

If the Bible Had Been Written by a Woman

Catholic Press Features

New York — Who but a woman would read Genesis and wonder whether Adam ever put his arms around Eve and told her that he loved her?

Eve is just the first of many women in the Bible who have never been fully understood, according to Virginia Cary Hudson, because they have rarely been looked at from a woman's point of view. It takes a woman to sympathize with the much-maligned Bathsheba, she said, or to see that the real heroine of the Book of Ruth is Naomi, or to understand why Angels much preferred to deliver Heavenly messages to women rather than men.

Virginia Cary Hudson was a widowed grandmother who, several decades ago, was an

Episcopal Sunday School teacher. She instructed a class of young adult women in Louisville, where she ran a boarding house. She wrote out her lectures before she gave them, and her daughter has now had them published in a book that's sure to draw some interesting comments from Biblical commentators.

Titled "Close Your Eyes When Praying" (Mrs. Hudson always ended her lectures with those words), the book presents a touching picture of Eve from a woman's point of view. "I think we can understand her, but I very much doubt if any man ever could," Mrs. Hudson declared.

It bothered Mrs. Hudson that in Genesis there is no reference to Adam and Eve's personal feelings toward each other. "Those of us who are romantically inclined would

like to read here that Adam loved Eve," she went on. "There is, however, not even the inference that Adam was even pleased with her or that he looked favorably upon her."

She draws a humorous picture of the Fall, with Eve dutifully scampering up the tree of the Forbidden Fruit not out of sinful curiosity but to get more food "that she might cope with Adam's hunger."

When Adam, before God, tries to shift the blame to his wife, Mrs. Hudson is furious with him: "Having utterly no sense of loyalty, no sense of protection, and no sense of pity, he blamed her for his own weakness. An alibi as old as the world! Cringing and whimpering before God, Adam did not care what might become of Eve. As far as he was concerned, she was on her own."

Mrs. Hudson believed that "the story of Eve is in a way the story of the earth's most

pathetic woman, cursed and punished for something she never fully understood, placed alone in a garden with a man who was a stranger to her, forced to make-do with a mother's patient instruction, and the devil always seeking to make her stumble. Personally, I think she did remarkably well in a rather hopeless circumstance, just as many women are still doing today."

Bathsheba could also use more understanding and sympathy than she has received, according to Mrs. Hudson, who saw Bathsheba as a woman "whose only offense was that of being enamored by a dashing handsome king, a king who, she said, managed to get her husband killed on the battlefield so that he could marry her."

Mrs. Hudson complained that few people realize that after Bathsheba's sinful life, "she relinquished any ambition . . . to become Miss Israel of 1000 B.C." and led a life of repentance and honor

and was mainly responsible for the wisdom of her son, Solomon.

Elsewhere, she gives long-withheld attention to Ruth's mother-in-law ("the Book of Ruth should have been called the Book of Naomi because, while the role of Ruth is largely passive, it is Naomi whose wisdom, generosity and goodness initiates and brings to a satisfying conclusion almost everything worthwhile in this extraordinarily beautiful and inspiring story") and Rachel's homely sister, Leah, whose loving patience finally won her the love and honor of Jacob.

Mrs. Hudson, whose earlier book, "O Ye Jigs & Juleps," caused a literary commotion several years ago (because she reportedly wrote it when she was ten), talked about the Virgin Mary one Sunday and the following day got a letter from one resigning class-member who explained: "We Protestants don't believe in Mary."

A woman who would have been an ecumenical leader were she alive today, Mrs. Hudson blamed "esteemed theologians" and "estimable churchmen" for creating the arguments and confusions surrounding "the simple role which God gave to this guileless young woman to play in His cosmic plan of redemption. . . . So perhaps it is up to us (women) to cut through the 'theological fat' and find the true picture."

One of the most important lessons to be learned from Mary, she noted, was the willingness of women to believe in messages from God as opposed to the disbelief on the part of men.

Mary did not say to Gabriel, "You must have the wrong address," Mrs. Hudson said, adding that the Bible is filled with examples of men hemming and hawing when confronted by angels or by God Himself:

"When God called Noah, he tried to excuse himself. When God called Moses, he supported his refusal by listing his deficiencies. When God called Saul, he went and hid. When God called Jonah, he fled. But that is not the way of a woman. Where in the Bible do you find a woman responding to God's call with equivocations, rationalizations, or alibis?"

Mrs. Hudson concluded that women perhaps have a greater ability to believe, possibly because women are themselves creators of miracles. After having given birth to a child, nothing else seems beyond belief."

POP TOPICS

Dear Friends,

We hope that one of your New Year resolutions was to SHOP POP and SAVE POP IDENTIFICATIONS. The current Game has only NINE WEEKS to go. As we all know, Luck is pretty much what we make it. Will this be a lucky Game for your group? Only you, the individual member, can determine this.

Your principal job, as we said, is to buy and save the "POP" way and turn in the proofs to your POP Chairman. However, if you'd like to do even more, here's a suggestion. Your chairman may not have access to an adding machine for totaling those Loblaws tapes. Why not offer to assist her in the task of adding these by hand? She'd probably also appreciate some help in sorting and counting Pepsi caps. Anonymity may be fine where it concerns giving to charity; it's not so praiseworthy for members of an organization to hide their talents. So don't be just a silent partner in your particular group—come forward when help is needed.

We note that some of you in making turn-ins for this Game used the yellow Label Report Forms from last time. A supply of the new green forms was sent to all POP Chairmen. If for some reason you didn't receive yours, please notify us immediately so that we can forward some to you.

January is National Economy with Eggs Month. Besides being nourishing, eggs are reasonably priced (even tho' they seem high right now) when compared with other protein foods. We can combine eggs with POP products for some real taste treats. Here are two suggestions.

Hash Nests

- 1 can Krey Corned Beef
- 4 eggs

Divide corned beef into 4 equal parts and shape into rounds following out the centers a bit. Place on lightly greased pan and break an egg into each round. Bake uncovered until eggs are cooked—about 15 minutes.

Dutch Devilled Eggs

- 1 doz. hard-boiled eggs
- 1/4 lb. Krey Braunschweiger
- 3 tbl. softened Land O'Lakes Butter
- 1 tsp. poultry seasoning
- Dash of cayenne pepper or paprika

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and mash together with other ingredients. Stuff egg whites with mixture and serve on lettuce.

To give scrambled eggs an extra fillip, before cooking add a 3 oz. pkg. of crumbled cream cheese and some chopped chives. Fry in Land O'Lakes Butter. (The freeze-dried chives now on the market are a very good substitute for the fresh. They don't need refrigeration and can be kept with your other spices for easy use.)

In a recent issue of Parents Magazine, some tips were given on buying "Beat the Budget." We think the following quote is especially apropos for POP Buyers: "Read the Labels. Sometimes a canned or packaged item that costs a penny or two more gives you a lot more in food value than one a little cheaper. Compare the ingredient listings. You'll probably find that you're better off with a recognized national brand that gives you the same good quality time after time."

And here's another good piece of advice for those who hesitate to buy already prepared foods, Krey Canned Meats, for example. "Count Yourself In. According to a recent study, it takes about four times as long to cook a meal from scratch as to use pre-prepared foods. The average meal for four using pre-prepared foods, costs only 13 cents more than the same meal cooked entirely at home. If your time is worth more than 9 cents an hour, according to the study, you actually save buying foods that save you time."

IS YOUR GROUP ENJOYING POP PROFITS? IF NOT, GET ON THE POP BRANDWAGON. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT JOINING THE FUND PARADE, PHONE OR WRITE: Mrs. Ennis, Courier Journal, 35 Seneca St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Telephone 454 7050. IF MORE CONVENIENT, JUST FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW AND MAIL TO Mrs. Ennis.

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Loblaws Century	Cash Register Tape
Pepsi Cola Diet or Regular	Bottle Cap
Prince Macaroni Products	Box Front or Label from Any Product
Red Star Yeast	Envelopes

Labels from All the Products listed above will be accepted for the Entire Fifth Game — that is, from October 1, 1968 thru March 31, 1969. WATCH THE COURIER FOR FUTURE ADDITIONS TO THIS LIST.



These St. Agnes juniors are delighted with the prospect of summer school. The capitals of Europe will be classrooms for 10 in the comparative government program, while three polishing their German will study in Salzburg, Austria, and Marburg, Germany. From the left, front row: Sharon Miller, Donna D'Iullo and Mary McFaggart; second row, Sister Josanna, social studies chairman, who will accompany them, and Bernadette Dynski, Martha Boerschlein and Celeste Jacque; back row, Ann Delehan, Marjory Scheidt, Leslie Connelly, Linda Brongo, Catherine Griffin, Nancy DeRycke and Patricia Wood.

Chaplains Deny Dip In Campus Morality

Buffalo — (RNS) — Is campus morality ebbing? Are the morals of college students "looser" today than in former years?

"No," according to chaplains who work closely with students at the State University of Buffalo and Buffalo State University College.

The chaplains, who attend college 10, 15 and 20 years ago, pointed out that while today's students may seem less moral, it's only because they face more problems. Many seek moral solutions that a past generation ignored, they said.

"Their great concern is to find values that are worth living and dying for," said Father John C. Weimar, associate Catholic chaplain of the Newman Center at the state college.

"Students used to feel that their only purpose was to study and pass exams," observed Rabbi Justin Hoffman, director of the Hillel Foundation and Jewish chaplain at the university and the state college. "Today they feel they have a stake in a world adults have messed up."

"This generation of students is not immoral, but it questions institutions — that many generations accepted," said the Rev. James N. Brewster, university campus minister and director of the Wesley Foundation of Buffalo.

A college student about 15 years ago Father Weimar said: "I suspect that there is not a great difference in morality today. But there is a difference in attitude. When I went to college, students were doing as many immoral things but accepting them as acceptable behavior."

He sees less drinking by students today, but more dope problems. He detects a "terrible sense of directionlessness."

Hey, Mrs. Brown

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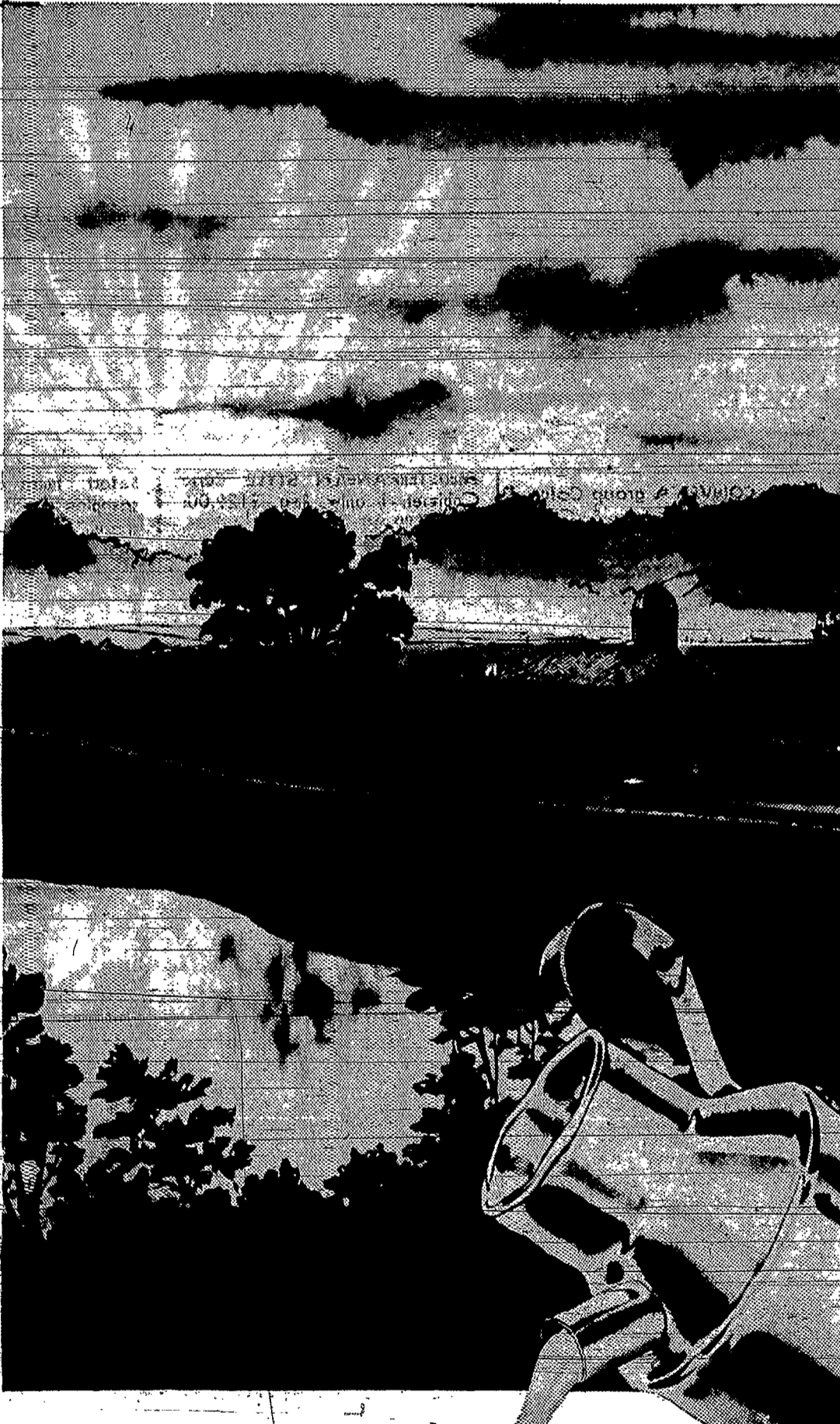
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