

BOOK ONE: GENERATION

The Six “Days”

The beginning.

World was without form—or content—neither light nor darkness was upon the face of the deep. Then movement: there was light, the light, it was good, it divided: light *and* dark.

The evening and the morning: the first “day.”

The sky (Sky) divided: waters were under Sky, waters (i.e. clouds, fog, drizzle) were above Sky.

Evening and the morning were the second day.

The dry land (Earth) and the waters (Sea). Earth brought forth grass, the herb-yielding seed, the fruit-tree-yielding-fruit, whose seed is in itself.

Evening and morning were the third day.

Sun and moon set in the sky gave light upon quiet Earth, quiet Sea, quiet Sky.

The evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Sea brought forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and fowl that fly above Earth in Sky’s open water, and great whales, and every living creature that moves, the waters brought forth abundantly. The living creatures that move were fruitful, and multiplied. They filled the waters in Sea and Sky.

The evening and morning were fifth day.

Earth brought forth living creatures and creeping things, and beasts. Earth made humans, and they had control over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over every creeping thing that creeps.

And so created, humans, in their own image, created: male and female created. Fruitful, they multiplied: they subdued Earth but they also replenished Earth: they held control over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that creeps.

Male and female, they ate, ate anything: every herb-bearing seed, which is upon the face of Earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree-yielding seed; to them meat was Earth’s every beast, every fowl of the air, every thing that creeps upon Earth, wherein there is life.

World every thing made, and it was very good.

The evening and the morning were the sixth day.

On the Seventh

Thus Earth, Sea, Sky: all of them.

On the seventh “day”? Rest.

By the way, blessed is the seventh day because in it rests rest from work, from creation. Female and male rest.

These are the generations of Sky of Sea of Earth, what they created, in the “days” that they made themselves.

Every plant of the field was in Earth, and every herb of the field grew: Sky rained its waters upon Earth, and there went up a mist from Earth and watered the whole: Earth, Sea, Sky.

Humans were born on Earth, breathed the breath of life, and became, living.

Female and male planted a garden, and out of the ground grew every tree that is pleasant to see and good for food: the tree is life, the tree is knowledge, true.

A river watered the garden, male and female’s; and from there it parted, became four rivers—each of the four became four more, and so on: Earth, Sea, Sky.

One river is named Euphrates.

Female and male, in the garden to dress it and to keep it.

Of every tree of the garden they freely ate: from the tree of knowledge, for example.

Male and female, humans, should be alone and should not be alone.

Earth, Sea, Sky (that is, Ground) held every beast but while every beast could see, in none could Ground see its creation. Thus it was that Ground brought the female and male to every beast: what would they call them? Humans saw Ground and gave names to all and every beast! In humans, Ground could see itself!

A deep sleep fell upon female and male and they slept: then she took one of his and he her flesh: she took him, brought him unto her.

They said, “This flesh...one flesh.”

They were naked, the male and female, and they were far from ashamed.

Serpent v. Knowledge

Now the serpent was annoyed—more than any beast of the field which Ground had made—annoyed because Ground saw itself in humans and not in beasts, not at all in serpents.

So, unto the female-woman, Yea, the serpent said, You ate of *every* tree of the garden?

The woman said unto the serpent, We eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden.

And the serpent said unto the woman, You ate of the tree of knowledge? Don't you know that now your eyes shall be opened, and you will know good and evil? And you'll be naked?

The woman said, Of course we know, the man and I, good and evil, and what's more, we know that the tree is good for food, and that it is pleasant to the eyes, a tree to make us wise, I took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and the man with me, he did eat. And the eyes of us both are open, and we know that we are naked...although come Fall, we'll probably sew fig leaves together and make ourselves aprons.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Aprons?

Well, the woman said, and shirts, skirts, pants...things for our legs...

And the serpent said unto the woman, Legs?

Well..., the woman said.

You see..., the male, the man, piped up.

And the serpent said unto the woman and man, You go walking in the garden in the cool of the day and hide yourselves amongst the trees of the garden: why? Are you afraid?

They said, man-and-woman, No, we're not afraid, we're naked and hide ourselves because...well...

And the serpent said unto the man and woman, I command thee that thou shouldest tell me why you hide!

So the man said, The woman with me, she gives me....or I give her...you see...

Or, rather, we give to each other our, er...well..., the woman said unto the serpent, Well, what's it to you, anyway?

And the serpent said unto the woman and man, I command thee, what is this that thou hast done? What?!

So the woman said, Look, it's really none of your business, but let's put it this way: we beguile each other.

And said the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go—the man and woman laughed at this—and...and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life!

Eat dust? What do you know? Said unto the serpent the man.

You're just mad because we ate from the tree of knowledge, said unto the serpent the woman.

But the serpent was enraged at the man: See, I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.

At this, the man and woman laughed!

So unto the woman said the serpent, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall rule over thee.

That last part sounds pretty good to me, said the woman, and the man, he nodded most approvingly.

And said the serpent, unto woman and man, Because thou hast eaten of the tree, of which I nor any beast may eat, I command thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life.

Look, the woman said, we're going to keep eating it no matter what you say.

I command thee, said the serpent, or shrieked rather.

Listen, quit your whining and just eat of it! The man said.

And said the serpent in a whisper, I cannot, we cannot.

But why not? The woman asked.

So said the serpent, Hissssss...

And said the man, That's not much of an answer!

So said the serpent, Thorns and also thistles shall I bring to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread—at this, the man interrupted the serpent's ravings, "I like bread..."—till thou return unto Ground; for out of Ground wast thou taken: for Ground thou art, and unto Ground shalt thou return. And you I name Adam and you Eve; because...well, just because!

Adam, said Eve, let's make coats of skins, and clothe ourselves, for it is getting a little *chilly*, if you know what I mean.

And said the serpent, where are you going? Do you think you are going to live forever?

Maybe...they said, Eve and Adam. We'll have to think about it.

I command thee, become one of us, don't know good and evil! Railed the serpent, Don't know!

Too late for that, they said, Adam, Eve. We know good and evil and we want to know more.

But, wailed the serpent, what does that get me?

Not much, I guess, she said, Eve.

We'll let you know, he said, that Adam.

At this, the woman and man laughed.