

The Story of Adam and Eve

When God had created all the animals He brought each one to Adam to see if a suitable mate could be found for him. Adam gave all the animals their names and although he was delighted to see them all he didn't find a mate among them. He beheld the giraffe and thought, "Much as I admire your lovely long neck you're not the girl for me!" The beautiful songs of the birds and the wonderful colours of the butterflies only made him sad because he had no mate to share all this life with him.

When God saw how lonely Adam felt He put him into a deep sleep and whilst Adam slept God took one of his ribs and from it fashioned woman. When Adam awoke and saw the woman he exclaimed:

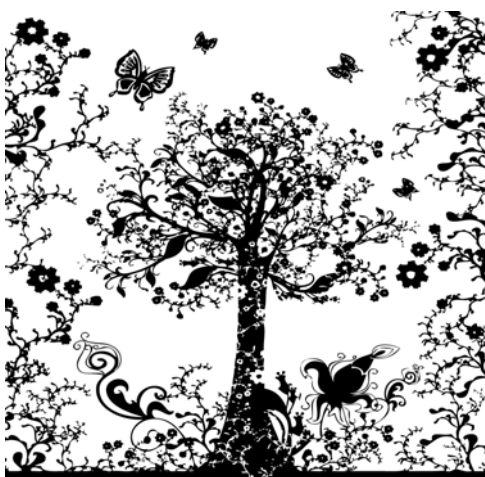
*"This at last is bone from my bones
And flesh from my flesh!"*

Now Adam had a friend, a wife with whom to share his life! They lived together in great happiness with nothing to spoil their joy. God gave them all the fruit of the trees in the garden, all that is, except one tree in the middle of the garden. This tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and they were forbidden to eat from its fruit under pain of death!

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild beasts that God had made. It said to Eve:

"Did God really say that you were not to eat of any of the trees in the garden?"

Eve was quite annoyed at this suggestion and explained that there was only one tree which was forbidden to them (but the thought had already been put into her head that indeed not to be able to do one thing was the same as not being able to do anything!) She told the serpent that God had said that if they ate of this fruit then they would die.



At this the serpent, who was a liar, told the biggest lie of his life.

"No," he whispered, "you will not die! God knows that on the day you eat this fruit your eyes will be opened and you will be just as great as God! In fact God does not want you to taste the fruit because He doesn't really love you; He wants to limit your power and stop you from fulfilling yourselves!"

Poor Eve! She was no match for the serpent! She looked at the tree and saw how attractive it looked, how it could give her so much more experience than God

wanted to give her so she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some to her husband and he ate it too.

Then something very serious happened to Adam and Eve; their eyes were opened and they saw the world in a different way! Instead of walking freely in the garden and talking with their heavenly Father each evening, they became afraid. They had tasted death when they ate the fruit that was forbidden to them. Now they noticed that they weren't wearing any clothes and so they sewed fig leaves together to hide their shame.

When God their heavenly Father came looking for them in the garden in the cool of the day He saw that they were hiding and that they were wearing the leaves.

"Where are you?" asked God. "Why are you wearing fig leaves? It's not cold!"

"We heard the sound of you in the garden" replied Adam "and we realised that we had no clothes on so we hid."

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you been eating the fruit which I forbade you to eat?" asked God.

"It was the woman you put with me! She ate it first and then she persuaded me to eat it too!" Adam to save his own skin had no problem in blaming his wife. And Eve in her turn blamed the serpent.

"The serpent tempted me and I ate the fruit that you had forbidden!"

Before this first, original sin there was a point to everything in the life of Mankind. Eve knew that Adam was the head of the family and she was happy to do what he advised. Adam was pleased to work the land to provide for his family because they both knew that their heavenly Father loved them and had created them out of love. But after they had disobeyed God all that changed. Now Eve couldn't stand to be 'bossed around' by her husband, and Adam found that the earth would no longer yield him its fruits without a lot of hard work. In sinning they had indeed tasted death- the death of their being. Deep down they no longer knew who they were or whether or not God loved them. What a sorry state of affairs!



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And it was true! They had separated themselves from their creator and were unable thereafter to resist the whiles of the devil, for it was he, the father of lies, who had spoken in the form of the serpent.