

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 20: 27-38

27. And it came to pass that there came to Jesus certain of the Sadducees, those of the sect which deny that there is any resurrection nor speaking in tongues nor spiritual ecstasy, who are a dour lot, prone to halitosis, and devoid of any humour whatsoever; and they asked Him,
28. Saying, Master, (and they used this form of address with more than a hap'shekel of irony), Moses wrote unto us, If any man's brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, literally, and raise up seed unto his brother. (We are not talking myrtle trees here.) And we hold this to be a good thing and a wise practice that gladdens the heart of men, and occasionally a wife, but there can be sticky problems. Let us suppose the following hyperbolic situation. And immediately they did describe it thus:
29. There were therefore seven brethren (but no seven brides let the reader understand, for this was before the time of musicals): and the first took a wife, and died without children though not for want of trying. Exceedingly.
30. And the second immediately took her to wife, and he died childless, which made her cross, and the neighbours did gossip over many a fence and well at noon.
31. And the third took her, under protest, but died trying, and without issue despite the remedies provided by the doctor. So there clearly was an issue but not the expected one. And this pattern did repeat with the remaining four brothers and they left no children, and died. And lo! The woman did breathe a sigh of relief and did hurry herself to an enclosed community for females by the Dead Sea.
32. And here, and our story comes to an end, the woman breathed her last from exhaustion.
33. And the Sadducees did ask with an sneer, Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? For seven had her to wife, although obviously not at the same time. And they did nudge each other and there was much winking, and nudging, and picking of teeth.
34. And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage, and there are customs that are of human origin, some recently discovered, to ensure the continuation of the species:
35. But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain the kingdom of heaven, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage, nor seek the comforts of the bed or the olive groves:
36. Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels who are without gender even though they look a bit camp, and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection. Understandeth thee this? And the Sadducees did frown and ponder and kick at the dust with their sandals for they were super-confused. And so was I, most excellent Theophilus, when I saw the source material.
37. So Jesus continued, Now the truth that the dead are raised even Moses shewed at the bush where he went to relieve himself and found it to be a blazing fire, for there he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Dost thou see the significance? Eh? Eh?
38. And the disciples did nod out of politeness, although some doubted. And Jesus did elaborate saying, Yahweh is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto Him. And the Sadducees did walk away and stumble upon the rocks strewn in their path. It was also dark.