differences between the languages are meant to stir up an emotional response from the reader so that they can form their own opinion of the interpretation.

Finally, Lanyer chose to write her poem in the rhyme scheme of ABABABCC in order to convey the connections between the subsequent lines and to relate them together. By using the ABABABCC rhyme scheme, Lanyer is able to keep the reader's attention for longer as they continue with the poem. Having the same rhyme scheme at the end of most every other line creates a sense of connection between previous lines and stanzas.

In the poem *Eve's Apology in Defense of Women*, written by Aemilia Lanyer, the author uses allusion, antithesis, and rhyme scheme in order to convey how she believed that Eve was not completely at fault for her actions that led to the fall, but that Adam held more blame for his lack of action.