

Adam and Eve

cf. Genesis 2⁴ - 3²⁴

⁴ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created:

£3,550	catering
£1,500	security
£2,245	stationary, invitations, etc.
£800	decorations.

It was a big opening night party!

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens - ⁵ and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up (David Attenborough's programme only lasted 5 minutes in those days), for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, as he couldn't work out where to put the batteries, ⁶ but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground - ⁷ the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. He could also make sausage dogs and giraffes from balloons, and he was a whizz at building snowmen (and women).

⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden, right next to the Beechgrove Garden; and there he put the man he had formed. He placed him in the shed where he potted about for some of the day, but where he mostly sat in an old deck-chair drinking sherry and homemade wine. ⁹ And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground (which is a good place for trees to grow) - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food, but unfortunately the Cable Television Co. dug up their roots when they were laying fibre-optic cables. In the middle of the garden, next to the

swing and roundabout, were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was later felled and made into a first edition *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

¹⁰ A river watering the garden, using an intricate system of pumps and hoses, flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon (no, don't laugh!); it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold - in Arabic it is called '*H. Samuel*'. ¹² (The gold of that land is good - it spreads directly from the fridge; aromatic resin (joss sticks) and onyx (the hedgehog) are also there.) ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon, which is an anagram of Hoing; it winds through the entire land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. River Phoenix does not appear.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. It was the first ever YTS placement. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die - look what happened to Snow White!"

"That's alright," said Adam, "I was thinking of eating out tonight, at The Waldorf."

¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."

The Head Waiter said, "It is not good for the man to be naked in my restaurant, and especially without a tie."

"I will make a helper suitable for him," said God

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air, and that put

rest to the age long question: "What came first, the chicken or the egg." He brought them to the man to see what he would name them - he called them a zoo; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. Some of the creatures he couldn't think of a name for so Blue Peter ran a competition for him.

²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But he forgot to give himself a name and for the rest of the story he is still referred to as 'the man.'

But for the man no suitable helper was found. As he kept pointing out to God, "Would you like to wake up next to a horse / sheep / elephant / dog / etc. every morning for the rest of your life? I don't think so." ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep (for he was a qualified anaesthetist); and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then using the latest in DNA based genetics and some technology never seen before, except possibly in that film "*Jurassic Park*" about the dinosaurs, the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man, during visiting hours on the surgery post-op ward.

²³ The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman',
for she was taken out of man."

"That doesn't rhyme!" said the woman.

²⁴ For this reason - because he cannot write a poem that rhymes, is no reason in my mind, by hey-ho! - a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

"What is a father and mother?" asked Adam.

²⁵ The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame. "It's nice out," the man would often say to his wife. "I wouldn't know, I haven't got one," she'd reply.

The Fall of Man (and Woman)

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. Often the serpent would be found weaving raffia baskets, or turning wood on his lathe, or else knocking up a set of shelves for somebody. He was very crafty. He said to the woman - for she had been given lessons by Dr Doolittle on how to understand what the animals say - "Hissss, Did God really say, 'You must not eat, Hissss, from any tree in the garden?'"

² The woman said to the serpent, "I don't know I wasn't here then. But I watched it on video and he said to my husband, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman (whom the man had also carelessly neglected to name). ⁵ "For God knows that when you, Hissss..."

"God knows when you hiss?" said the woman, "What on earth does that mean?"

"Let me finish," hissed the serpent, "For God knows that when you eat of it, Hissss, your eyes will be opened..."

"You mean it's better than coffee?"

"...and you will be like God, knowing good and evil, Hissss."

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food, there were apples and bananas and pears and corn flakes and loaves of bread and sweeties growing on it, and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining

wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then Loyd Grossman took some and tasted it. They adjourned for a few hours to cogitate, deliberate and digest and emerged to announce that the LORD God had won Masterchef 2,000 BC. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked.

"Goodness me," said the man, "I'm not going to that NEXT shop again. The assistant assured me that these clothes were fit for an emperor!"

So they sewed fig leaves together, adorned it with sequins and made coverings for themselves, in the style of Jean Paul Gaultier; they sold for £540 as part of their Autumn Collection... but all the leaves fell off!

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you, coming ready or not?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Aw! You've just spoiled it! You don't know the rules to hide and seek do you? Why don't you... Em, who told you that you were naked? Have you built a mirror or have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from; the one with the barbed wire fence and notices saying 'Keep Out' round about it?"

¹² The man said, "The woman *you* put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done? What was wrong with the tinned fruit I delivered to you yesterday?"

"It was from South Africa," said the woman.

"Do you not keep up with current affairs, don't you know that it's alright to eat South African food now?"

"Oh, sorry."

"Well sorry won't change what you've done now. Anyway, who told you to try the fruit, it wasn't the man was it?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock..

"What even cows?"

"Yes, even cows!..and all the wild animals!"

"I'm not wild!"

"Well you're not domesticated! When have I ever see you snuggling up to a pair of slippers next to the fire, or fetching the paper from the newsagents?"

"You will crawl on your belly," continued God, only to be interrupted again.

"I don't mind I couldn't get the hang of these leg-things anyway!"

"...and you will eat dust all the days of your life, and in his old age the man will mistake you for the Hoover.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head..."

"Boo!" said the serpent

"...and you will strike his heel."

"Hoorah!"

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to

children.

Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you."

"That's a bit of a harsh judgement is it not?" said the woman. "Who was presiding at the hearing, Judge Pickles?"

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat of it,"

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life,
unless you follow the advice on
Gardener's Question Time.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field,
but not Giant Hogweed because it is poisonous.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return,
but watch out for that serpent
because I've just told him to eat
dust, oh, and look out for hoovers
as well when they are invented,
you'll find them useful."

²⁰ The man now decided to name himself and his wife. Turning to her he said, "Madam I'm Adam." Adam named his wife Eve, because it was nearly night-time when he named her, and it also had something to do with the fact that she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed

them; and the animal rights protesters picketed outside the garden of Eden until the LORD God changed his mind and instead made for them matching polyester shellsuits. ²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil." He said 'us' because he knew that it would confuse the theologians in years to come. "He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken; the name of the ground was White Heart Lane. ²⁴ the LORD God handed Adam and Eve a copy each of the Lonely Planet Guide to Earth. After that he drove the man (and his wife I presume) out, in his new 6.0 litre Bentley, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. And everyone thought that Zorro lived there so kept well away.