

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Jeremiah 20: 7-13

7. Lord, thou hast deceived me quite a bit, oh yes, and against my better judgement and the warnings of my nosy neighbours I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, notwithstanding my daily training at the Anathoth gymnasium with those of well-oiled and exceeding mighty muscles, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, yea even unto the hour of my bed, and every one mocketh me with malicious taunts, rude metaphors about privates, and slanderous phrases which I will not repeat here in your presence (yet thou knowest, Lord, already.)
8. For since I spake, I cried out, yes, and lifteth my voice in the streets and did trumpet loudly in the marketplace, which was misconstrued by many that passed by. I cried violence and spoil and announced with a board, two hinged pieces that was yet unnamed, that the end of the world is nigh; because the word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily, and the subject of naughty jokes nightly in the taverns where it is declared that a little bit of what ye fancy dost thee good.
9. Then I said, I will not make mention of him (1), indoors and abroad, nor speak any more in his name even though it is sweet unto my ears and pleasant upon my lips. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and even though I took a potion to calm my reflux, and even gargled with tincture of myrtle, I was weary with belching and forbearing and worse, and I could not stay, for I must hasten into my inner chamber to find relief. Which came not unto me, but others were pleased.
10. Yet even there I heard the defaming of many, and there is fear on every side and even under my closet window do I hear their mutterings. Lord, why are they crouching thus under my sill? Report, say they, and we will report it, yea even into the tabloids and with many sketches made with iron gall that may be purchased separately for a price. All my familiars (2) watched for my halting, for I did go on a bit, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed with a merry finger to follow unto our way, and we shall prevail against him with mighty prevailings, and we shall take our revenge on him – yea, even wreak with heavy revengings, for this we have long desired to do, even from his first utterances which were offensive unto our ears and the ears of our wives and lovers. Yes, I know that was a bit long and intense, but I'm serious this time.
11. But the Lord is with me as a super-mighty terrible one, as a leviathan from the deep that riseth from the waters with much gushing and splashing about, and as an eagle that swoopeth down from the skies baring its talons, flapping and unflapping and tearing with its sharp beak: therefore my persecutors shall stumble and fall and soil themselves with fear, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed of their uncleanness, which shall go unwiped in the sight of the great congregation; for they shall not prosper nor see the reward of the unrighteous: their dirty clothing shall be a testimony against them for it shall be washed in public, and their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten and shall be written as a warning in a book. I haven't thought of the title yet, but it will come.
12. But, O Lord of hosts, that triest the righteous, and testeth the waters for purity and other things, and tasteth the foods from the kitchen adding salt where required and herbs and spices to enhance, and seest the reins and the bowels and the heart and the droopy bits, and all my innermost parts, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause like as a prosecutor in a court trusting in thy judgement. I rest my case, my Lord.
13. Sing unto the Lord, praise ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him for ever: (let not the scribes of choruses yet to come take those words, but leave them for the Three Children.) For he hath delivered the flesh from those that seek to touch and fondle, phwoaar; and the soul of the poor from the clutching, sticky hand of evildoers, and the just from those that pursue the sensational news. Even unto the colour supplements. Oh yes.

Notes:

1: The name of this close friend and companion is never mentioned though it is clear that he is dear to the prophet.

2: The term “familiar” is not to be interpreted like unto a witch’s familiars, nor a wizard’s.