

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

LUKE 14: 1, 7-14.

1 And it came to pass, as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath day, that they watched Him, for there were appetisers of black olives and anchovies and preserved meats from Rome, followed by roast lamb with beans and turnips and other strange vegetables, lentils, pulses and many boiled roots, and desserts of goat's cheese and sweetmeats, figs and pomegranates, ripe plums and diverse fruits, and there was much wine provided. Then the chief Pharisee pushed back his chair, and looked at Him, saying, G-d, I'm stuffed!

7 And suddenly He put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when He marked how they chose out the softest couches with the fluffiest cushions and did bicker over the seating arrangements; saying unto them.

8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest place for they are rightly reserved for the parents of the groom and the bride and for the best man; and if thou takest their place there shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth and thou shalt have to give up thy seat to a more honourable man or even the chief bridesmaid;

9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this person thy place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest seat next to the third cousin or neighbour or that proverbial awful woman from Jabesh-Gilead.

10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest place, that art near the swing doors to the kitchens, and hath the aunt who has bad breath thereupon; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat and cheese and pickles with thee.

11 For whosoever exalteth himself and be puffed with importance (let the reader understand) shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself and thinketh naught of his standing shall be exalted. Nifty chiasmus, dost thou not think? It helps people remember, see.

12 Then said He also to him that bade him, When thou makest an dinner or an supper or even a little snack at midnight, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours nor their manservant nor their maidservant, and certainly not their ox nor their ass for that would indeed be messy; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. For such a round of supper parties can be a bore.

13 Nay! But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, the limp, the smelly, those without table manners, with egg stain and crumbs upon their tunics, and those who chew with their mouths open:

14 And thou shalt somehow be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just and at the wedding feast of the Lamb. And in my Father's house there will be no kitchen swing doors.