

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 18: 33-37

33. Then Pilate, glad to be rid of the clergy for a moment, entered into the judgment hall again even though he had only left it a short time before and sat on the chair, the padded one with the nice cushions with the fleur de lis, and called Jesus, and not speaking Aramaic said unto one of his guards who had completed the Aramaic for Beginners course at Caesarea, Interroga eum sir ex est Judaeorum? which means Ask him, are you the king of the Jews? And the centurion in broken Aramaic asked this question of Jesus.
34. And Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? And the centurion, knowing that all this was going to get very messy, did translate this unto Pilate.
35. Pilate answered, Num Judaeus sum? Gens tua et pontifices tradiderunt te mihi: quid fecisti? And the centurion, thought a bit, swallowed hard, looked at Jesus and said, The governor asks, Am I a Jew? No, not me – the governor. Thine nation own and the priests that are chief have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? Does that make sense?
36. Jesus answered, Not bad at all. My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews – of which I am one, by the way, but that is often glossed over in exegesis: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Capiche?
37. And with even more idiomatic difficulty the centurion did translate this reply to the governor, and Pilate therefore said unto him, Hoc ipsum interroga. Rex es ergo? And the centurion did once more attempt to translate and said to Jesus, Sorry about this, but the governor wants to know, Art thou a king then? And Jesus answered, I see what you did there. You don't catch me that way. Thou sayest that king I am – sorry, that I am a king. To this end was I born, and in time to come people will celebrate that event and make up many stories about it, and give each other gifts and eat too much and drink many bottles of fine wine and spirits, put baubles on trees, and forget the meaning of the season. And it is for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth, but that message shall also be corrupted. However, it remaineth that every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. In Galilee we have a saying if you care to translate it: put that in your pipe and smoke it.