

“Thee” and “Thou”: how they work

These pronouns represent a second-person singular which is no longer commonly used in modern English, with their accompanying verb forms. The modern equivalent is “you,” indicating only one person. Equivalents in other languages are “tu” (French) and “du” (German) – as opposed to “vous” and “Sie.”

Pronoun forms:

Thou: you (subject).

Thee : you (object).

Thy: your

Thine: yours.

Thyself: yourself.

Verb forms:

Thou dost throw the ball/ Thou throwest the ball (you throw the ball).

Thou didst throw the ball/ Thou threwst the ball (you threw the ball).

Thou art throwing the ball (you are throwing the ball)

Thou wast throwing the ball (you were throwing the ball).

Therefore, in Book IV 467-75:

Milton’s language	Modern usage
What thou seest, What there thou seest fair Creature is thy self, With thee it came and goes: but follow me, And I will bring thee where no shadow staies [470] Thy coming, and thy soft imbraces, hee Whose image thou art, him thou shalt enjoy Inseparablie thine, to him shalt beare Multitudes like thy self, and thence be call'd Mother of human Race:	What you see, What there you see fair Creature is your self, With you it came and goes: but follow me, And I will bring you [to] where no shadow staies [awaits] your coming, and your soft imbraces, hee Whose image you are, him you shall enjoy [as] Inseparablie yours, to him [you] shall beare Multitudes like your self, and thence be call'd Mother of human Race: