

A Sermon on Adam and Eve

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for March 13th, 2022 (and beyond)

This sermon is in dialogue format for the purposes of exploring different ways to interpret the story of Adam and Eve.

DIALOGUE:

Scientific Party: If Adam was made of clay, where did the rib come from in the first place to create Eve? Was it a clay rib? Is any of this part even in the bible?

Interpretive Party: I've always thought Adam and Eve were fraternal twins and the story symbolized that for those who weren't aware twins could be of different genders. I figured the punishment for over-fraternization was banishment and the natural consequence potentially that Cain, being born from in-breeding, was somewhat like "Dandy" from "American Horror Story: Freak Show" who did help his mother fertilize her garden.

Symbolic Party: I think Adam being made of clay symbolizes he is a work of art that inspired another in Eve. God is the artist in that sense.

Scientific Party: So, one should read scripture metaphorically rather than literally. You know what I think happened? I think the Holy Bible was the first book mass-produced. I'm certain of it. Most people couldn't read for centuries and religion was a way to community-organize for the greater good as well as an arguable bedrock of civilization. Before most people could read, they were socialized by people who could read. And, the people who couldn't read were in awe of those who could. But, being illiterate and likely traumatized responded with deimatic rhetoric claiming they had special knowledge too even though they couldn't read. They wrote in symbols, created new languages (AKA lingo), and even rituals to show their superstitiously fear-inspiring ceremony. And, over time this has caused communication problems because some people still can't read and/or don't understand what they do read.

Interpretive Party: I think you might be right. That goes for both of you. But, I still think I might be right too.

Symbolic Party: What if Adam and Eve were orphans or foundlings that had no shared parents and were found separately but didn't follow the rules of their heavenly hosts so were kicked out?

Scientific Party: Honestly, I think the work of art idea makes the most sense in full context and for the sake of continuity and social tolerance. Tradition has its place too and I usually call it nostalgia.

Interpretive Party: You've given me a lot to consider. Religious art has included statues made of marble and clay. Priest John Wycliffe said the Catholic Church operated on a

basis of mystery and morality plays that was often improvised and acted out in languages the audience didn't understand. It's possible someone saw a sculptor and assumed that's how humans must have been created. An artist must have created us because that's the logical conclusion based on that assumption.

Symbolic Party: I like the way you think. I like the idea that we are all an artist's creation.

Scientific Party: Me too.

END

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There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at [https://www.cope.church/basket.htm](https://www cope church/basket.htm). Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

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