

EXCERPT

(from Part 1 Chapter 1)

THE YEAR is approximately 5300 BC.

THE PLACE is somewhere on the Holy Mountain just to the west of the Garden of Eden.

A vibrant teenager named Seth is engaged in his usual daily playful meanderings. He has the heart of an explorer, and is motivated and excited to discover what lies over every hill, around every corner, and beyond every bend. He has been told by his parents not to wander too far, but his curiosity is insatiable. One day perchance he wanders close to the entry gate of a vast garden area, but is frightened by a brilliant eye-catching Angel of the Cherubim with a flaming flashing sword of fire in his hand, whirling in every direction, to prevent access to the Tree of Life inside the Garden. The Cherub frowns at him crossly and thunders out “You are forbidden to enter here!” Terrified by the overshadowing form, he runs back to Eve, who is preparing food in a rocky outcrop near the Cave of Treasures, and asks his mother what any kid would, “Why can’t I enter the gate? What lies on the other side? Who is the mighty guardian?”

Eve realizes that it is time to tell her son about the past, about the Garden and their banishment, about right and wrong, and about God and Satan. And so, while Adam is toiling in the rocky, sloping grounds nearby, Eve begins to relate the family story as she understands it. She starts at the beginning of what she can remember – inside the Garden of Eden:

Eve Remembers Paradise

“**AND SO**, my dear son, someday I will tell you about everything that happened before you were born; when we came to this unholy and unruly place of weeds and thorns; when your father and I suffered much and were in great distress; when we were hurt and mistreated by the bad spirits, and when we were comforted and protected by the good spirits. These spirits have great power and can do many incomprehensible things – we call them angels – but we always have the liberty to heed them or not. The highest and most powerful of the good angels we call the Word, or the Lord. The most powerful of the bad angels we call the Satan, or the Devil.

“But first I must address your concern about that guarded gate that you could not enter, why you could not pass, and what is on the other side of the gate. So now I will recount to you what happened in the very beginning, when we lived in peace and harmony with everything in a beautiful garden in a blissful and holy place called Eden – the land inside the gate.

“Everything in the Garden of Eden was magnificent, delightful, holistic, and linked to the universal spirituality of the almighty master God-angel. I interacted harmoniously with the natural air, land and water formations, the flora, the fauna, the angels of Virtue who were our guardians, the angels of the Watch who were our tutors, and with the master God-angel, whom I now know is simply to be called ‘God’. He is the ‘Head’ over all things, over all the spirit-angels, and over all the creatures on earth like us. He is our ‘Father’. At the time, however, not fully understanding what or who God was, I just considered this strange entity to be like an invisible chief or ruler, and I called it the master God-angel. Of course, now I have a little better understanding, but humility regarding our finiteness is always the best attitude when thinking about God, who is infinite. You will learn more about God, my son.

“And so, under the tutelage of the angels, Adam and I cared for all the plants and animals in the Garden. We protected and harmonized everything, gathered the ripe fruit from the trees, and saved some in storage for times when ripe fruit was limited. We were taught how to feed and clean the animals, and how to grow plants for food,

for beauty, and for the benefit of all. And all the living growing things responded with vigor, beauty, and acceptance of our stewardship.

“God had given us a blessing to work the earth and to create others like us. In the Garden we were learning how to farm the earth and care for the animals. But we had no idea how to create others like us. We just assumed that that knowledge would come later. But I knew that I was somehow connected to Adam in this regard. By some means, he and I would create others. How, where, or when that would happen, we didn’t know. I didn’t understand at all. I didn’t have the wisdom.

“Now there were many different animal creatures in the Garden that Adam and I lived with. We were told by the angels of the Watch that these animal-creatures were the tame ones – the cattle, the fowl of the air, and the beasts of the field. In fact, Adam had given names to some of these creature types before I can even remember. We were taught how to graze, feed, and clean the animals, and we lived harmoniously and cooperatively with all of them. The male animals remained in the north and east sections of the Garden, and were tended to by Adam. I lived with and minded the female animals, who stayed in the south and west sections of the Garden. There was a low earthen wall that separated the sections. Usually, before the start of our sleep period, Adam, myself, and many of the animals, male and female, would gather together in a common area and socialize. It was heart-warming and tranquilizing. Adam and I cared for all the animal creatures, and they responded with affection and service. There were, however, two exceptions.”

The Lilith

“**THE FIRST EXCEPTION** was a creature different from the animals but also different from Adam and myself. It had large wings with a humanoid-like female face and upper torso, long golden hair, lanky arms, a slender serpentine lower torso, and short stubby legs. The essence of its soul was not in harmony with the animals or the plants, or the angels that visited us, and not in harmony with us either. Something was different about this creature, but I did not fully comprehend the significance. Adam called it ‘the Lilith’. Apparently, she had been placed in the Garden at the same time as Adam and many of the animals.

“During our time in the Garden, Adam connected and conversed with all the entities – the plants, the animals, and the angels, as did I. We were all in a communal accord. Adam examined this creature as he did all the animals, by giving them names, but she was not selected as preferred or as anything special. This appeared to disturb the Lilith; I think because she wanted to be seen as an equal to Adam and not as a junior or lesser partner. I’m not entirely sure, but I suspect that Adam sensed the disharmony and incoherence, but was unsure of what to do. Typically, in situations like that, where he was uncertain about how to react, he would elect to just let it pass and forget. And so it was in this case. However, I did notice on a number of occasions that Adam and the Lilith engaged in concentrated listening and talking to each other – not so much with words, but with emotion and thought – a spiritual communication. Adam seemed aloof and pensive after these encounters, but never confided anything to me. The Lilith never engaged with me, even though she lived in my section of the Garden. In fact, she seemed to shun me.

“Then one day, when situated near the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, I heard the Lilith call out the name of the master God-angel in a loud voice. It was startling! With this, she seemed to take on a new energy, a new aura, a new persona – but again, it was not in harmony with us or the rest of the life in the Garden. It was very different – like being at odds with it all. And with that utterance, she just vanished – seemed to fly straight up and away, not to be seen again – until many years later.”

The Nachash

“**THE OTHER EXCEPTION** was an odd creature that had squat stubby legs upon which it could walk, a muscular serpentine torso, thin slithery arms, flimsy wing-like appendages, and a humanoid-like head and face. It was highly intelligent, shrewd, subtle, and cunning. Its appearance was not frightening – in fact, it seemed to shine in the light – but its demeanor was somewhat aloof; not as congenial and affable as all the other animals in the Garden – almost as if it was under some kind of stress. I perceived that, but only felt the need to empathize and not to shrink away. It was not like the Lilith creature so I did not shun it. We occasionally interacted but not often or affectionately. I could sense that this creature was out-of-the-ordinary, but nothing more. Its name was Nachash and it was a male.

“One day, after being in the Garden for 7 years, at the hour when the two angels of Virtue, who were guarding me, left to ascend to the place of God’s abode for worship, I was briefly alone. At that moment I suddenly heard this beautiful singing of hymns, as if by the angels themselves, coming from near the low wall that divided the Garden. So, I looked over the wall and saw the Nachash singing charmingly.

“He saw me and said in a sweet voice, ‘Hello – are you alone Eve?’

‘Yes, I am,’ I said.

“Thereupon, he asked me a very strange question: ‘Why are you here in the Garden, Eve?’

“I was a little taken aback by the question, but I calmly replied, ‘The master God-angel has put us here to take care of it, and to obtain nourishment from it.’

‘Yes, my child, you certainly seem to be doing a good job,’ he said casually, ‘but I have noticed that you seem to eat only from some of the plants, bushes, and vines. Did the God-angel tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the Garden?’

‘O no,’ I replied. ‘The master God-angel said that we may eat the fruit of any tree in the Garden, except the Tree in the middle of it. Adam told me that this Tree is the source of knowledge about what is good and what is bad. But neither of us understand what that means – the difference between good and bad. But we have obeyed and have not eaten the fruit from that Tree, although it is very beautiful, and pleasing to the eye. The master God-angel told us not to eat the fruit of that Tree, or even to touch it – for if we do, our body-life will die. But neither of us understands what it means to die.’

“The serpent-like Nachash creature continued in a gracious manner: ‘Yes, my dear, what you have been told is true. Glory to the mighty God-angel! But I am a bit grieved on your account. For God has not told you everything – not told you the whole story – and I don’t want you to be lacking information. There is much more to it than that simple state of affairs. What will really happen is that your body-life will be transformed into a condition that is more like God’s spirit-life. You will then be able to see clearly the difference between Good and Bad; to know what is Good and what is Bad – just like God does. And you will be able to decide for yourself whether something is Good or Bad. You will be able to make an absolute determination all by yourself. You won’t need to seek God’s help every time you are undecided or confused. You too can be wise, just like the God-angel is. In fact, He wants you to be wise. He doesn’t want you to be ignorant, my child.’

‘But I don’t know what Good means and what Bad means,’ I said hesitatingly. ‘Everything just is as it is. I am happy here in the Garden. I know of no other way. Why do I have to know about Good and Bad?’

“Then, the creature confidently replied, ‘Remember Eve, remember before you came into the Garden. Remember the times you were hurt by thorns or stones. Remember when you were burned by fire. Remember when your stomach ached. Remember when other humanoid creatures threatened your clan. Remember when members of your own clan tried to abuse you. Yes, my dear, outside of the Garden, there is Good and Bad. You lived there for 20 years. You experienced it. Don’t you remember? Didn’t you ever wish that some things that happened, could have happened differently? Didn’t you ever wish that things could always be just as you wished them to be?’

‘Yet there is one more thing, Eve,’ the serpent-like creature continued, ‘outside of the Garden, there is a special type of Bad thing, called Evil. It is a very Bad thing and hard to fully understand. But it exists, and you should know about it. One who is wise will know about it.’

‘I don’t remember what things were like before I came into the Garden,’ I responded. ‘Everything before that is hazy – like a very distant shadowy dreamscape. I don’t remember any specifics. I only vaguely remember the angels twice telling me that I had been chosen to receive gifts – and that I would be changed. The next thing I remember is being in the Garden, with Adam by my side.’

‘Yes, my child, you were changed. You were given a more advanced soul and a rudimentary spirit like God’s spirit. These wondrous properties were infused into your inner being – into your body, brain, and life-force. They are now part of your essence. But the spirit is not complete, my dear. God wants to give you a complete spirit eventually, but He is not sure that you are ready just yet. He wants to see if you are worthy of making the decisions on your own without His help.’

‘There was a moment of silence, and then he continued, ‘But of course you are worthy, Eve. Examine yourself closely, my dear. You and Adam are the only humanoid animals in the Garden, so you are special and unique. Can’t you commune with all the other animals, and even the plants? Can’t you feel their emotions? Can’t you see their auras and energy patterns? Of course you can, and that makes them subordinate to you. Aren’t you their custodian and caretaker? For 7 years now you have been caring for me and all the other animals, telling us what we should do, and should not do; in effect, telling us what is Good and what is Bad, even if you, yourself, don’t really understand what is Good and Bad. Why, you can even smoothly interact with the angels that are teaching you the ways of animal and plant husbandry, and preservation of the land and water. None of us other creatures can do that or learn that. We cannot decide what is Good and what is Bad, but you can have that ability my child. I, myself, don’t understand it all, and I have eaten the delicious figs from this Tree. But my body-life did not die; and I am wiser and have learned a great deal more about everything.’

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