

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 1: 39-55

39. 39. And Mary arose in those days, which were before these days but after the days of “in the beginning,” which are not in this book, dear Theophilus, and went into the hill country with haste, for she had news to tell which had provoked gossip amongst the people of her village, and her destination was a city of Juda without an h;
40. And she entered into the house of Zacharias without knocking, and saluted Elisabeth who was at work in the kitchen preparing a hearty stew for their evening meal. And lo! There were dumplings.
41. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, it startled her and she dropped her onions into the pot, for she had not heard her arrival, and her babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost and much wind:
42. And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Odds bodkins, you startled me. Look what you have made me do with the onions! Now they must be retrieved. But looking at Mary and seeing her expression she was given a revelation, and she exclaimed, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. God, you look pale. ‘Tis the morning, of course.
43. And whence is this to me or indeed Zacharias or even the cleaning woman, and the lad that tends the asses, that the mother of my Lord should come unannounced to me without warning?
44. For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears and I dropped my onions, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. It is a miracle that I dropped nothing else for I felt my babe give a mighty kick. I think it’s going to be a boy.
45. And blessed is she that believed, and so you understand Mary, that’s you: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And the performance shall be for one night only to a selected audience.
46. And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my breasts heave with thankfulness,
47. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour, for now we see clearly and not dimly though a mirror.
48. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for though my betrothed is a simple carpenter with worn tools [1] but a nice apron and hath no authority among the elders, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me – ehem - blessed. And some shall light candles in my name and burn incense unto the Lord and invoke me to pray unto my God on their behalf which shall annoy some.
49. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things, for there is a swelling in my belly which shall grow large so that I be great with child; and holy is his name. Well, not his real name.
50. And his mercy is on them that fear him from father to son, and mother to daughter, and from generation to generation.
51. He hath shew-ed (as some will sing) strength with his arm and can crack walnuts in his hands [2;] he hath scatter-ed (those singers again) the proud in the imagination of their hearts, according to the wishes of many.
52. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, even the expensive ones with nice padding and plump cushions, and those that are left up, and exalted them of low degree such as are obtained from the lesser colleges.
53. He hath filled the hungry with good things for his table groans with abundance and the wine – mainly red, but white and rose is available - is of a fine vintage; and the rich he hath sent empty away without food or cushions, for they have ignored the cries of the needy.
54. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; and this shall be extended to all peoples which shall cause friction between those who believe themselves to be chosen and those who rely on grace, which coincidently is the name of my cleaning woman;

55. As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Uz and Buz, and Ananias, Azarius and Misael, and Ruth and Judith, Samson and – wait, no, not that one, and thousands too numerous to mention, and to his seed (let the reader understand) for ever. Now, what setting was that? Stanford? Never heard of him.

Notes:

[1] Here the Greek is uncertain.

[2] Here the Greek is even more uncertain.