

## THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

### 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

1. [1] Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant like Blasmus the Phoenecian or Euripidocan from Athens or Gareth the Bretanos who built their houses on the sands, even if they do live near the beach. Great shall be their fall.
2. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, even as ye were led; uncircumcised in both body and mind, and carried away unto these dumb idols, pretty and nicely crafted in wood though they may be, that adorn your street corners, windowsills, niches in bordellos and taverns, and are bedecked with flowers and fresh, plump, succulent fruit in your temples where young maidens – and some others - swoon before them and disport themselves with the tall, muscular, well-oiled attendants.
3. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking, singing or humming by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Or Spirit. Is that clear? So be alert to the sentences uttered by those near to you and those far away, and even unto the strange, sometimes breathless words muttered in the darkness.
4. Now there are diversities of gifts, some of great value, some of seemingly little worth, and some quite bizarre, but the same Spirit. Or Ghost. Take your pick.
5. And there are differences of administrations, some elected and some inherited; some not sought and some grasped by the damp palms of the unworthy, but the same Lord.
6. And there are diversities of operations, some by scalpel and blade and some by unguents and flushings and medicament; not to mention bleedings, extractions, rubbing and manipulations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. Oh yes. Truth hurts.
7. But the manifestation of the Spirit – or Ghost - is given to every man to profit withal, either for himself or for others, and ye must not covet that which is given elsewhere, nor lust after his possessions not wife nor offspring, servants not livestock. (And Jonas, please take especial note of this last injunction.)
8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to one the gift of cookery; to another the gift of cleansing pots and chambers; to another the creation of music; to another the gift of writing hymnody; [2] and to yet another the gift of looking stern when handing out books when the ecclesia meets.
9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to one the gift of artistic interpretation. Painting [3,] poetry, oratory – that sort of thing; to another the gift of dance (even in a liturgical setting though that seemeth an anathema;)
10. To another the working of miracles, but please test them to the full; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits (small s there, Jonas. And, no, not distillations.) To another divers kinds of tongues (stop that!) To another the interpretation of tongues (even though they be a little member. I got that idea from this apostle in Jerusalem.)
11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. Do I make myself clear? For the Spirit is not found in uniformity but in unity, and this is a truth that, though it be off-times forgotten and hardly ever agreed upon or understood, shall last until the end of ages.

#### Notes

- [1] A handwritten marginal comment in the Bible says: “And Paul, writing to the believers in Corinth, did thank them for their gifts of wine and sweetmeats and certain illustrated scrolls. And after some personal comments to Lipomas the eunuch did write these words recorded.”
- [2] In the margin the same hand has written: “But not choruses, for these are a corruption of true melody and meaning and are not to be uttered, to be uttered, uttered.”

- [3] In the margin of the family bible which belonged to the Right Reverend John Morrisson-Phipps, Lord Bishop of Wenchoster 1901-13 (he who declared the Boers to be “anti-Christ,”) is written the note: “The love of Monet is the root of all evil.”