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Finding the Garden of Eden

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In 382 AD, the Council of Rome, led by Pope (Saint) Damasus I, began the process of compiling the books of the Bible.

Several books failed to make it into the Bible, including those that were primarily history texts, as well as those that were more akin to instruction manuals. This includes the book of “How to Purchase a Camel and Not Get Taken,” and another called, “Walk Your Way to a Thinner You.”

Other books that failed to make the cut include one which highlighted one of St. Paul’s adventures during his brief stint as a detective, called, “The Dead Sea Caper.” Another book listed several of Sarah’s favorite recipes. This book was called, “Baking for Babylonians on a Budget.”

But the book which I believe should have been included but wasn’t, is the “Book of Adam and Eve,” which highlights domestic issues faced by the First Couple.

Why wasn’t this book included?

If you read the book, which you can find online, you begin to find answers ... answers that you didn’t know you were searching for. Answers that you knew you were searching for, but didn’t know you hadn’t found because you were distracted by something on TV. Even answers to questions that you hadn’t asked because, well, you’re an adult now. Fortunately, that’s what I’m here for.

We learn quickly from the book that the first couple wasn’t exactly Ward and June Cleaver:

“Adam, would you come here?” Eve asks in Chapter 1.

“*WHAT?*” Adam shouts from across the garden. “*DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?! I’M ON THE OTHER SIDE OF ... OH, JUST A MINUTE. I’M COMING!*” Adam shouts frustratingly as he makes his way across the expanse of the garden —over the brambles, across the creek, through the thick mangroves.

Upon arriving, Eve says unto Adam, “Could you hand me that spoon?”

“I was on the other side of the garden! Couldn’t you have set the oven mitt down and grabbed the spoon yourself?” Except that he didn’t say that, because he knew it would get him into trouble.

“Yes, dear,” he said. “Here’s your spoon.”

– *Adam and Eve, 1:7-9*

Here is another example:

In those days, it was written that woman should do as was bidden by her husband, except in the case of household chores, in which case it was the woman who did the biddenizing.

“Adam, the trash is nearly piled to the ceiling. The rats have built a small village on it. They call it ‘Adamsburg’ in your honor. The cockroaches even sent us a ‘Thank-you’ card, which they all signed! The odor has made the wall paper begin peeling and my nostril hairs have retracted. Don’t you think it’s time to take the trash out?”

“I’ll get to it when I’m done with my nap,” Adam responded. “I’ve been working really hard and need to get a little rest.”

“*Working hard on what?*” Eve said under her breath. “It’s the Garden of Eden, for crying out loud. Hard work hasn’t even been invented yet. *Sheesh.*”

– *Adam and Eve, 3:4-7*

The following passage is perhaps the most revealing yet. In it, Eve's initial encounter with the snake is alluded to. It contains only two words, said by Eve to the snake after a particular virulent argument with Adam:

"Sick 'em!"

– *Adam and Eve, 4:6-8*

You can see why, perhaps, the Church fathers decided against including the book in the Bible. (If the Church mothers had anything to say about it, I'm guessing it would have been prominently displayed.)

We are, after all, an imperfect people. Adam and Eve were no more special in the eyes of God than you or me. And their sins of disobeying God were no more pertinent than those sins we see every day which push us farther and farther from God.

The Garden of Eden has long since been paved over by humanity. When that happened, God sent his Son who, through His incredible sacrifice, placed the new Garden of Eden in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Do you feel it? When you're deep in prayer, when you're helping someone in need, when you're thanking God for all His wonderful gifts.... Don't you feel as if you are in a wonderful place? A place where God resides?

Where He makes things grow? A garden, perhaps?