

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 2: 15-21

15. And it came to pass, (and I know you like that phrase dear Theophilus,) as the angels were gone away from them into heaven or some such place, the shepherds, who were no longer sore nor afraid, said one to another, Right! Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us in a rather dramatic musical way. And one of them said, We can call at the inn and get refreshment and maybe a small sweetmeat, and the others did agree. And one wanted the chemists.
16. And they came with haste, puffing and panting quite a lot, pausing only to purchase a small firkin of wine and some lamb patties, (and a pot of balm from the chemists,) and found Mary and Joseph and did offer them of the vintage, and to the babe lying in a manger they proffered a fragment of kebab, but Mary did dissuade them with a most unheavenly glance and word. Or two.
17. And when they had seen it, that is, the new-born child, it came to pass that they didn't stay long but did leave and wander the streets, alleyways, and back passages, and made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And many thought they had consumed too much liquor (behold, one had,) and did shut their doors on them, and on account of the draught.
18. But all those who took heed wondered at those things which had come to pass and which were told them by the shepherds, for they did seem strange and wondrous, and some warned their daughters not to visit the shepherds out in the fields by night, especially when they were all seated on the ground. And sundry animals were locked up also.
19. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart, and did write down the salient points in her diary so that in future years she might recall the events with accuracy - except few asked her.
20. And the shepherds returned to their camp, in the pass which they came unto, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them, and thankful they had thought to buy some mulled wine against the night air.
21. And when eight days were accomplished, and they had come to pass, since the birth the time came for the circumcising of the child, and as the priest did wield the Sni Qu'er Snii, Mary did declare that his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in her womb. So that was sorted. And all this while Joseph did keep his own counsel, and he missed his tools besides. And since the shepherds had moved their flocks to better pastures in another pass there was no party.