

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Revelation 4

1. There I was, up Patmos. After I had finished my dish of mushroom pottage I looked, and, behold, amidst swirling shapes and colours a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me – don't titter - and there were loud sonorous notes reverberations; which said, Gird thy loins and wrap thyself in thy garments, for I was uncovered because of the sun. Yes, I know what you're thinking. And come up hither. Not thither. Hither. Oh, please yourselves - and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
2. And it came to pass that I was in the spirit – no, not that sort - and did float with the clouds, and I marvelled. Marvelled, I did! Well, wouldn't you? And, behold, a throne was set in heaven, a very nice one too, and one sat on the throne. And I did avert my eyes for it was not seemly to gaze upon one seated on their throne. No, madam. But then I saw that this was a throne of royalty and not easement, so I looked. Well!
3. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone, the folds of his robe dripping with fish oil: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, red and yellow and pink and green, purple, orange and blue, and I heard a simple tune that was to be familiar in ages to come. And the throne was in sight like unto an emerald.
4. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats. Well, I thought, there's convenient! And upon the seats I saw not four and twenty virgins from the heathen lands to the north, but four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment, though some were a bit grubby round the hem; and they had on their heads crowns of gold which were exceedingly heavy. Which is why they kept nodding.
5. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and, here, listen! Voices and strange odours of spices and cumin and baking: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, flickering as if in a breeze and their smoke was scented, which are the seven Spirits of God of which I knew not before. Well, you wouldn't, would you?
6. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal, and I did marvel at the sheen, for its polish was unlike any I had seen before, and it did not cause any foot to slip: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, and under the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind, and it was unsettling and I was afraid, and my bowels did gurgle a bit.
7. And the first beast was like a lion, hairy and shaggy, (yes, dear, shaggy. And don't mock the afflicted.) And the second beast like a calf, fattened for a feast, and the third beast had a face as a man, and its body was well-formed and hung – not that I know about these things - and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle, with sharp talons and a curved beak for tearing flesh. Ludicrous, if you ask me.
8. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him, which made it difficult for the eagle to fly; and they were full of eyes within, though I realised that one of the eyes was like unto that of the rear of a cat. So the eyes have it! Oh, never mind. And they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, and thrice holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And they showed no signs of exhaustion at which I marvelled. I wanted to go and have a lie down.
9. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever, world without end,
10. The four and twenty elders throw off their robes – they did, you know - and fall down before him that sat on the throne, (who at this point gave them disapproving looks) and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Amen. And I saw

not how they took their places again, nor how their crowns were retrieved so that they could repeat the process for all eternity. Did they what? Put their robes back on? I should coco! On, and off, and on – you get my drift.

11. And the elders did cry, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Cheeky! And my mouth remained shut, for I knew not how to make an responsory.