

**[Monday] 11 November 1991:** I wonder if this quote from O’Neil describes how people see me, “Stamp of college . . . insist on a superior, intellectual air . . .”?<sup>1</sup> I myself have a lot to learn about human interactions. Such as, why do I always see the need to be pedant, always stretching and enlarging my word choice till I am unintelligible only to myself? Those who speak to not know . . . and those who make a show will soon disappear.

**[Tuesday] 12 November 1991:** Talk about questions, I have been plagued with them, and even more so passages that lead even to more. Thoreau says,

“It is true, we are such poor navigators that our thoughts, for the most part, stand off and on upon a harborless coast, are conversant only with the bights of the bays of poesy, or steer for the public ports of entry, and go into the dry docks of science, where they merely refit for this world, and no natural currents concur to individualize them<sup>2</sup>.” Peck<sup>3</sup> was right, the original sin is laziness.

I speak yet I know not. Why do I state my views, as if I, and I alone, have covered every angle? The universe is indeed wider than my views of it. More words do indeed count for less<sup>4</sup>, for when the prolix person speaks, who listens?

The debate rages, is divorce sanctioned by God? The answer is, if we are Christian, no. Any religion has the idea of marriage as two completing a sphere, we are separated before time and seek to rejoin the other half. What God (the gods) have joined together, indeed let *no* man put asunder. Moses permitted divorce to people who choose wrong. And were lazy<sup>5</sup>.

An interesting viewpoint was placed before me, look at the creation/fall from the serpent’s viewpoint. That he “was ‘wiser’ than all the other animals and tried desperately to persuade Adam & Eve partake of the tree of knowledge, defying their jealous creator<sup>6</sup>”. Interesting, but I shall take a viewpoint far from such that when we started to pass judgment (know right & wrong) the Tao was destroyed. It was this knowledge that forces us to seek to try and attain enlightenment, to free ourselves from those made up designation, even again to see all things as one<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This is from Act I of his play *First Man*.

<sup>2</sup> This quote is from *Walden*.

<sup>3</sup> This is from M. Scott Peck’s *The Road Less Traveled*.

<sup>4</sup> This is a reference to the *Tao Te Ching* (chapter 5)

Heaven and earth are ruthless;  
They see the ten thousand things as dummies.  
The wise are ruthless;  
They see the people as dummies.

The space between heaven and earth is like a bellows.

The shape changes but not the form;  
The more it moves, the more it yields.  
More words count less.  
Hold fast to the center.

<sup>5</sup> I am not sure that I agree with the lazy comment, but I do think it is true that the New Testament is opposed to divorce. Indeed, Jesus quite clearly was against it. If we read what Paul records him saying (*I Corinthians* 7: 10-11), what Mark and Luke record him saying (*Mark* 10: 1-12; *Luke* 16: 18), it is clear that he is opposed to divorce. Matthew is the only one who remembers him modifying this claim (*Matthew* 19: 1-9). All in all, I think any person would conclude that Jesus was opposed to this.

<sup>6</sup> This is from Elaine Pagels’ *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent* (p. xxiv).

<sup>7</sup> Here’s the issue that I think we were groping with this: is identity metaphysical or epistemological. You seem to be arguing, though you didn’t know these words, that all identity, dividing things into entities was really epistemological. That is, you think that we invent separation. That is not correct. Identity is metaphysical. To be is to be something. We do have some say in how we group things, there is some flexibility there, but it is false to say that all things were originally one and we have separated them.

Is exegesis really eisegesis<sup>8</sup>? Yes, the history of Biblical scholarship shows men read into their Bibles what their times allowed them to. Some did follow the letter well, as some do now. We have two options—either try and mold our minds around a 1<sup>st</sup> century mindset, or stand on the Biblical authors’ shoulders and grow past them<sup>9</sup>.

“ . . . deriving their *just* powers from the consent of the governed . . .” American politics today is neither. It is a force that’s only purpose is to protect itself. No, it’s not just, no nation is where the letter the law overshadows its spirit. No nation is just where the individual is ignored, for they say they have my, and your, consent. Would I consent to a poultry university in my state? Would I consent to a 20 year long war based and continued on a lie? I do not give my consent to this. Majority rules, never has a larger lie been perpetrated on us. Graft and greed run rampant in politics. Even more so the party system does not allow us to vote for the man of our choice. No our leaders do not represent us, they represent their own checkbooks<sup>10</sup>. Perhaps Tzu was right, “Ah, for the small country and small population<sup>11</sup>.” A nation as unwieldy as ours needs to split. It has served its purpose, not it only serves itself. The only good way to rule a country this size “is as cooking a small fish<sup>12</sup>”, and doing so means a person who has rule of himself. Make our representatives represent us, and maybe perhaps society, that is American society, can be salvaged.

There is a story that makes me think, do I wish to convert people? No, I say. But still the question lingers. My only answer is let each man follow his path that for himself has heart. If he wishes me to lead, let me lead

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<sup>8</sup> This is to read into something what isn’t there. Clearly, I am trying to do this throughout the early notes. I think I had a view of what I wanted the Bible to say, and that wished it had said. At some point, I think I got this right. The Bible does have many good passages, but also many that no word twisting can make right.

<sup>9</sup> Again, I think we were on to something. There is a lot of good in the Bible. Years later, we will write several essays bringing these ideas together: there’s a great deal of good in the Bible, but there is also a great deal of bad, and we need to learn from the good and avoid the mistakes of the bad.

<sup>10</sup> Not to sadden you, but this looks like it was written today. The situation will get much worse from the time you wrote this. Congresspeople represent themselves and their interests, and the interests of business over that of freedom and liberty. Perhaps one of the worst examples of this (I know this will surprise you) is the drug war. This is an immoral and failed war against the American people.

<sup>11</sup> This is from the *Tao Te Ching* (chapter 80):

A small country has fewer people.  
Though there are machines that can work ten to a hundred times faster  
than man, they are not needed.  
The people take death seriously and do not travel far.  
Though they have boats and carriages, no one uses them.  
Though they have armor and weapons, no one displays them.  
Men return to the knotting of rope in place of writing.  
Their food is plain and good, their clothes fine but simple,  
their homes secure;  
They are happy in their ways.  
Though they live within sight of their neighbors,  
And crowing cocks and barking dogs are heard across the way,  
Yet they leave each other in peace while they grow old and die.

<sup>12</sup> This is from *Tao Te Ching* (chapter 60)

Ruling the country is like cooking a small fish.  
Approach the universe with Tao,  
And evil will have no power.  
Not that evil is not powerful,  
But its power will not be used to harm others.  
Not only will it do no harm to others,  
But the sage himself will also be protected.  
They do not hurt each other,  
And the Virtue in each one refreshes both.

him back to himself<sup>13</sup>. But, sometimes the person is heading quickly to their own destruction then compassion would force us to use any means necessary to get past the outer garment, even risking ourselves.

**[Wednesday] 13 November 1991:** Jesus is he God of the universe or “an illiterate barbarian executed by the Romans for treason against the state<sup>14</sup>”? Why was Mary confused when he said, “I must be about my father’s business<sup>15</sup>”? Did she not know? It was a common myth that gods often slept with virgins, was this an early Christian use of a motif to give their “G”od more credibility?

Retire when the work is done, and continue till the job is done. The way is not for quitters, those who do not give as much care to the end as to the beginning.

I don’t want what modern society offers. Many accoutrements that lead me away from myself. No, they in themselves are not evil, just the ease at which the lazy continually use them. TVs, radios, etc., are all placing a wedge in communication<sup>16</sup>. When a society stops facing and discussing reality, a society falls apart. Let us daily converse, then we shall never lose another. Let the television people have their life. I don’t care. I have mine.

**[Thursday] 14 November 1991:** This is what early church leaders said their role in individual’s decisions was:

We do not have “authority over your faith,” beloved, nor do we command these things as your lords and masters. We are appointed for the teaching of the word, not for power, nor for absolute authority. We hold the place of counselors to advise you. The counselor speaks his own opinions, not forcing his listeners, *but leaving him full master of his own choice in what is said*. He is blameworthy only in this respect, if he fails to say the things that present themselves. –Chrysostom<sup>17</sup>

I agree with don Juan, Krishnamurti<sup>18</sup> and other in this respect, we are free to make our own choices, to have no personal history and to allow total self-anonymity. For in our “true self” we possess a “Buddha-“ or “Christ-“ nature, whichever we choose to call it. All authority placed upon a person, including his own, is evil. Why? Authority is a prison in which a person must bend to conform to, and by conforming they are not being natural. We have no need for ideals, morals, and such for the inevitably lead to a confused life, and hypocrisy. We should each find that (Tao) in us all that teaches us how to live.

Today I found the beginning of a train of thought that I have long thought stupid and fabricated. It is the idea that sin and evil are carried in the male semen. It started with Augustine. His logic though is false. Is this important? Well one of the reasons Jesus is said to be “virgin born” is that the evil is carried in the semen; thereby Jesus could only live a perfect life by being virgin born.

Man was not kicked out of the garden for eating of the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,” but rather “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden” (Gen. 3: 22–24<sup>19</sup>). Even in the garden man would not have lived together,

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<sup>13</sup> I have often felt a great ambivalence about being a leader. I worry that I will mislead people. I am having a hard enough time getting stuff right myself, I would have to mislead another so they get it wrong as well.

<sup>14</sup> This is from Elaine Pagels’ *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent* (p. 39).

<sup>15</sup> *Luke 2: 49*

<sup>16</sup> You cannot even imagine the world we will live in. At the time I wrote this note, there was no internet, computers were huge with little memory, CDs were the height of music technology, cell phones were huge, and cameras used film. I remember I used to love to make mix tapes, but could only make them at my uncle’s or Gregg’s. I remember, I would go down to my uncle’s and spend hours making mixed tapes off my uncle’s records and his and my CDs. Now, we live in a world where nearly any song can be instantly downloaded from iTunes and Amazon. An entire music collection can fit in my shirt pocket. Cell phones are small and come with cameras. The internet allows us to talk and immediately share pictures with our friends. We live in a very different world. This can be good, but it can also create a wall between us.

<sup>17</sup> This is from Elaine Pagels’ *Adam, Eve, and the Serpent* (p. 104).

<sup>18</sup> I remember when I was younger I was a huge fan of Krishnamurti. I read nearly all of his books, though at some point I gave nearly all of them away. He will show up more later, that I am sure of.

<sup>19</sup> It’s actually *Genesis 3: 22–23*

so sex was not “invented” after the fall. Also, why did God not want man to partake of the Tree of Life? Could it be as philosophers (notably don Juan) say, that death is in fact our greatest teacher? Was God really protecting us? Because it was the knowledge of good and evil, or rather it is the knowledge that is evil<sup>20</sup>. But, is there not a paradox? Eating of the Tree of Knowledge did not cause their death, as God said, but rather it was God who did so by not letting them eat of the Tree of Life. Still the question, how did knowing the difference between good and evil allow us to be more like God, the opposite is the true case, not knowing there is good and evil is closer to God. So did Satan, God, or both lie? Neither or both depending on if God knows the difference between good and evil. If not, then Satan lied. If so, the Satan did not lie, for they became like the gods, yet removed themselves from the Tao. Does God (Tao) know (kennen/wissen) the difference between right and wrong? Yes, for man became as one of them, knowing good and evil. Why does God separate and divide things? Why does God name things? Why does God pass judgment? Separation is an illusion, why does God partake in this illusion? This is the difference between the East and West. In the East, all is one, in the West all is separate. Which is it?

The east says, that there is only the self (always has been and always will be) and the self decided “to play hide-and-seek with himself, remembering himself and then disremembering himself in the myriad of roles played by all sentient beings”<sup>21</sup>. So we are all the Self, and there is no other. I am you is literal in as much as the hand is still part of the arm only a different part of the same self.

Is it, “there but for the grace of God go I” or “there go I”? Are we one, or is the separation real? Paul says we are one in Christ. Which would seem to say there is no division of things; therefore, no judgment.

**[Friday] 15 November 1991:** I feel the need to talk today extensively about the Bible. No, not here give the gamut of my beliefs, but just examine some passages.

Today I awoke with the question, “Did death exist in the garden?” The body of the work today is what I find.

Stars were created in Gen. 1: 14<sup>22</sup>. They were indeed created “for signs” to mark “the days and years.” In other words when this star appears here it is spring, and so forth. But no star can cause an event, a star conglomeration does not predict any event<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> The real issue here is that you love knowledge, and don’t want anyone standing in the way of this. Basically, we have always loved to read, loved to learn, and don’t like anyone standing in the way of this.

<sup>21</sup> This is a paraphrase from Alan Watts’ *Does it Matter* (p. 63). You will wrestle with this for a long time. Actually, we still do. For example, though I have done a great deal of hiking, I resist calling myself a hiker. I think I see that if I join a group, I have to adopt the goals of that group, and I am loathe to do this.

<sup>22</sup> Here’s the full verse: “And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years”.

<sup>23</sup> I think this sentence is typical of the ambiguities of my earlier writing. There is a strong difference between predicting and causing. You were trying to argue against astrology, and went too far. Stars can and have predicted events, without the suspicion of having caused them. For example, all through Hesiod’s *Works and Days*, he gives his brother advice of what to do throughout the year, using the stars as his temporal markers. He tells his brother he should cut his grapes from the vine “when Orion and Seirios are come to the middle of the sky, and the rosy-fingered Dawn confronts Arcturus” (Hesiod, lines 609-612). Throughout, Hesiod uses the Pleiades as markers, telling his brother to harvest when they are setting and plow when they are rising (385ff; 678ff).

Though this might seem a digression, it is well-worth pausing on the stars and constellations in this region of the sky: Canus Major, Canus Minor, Orion, and Taurus. Of these, Taurus is perhaps the oldest constellation, since it marked the vernal equinox from 4000 to 1700 BCE, and was considered the start of the year (Allen, 1963). There are several historical points of interest in this constellation: Aldebaran, the Hyades, and the lovely Pleiades. They are especially interesting, since time immemorial these clusters have been linked to rain. The most obvious linkage is the thought that these stars bring rain. Indeed, Allen reports that the tribal Misām thought Aldeberon brought rain, and that if it rose without rain the year would be barren (1963, p. 384). The Hyades, representing the horns of the Bull, themselves derive their name from the Greek verb to rain, clearly showing that their rising and setting were linked to rainy weather (p. 387).

Of greater interest, however, are the Pleiades, a beautiful star cluster in Taurus. These are some of the first stars mentioned in all of literature, from at least 2357 BCE. These are interesting because they show ever greater abilities to

Now did God create male and female at the same time, as in Gen. 1: 27<sup>24</sup>? Or separately as in Gen. 2: 7 and 2: 21–22<sup>25</sup>? (Both could be correct if we agree with Wellhausen’s theory that the second creation account was written first). It would make sense to say they came from the same source, but not just the female from Adam<sup>26</sup>. Why, because Jesus says,

And when you unite male and female into one  
So that the male is no longer male  
And the female is no longer female  
Then you shall enter the kingdom.<sup>27</sup>

It is a mutual uniting, not just the female becomes one with the male (as has been the custom in many marriages) but the male becomes one with the female. It would seem the entity formed would be sexless. Representing both male and female, and favoring neither<sup>28</sup>.

Sex is natural<sup>29</sup>. Sex occurred in the garden (Gen: 1: 28<sup>30</sup>). Just because sexual instinct is sometimes aroused when we are not does not make it evil. Sex is not a dirty, disgusting act, nor sex outside procreation purposes is not sinful. Sex has always carried the “baby potential” so it is this we must be careful of. Neither is wearing clothing in any way related to the covering of the sex organs. Adam and Eve used clothing because they were afraid and realized they were defenseless. And as far as labor pains being caused by the Fall, this too

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predict not simply what will directly follow, but follow after a pause. For at least 400 years, many farmers in the Andes Mountains, for example, linked the brightness of the Pleiades in late June with the amount of rain that would fall during their growing season and their crop yield 11 months after the sighting (Orlove, Chiang, & Cane, 2000). They believed that the clearer the Pleiades were, the sooner the rain will fall, the more rain that will fall, and the greater the harvest. Recent atmospheric observations have confirmed this relationship, linking it to high cloud cover associated with El Niño. Finally, we can consider the main stars in the dog constellations: Sirius and Procyon.

From our vantage point, Sirius is the brightest star in the sky other than the sun. This fact has been noted since antiquity and may even give rise to its name: Scorching (Allen, p. 120). The Egyptians used this star’s rising to predict the annual inundation of the Nile. Naturally, they also looked for a star to predict this, and found it in Procyon: before the dog.

I mention all of this because the Pleiades will become your favorite object in the sky. When I see them for the first time in a year, I always use the occasion to take stock of where I am in the world, what I’ve done in the past year. I also mention this because I am mad at you for wasting the dark skies you had in Chilhowie.

<sup>24</sup> Here’s the full verse: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

<sup>25</sup> Here are the verses: “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”, and “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”

<sup>26</sup> I have very long believed that males and females are equal. This is not really an argument that I would make, more of a deep seated belief. I remember the first time I realized that others didn’t believe this. I was having a conversation with a houseparent, and she was talking about wanting one thing and her husband another. At the end, she said, “well, it’s ultimately up to him, I’ll just pray god tells him to do the right thing.” The visceral punch I felt at this reverberates to this day. I think of this event nearly every time I hear the Tears for Fears song “Woman in Chains.” That song for me captures the depth to which I feel that this innate male superiority is invalid.

<sup>27</sup> I think this is from the Gospel of Thomas

<sup>28</sup> Many religions have stories about the creation of the sexes, and these seem to say more about the people who wrote the stories than they do about any other issue. For example, in Greek mythology one story is that women were created as a punishment (i.e., the story of Pandora).

<sup>29</sup> Clearly issues related to sex and such were of great interest to me even this early on. You will be surprised that later you will study this, and then teach a course of Human Sexuality.

<sup>30</sup> Here’s the verse: “And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” I don’t know if it directly supports my claim.

is erroneous, a reading of Gen 3: 16 shows: [God] said I will *greatly multiply* thy sorry with thy conception<sup>31</sup> (note: she had obviously already had children<sup>32</sup>). So pain existed in the garden. (So what led to sexual taboos? I will discuss this when I talk about the serpent). Did death exist in the garden? Yes, to quote Julian:

Our mortality is not a result of sin, but of nature! Why does Genesis not say, “because you sinned and transgressed my precepts”? This should have been said, if bodily dissolution were connected with the crime. But recall, what does it say? Surely this is the reason why one returns to the earth, “because you were taken out of it . . . without doubt it is not because of sin, because of our mortal nature . . . that our body should dissolve back into the elements.

In other words, entropy existed in the garden, Adam would have died anyway.

Also, man already tilled the ground, does he not sweat? Could it be the way not to sweat is to go naked? Anyway, sweat has a natural purpose it cools the body and is not evil.

Why does “Eve” have two names: “Woman” (Gen. 2: 23<sup>33</sup>) and “Eve” (Gen 3: 20<sup>34</sup>). And of note the name Adam comes from a Sumerian myth, in which the man is called Adamah meaning “clay” or “clod of dirt.”

A point worth noting, the word “paradise” never occurs in the Old Testament, and besides the word paradise only means “park” or “garden”, not utopia. So the Garden of Eden was no utopia—therefore why rule out pain and death? Eden means: “plain” or “steppe.”

The serpent is cursed in Gen 3: 14, why? Because he “has done this.” What did he do? Told the truth, at least de facto. A lot hinges on the phrase, “you shall die.” Since death is a natural state of man, who lied; God for saying that if you ate the fruit you would die, or the serpent for saying you would not? The serpent said, “For God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as the gods, knowing good and evil,” does not God validate this in Gen: 3: 22: “for they have become as one of us<sup>35</sup>.” So, what did the serpent do? The serpent has long been a symbol of fertility. Why was this knowledge of fertility so dangerous and sinful, for had God not commanded Adam and Eve (indeed all animals) to “be fruitful and multiply”? If anything, the only thing that the serpent caused Adam and Eve to lose was their naiveté, by forcing them to be naked and ashamed.

So it should be clear that the “death” is a spiritual one. If so, why bother with guarding the tree of life? In fact, what is the tree of life? To answer that I must answer what sin is. Literally, in Greek sin means, “falling short of the mark.<sup>36</sup>” According to Brauch, sin is not a thing, not a genetic defect (so much for Augustine’s theory), nor is it a perverted inner nature. Sin is a relational reality. Sin is the state we are in when we are deaf to god. The Tree of Life thus keeps us connected with God, so that we are never separated. (Wisdom is said to be at least, “a tree of life”). So without the tree of life, we are not able to use our free will and knowledge of good and evil. And indeed don Juan describes that becoming a man of knowledge (knowing how to rightly use power of choice) is as if going thru “a flaming sword.” [At some point before now (2011), I added the following note: See The Emergence of Man, part 2]

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<sup>31</sup> Here’s what the verse actually says, “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” I still think the main point is valid, it doesn’t say “I will cause sorrow” but “will greatly multiply it.”

<sup>32</sup> Clearly this is not the case, she might have already conceived them but not have them. On any account, the whole passage is confused. The pain is in the conception?!

<sup>33</sup> Here’s the verse: “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man”

<sup>34</sup> This is a rather odd place to add this point, “And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.” Is this from another tradition?

<sup>35</sup> Here’s the verse: “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.”

<sup>36</sup> The etymology here is correct. However, I am not sure I like the idea. There are many reasons that one falls short of the mark, and should all be treated as a sin? If so, the honestly trying and almost succeeding is as much a sin as not putting forth the effort.

So then it becomes clear, the price we pay for our separation from God is spiritual death. As [in] the Buddha tradition, seeing the separation as real is spiritual death, seeing beyond it is life. This is the truth of nature, the separation is not real, it is just our passing judgments on things that makes it so.

Gen. 2: 8–10<sup>37</sup> marks the beginning of ego defenses, or not being honest with God or ourselves. These verses also mark the beginning of separation, so the goal is to unite all our forces (Yin/Yang) for harmony, for if we are whole what is there to fear.

Throughout all this I have realized the similarities between the teachings of the world that man passed judgment became separate from his source and now is non-complete, I need to look in myself and unite and be honest with myself. So not repress myself, but unite and examine myself.

Still one question remains, Why did God not let Adam and Eve eat of the tree of life? Unless it is we all go thru an Adam and Eve period. Innocence, judgment of good and evil, then back to innocence. And we must pass thru that stage of judgment to become God.

**[Saturday] 16 November 1991:** Why can't I just live my life, and you yours? Why can't we decide that I am I , you are you, I need you, you need I and leave it at that. What kind of society is it where a person must conform in order to fit in. Then let me not fit in. Rules are necessary, but only one, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." After that, nothing is important.

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<sup>37</sup> This should be 3: 8–10: "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."