

THE BEAUTY OF HIS CREATION

The

*Calla
Lily*

EVE



facts from the Bible

Genesis 2-4

- Eve was created by God. Her name means "To Live". 'And Adam called the name of his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living'. Gen. 3:20
- She was created from the rib of Adam. "The Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Gen. 2:18
- She was the first human to be deceived by the devil. And the first to be forgiven of her sins.
- She was the mother of the first child born to humanity

* She was the wife of Adam, and daughter of God.



There is a garden in her eyes,
where roses and white lilies flow.

Thomas Campion

Gates of Paradise

by Shelly Henderson

with Paulie Rogers



Eve sat on the ground in front of her tent, cradling the basket of grapes. This year's harvest had not been what they had hoped for and a good section of the fruit was rotting.

Muttering to herself as she set about sorting, Eve felt an all too familiar heaviness in the pit of her stomach. Refusing to allow her mind to dwell on it, she sectioned off the healthy grapes quickly, but as she encountered spoilage she would slow down and carefully inspect, grape by grape, while humming a tune.

Adam watched as she skillfully scraped rot from the grapes that could be salvaged. He shook his head, marveling over the patience she had for such tasks as her nimble fingers continued at their work. When she finished sorting the bundles, they would set about preserving them and teaching the children how to do the same.

Eve tossed a large bundle of grapes to the side. Worthless. Their eyes met with sadness, both remembering a very different world they had once shared.

Adam was concerned for her. She held so much inside.

Glancing out across the yard to check on their young sons as they romped about with the lambs and goats, Eve's laughter rang out from her sweet spirit full of glee at their antics.

“They sure are a precious joy.” She said to Adam.

Adam pulled his eyes away from her beauty to take in their offspring. “God has blessed us abundantly.” He replied. Pride swelling in his chest.

She tossed the last good bundle of grapes into the carved-out tree trunk with the corked spigot. It was ready to start the juice making process.

“Come on boys, time to put our strong muscles to work!” Adam called.

The evening was filled with family fun, taking in the fragrance and a sip here and there of the refreshing juice of the grapes. Feeling a sudden movement within her, Eve placed her hand over her swollen belly. She was still in awe of the wonderment of child-creation. Their family was growing as God had instructed. She was happy about that, but the late-night conversations she and Adam were having lately made her worry about what the future might hold for them all.

“I’m going to work in the field tomorrow.” Adam announced.

“Can I help?” Six-year-old Cain asked, eager to be wherever his father was.

“Of course, son. I couldn’t do it without you.” Adam replied, giving his eldest a hair ruffle.

“Me?” Able piped in, thumping his small chest.

“You are too small.” Cain stated.

The toddler defended back with a resounding, “No!”

“I’ll tell you what, Able can come along until high sun, then he can help mother in the tent for the afternoon, how’s that?” Adam said. He gave Eve a wink knowing the boy would be needing his nap by then.

“He’s just going to get in the way,” pouted Cain.

Adam leveled his eyes. “Well, he’s going to be a big help to us one day so he might as well start learning.”

Adam picked up the smaller boy and tossed him into the air. Able giggled with glee.

Cain slumped down onto his bed.

The next day was clear and cold as dawn crept over the quiet valley. Eve had left before the sun to gather herbs and roots while they still held their freshness and if she could find some figs, it would be the start of a marvelous day. She paused for a moment to breathe in the aroma of the flowers all around her. Lilies covered the ground in shades of purples, pinks, yellows, and white. It was moments like this that Eve could almost forget she no longer lived in paradise.

Gathering up her skirt, she held her basket close as she dropped to the river's edge. She had just started to pull leaves from a wild sage plant when a cry rent the air. The sound carried news of pain and anguish, a harsh reminder to Eve that she was not in paradise, despite the feelings she had just a moment ago. She dropped her basket and ran. The cry could only belong to one other and that little soul needed her now. She raced through freshly dug fields and fell to her knees before the owner of the cry. Little Able. Gathering him in her arms she searched for the wound.

“Hush my love, hush. It's all right now, mother's here.” She crooned to the trembling child. “Tell me where it hurts love, it's all right now, tell me where it hurts.” She began to wipe the tears from his flushed cheeks as he sniffled to regain control of his sobs. All he could do was point to his foot, scraped and bleeding.

“I told him not to run through the fields, there are still uncleared rocks in some portions.” Adam spoke as if to defend himself, but Eve felt wrath towards only one person. She turned to a frightened Cain.

“Cain, I need you to run to the tent for some bandage moss. Daddy, can you take him to the creek and wash up his foot?”

“Yes, of course.” Adam said.

She helped the young lad up and guided him to the arms of his father as she spoke. “I’ll be along in a bit and we will make it all better, ok?”

Able sucked in a shaky breath and nodded.

“That’s my boy.” Eve said, wiping the tears from his face.

Eve tried to wait until they were out of site, but the hot tears spilled down her cheeks. She gathered up her skirts once more and ran to the last place she had found peace, the Garden. Oh, how she longed for the garden. The path was well worn by Adam, but she herself had not been down this way for some time. How could she face it day after day, knowing...

And then, there it was still as shining and bright as when she had last seen it. How long had it been? Despair and anger propelled her forward and with an anguished cry she fell to the earth before the angel-guarded-gate.

“It’s all my fault,” she tried to scream, but the words wouldn’t come forth. Only the tortuous sound of her grief. “It’s all my fault, he’s my son, and I’ve condemned him to pain!” Tears were falling, as her sobs shook her core. Her fingers gripped numbly at the dirt as if to strangle a response from the soil that had once given her life.

“Eve.”

The voice came quietly from the other side of the gate, a voice she hadn’t heard in years.

“Eve....”

Could it be? Could it be HIS voice, calling out to HER?

Soft and gentle like the waves on sand, the voice carried to her soul, “It’s going to be ok.”

Confused, Eve lifted her head slowly from the earth. HE was there.

Overwhelming emotion welled and spilled over, cascading down her cheeks to puddle with the muddy stain of her tears. The anguishing heart that had just cried out in such heart-wrenching sorrow, now moved with the stirring of that much loved presence.

“I am here.”

“Oh, Lord of the great heavens, I can’t take it anymore.....just wipe us out and start all over again!” Eve’s voice trembled with the agony she felt so deeply within as she crumpled into the earth again.

“I could never do that.” He whispered.

“But we have corrupted all that you created!” She cried out.

“Oh Eve, you didn’t corrupt this world,” He crouched at the gate and reached His hand between the bars, softly touching her. “Why do you hold the weight of the whole world upon yourself so?”

“Because it was I, it was I.....”

Swiftly He was there, lifting her into His arms, cradling her in His embrace.

“Oh, my dear, dear daughter, you did not corrupt this world. Don’t you see, it was the evil one, come to destroy all that was mine.” She felt his tears fall upon her head. It felt so good to be in his arms. She was where she longed to be. She grabbed hold of His robe never wanting to let go.

Time. She just wanted time to turn back it’s clock.

All to soon He pushed her to arm’s length.

“Look at me.” He gently said, tilting her chin up to meet his gaze. But still her eyes remained fixed on His feet. The shame was just too great.

“Why did you so carefully sort the grapes?” He asked.

“What?”

“I saw you, sorting the grapes last night. Why?”

Bewildered, she looked up at Him. He saw her?

Eve gasped at the realization that He was always watching over her.

“I sorted them because some of them were still good.”

“Yes, but you even went so far as to scrape rot off some of the corrupted ones, why would you do that? Why not throw them into the fire?”

Eve had to think. *Why?*

She searched the face she had so longed to see again.

“Because the rot had not spoiled it, it was just clinging to the outside.” She replied.

His love for her began to penetrate. She saw the sadness in His eyes, but the love was sure and strong and remained. She was still His beloved creation.

“Like those grapes Eve, you have only been touched with the corruption. Sin has placed a rot upon this world, but you are still as precious and sweet to me as the day I made you. I know what’s inside that remains good and pure. All you have to do is come to me and I am here.”

The alter of sacrifice where Adam faithfully came so often sharpened into focus behind the I AM. She envisioned the lambs he slaughtered. Saw the blood-stained rocks. The atonement for their sins.

“I know the pain you endure, the blame you feel. But this is not for you to carry Eve. I will carry you, and I will continue to scrape away the parts of you where the rot begins to grow, if you will only allow me to.”

“If I...?” Eve stopped. She lowered her eyes again, but He squeezed her hand, bringing her gaze back to His.

“Will you allow me?”

“You take all this on for me?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, Yahweh, forgive me!” she cried, throwing herself into His arms once more.

The safety of his strength held her tightly. “I will always be here Eve, always.”

Eve turned her head to gaze upon the entrance to her beloved garden. The garden so lovingly created just for her and Adam. She remembered the pond with the calla lily's growing all around it, where the lamb and the lion sunned together on its banks, where she and Adam laughed with such innocence, oh how she longed to be there right now.

Reading her thoughts, God whispered, “I will keep it safe; it will still be there waiting for the day I can give it to you again.”

She felt the babe inside her move. *The promise*. Now she remembered the promise. Hope sprang anew. She didn't understand it all, but she knew one day, one day everything would once again be restored, and she could enter the gates of Eden again and everything would be OK.

He gently wiped the tears from her cheeks. “Now go back to Able, I'm sure he's looking for his mother.”

She nodded and slowly turned to go.

“And remember Eve, I'll always be with you.”

Joy filled her heart now, hope sprang anew. He loved her! He forgave her! He had a plan to turn all this spoilage into good once more.

She sprang into action, running, not in fear or sorrow now, but towards the life she had worth living. She would return to the gate again and again and again...

“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

”Genesis 28:17

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Calla Lily

Petals

THE FRAGILE BEAUTY OF THE SITUATION

LOVE

Of God

AWAKEN

your hearts desire

*it's our
Nature*

**Ready to become
transplanted?**

Plant

Petals



THE FRAGILE BEAUTY OF THE SITUATION

The Calla Lily represents: Life, Fertility, and death. Purity, Faithfulness, Re-birth and Resurrection.

The rebirth and resurrection are encapsulated in Genesis 3:15. The promise; *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

Eve's purity was stained and she felt great shame, blaming herself for corrupting God's creation, through her unfaithfulness. But isn't that the enemy's attack to keep us apart from our redeemer?

Have you ever felt great guilt or shame in a wrong you have committed? If so, have you allowed God's forgiveness and grace to reveal it's beauty within?

So often we feel unworthy. But God sees our potential and wants nothing more than to embrace us into His arms.

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8: 1-2



Plant

Love



OF CHRIST THROUGH THE SITUATION

study by Barbara Henderson

In the beginning Eve was so very pure with an easy nature to love God. After sin, God told her a savior would come and restore all that had been lost to them again. His returning LOVE is still very much here for all who will receive it.

Do you believe God loves you?

Do you believe His grace is sufficient?

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."

2 Chronicles 7: 14-15



If God forgave Eve (the very woman who turned the world upside down by falling for the devil's lies) with a promise of restoration, How much more will He forgive us?



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Plant

Awaken

THE HEARTS DESIRE



The Beauty that Radiates

The part of our inner beauty that radiates to the rest of the world is the Holy Spirit's indwelling.
(read: Galatians 5)

The Calla Lily is shaped like a trumpet. The outside is simple and upright being held proudly by its stout stem. Within it's trumpet sits an amazing spike covered with many tiny flowers.

Like the Calla Lily, our true beauty comes from within made up of all the wonderful, amazing gifts God bestows upon us. Kindness, grace, a gentle spirit...talents of unique qualities given to each one according to His will. These are the virtues we are created to have. We are created in His image as His child. But we can only stand tall and strong in the magnificent robe of Christ's righteousness. Without Him, we are exposed to the elements of this evil world, unprotected and fragile.

"Look to the lilies how they grow! T'was thus the Savior said, that we, Even in the simplest flowers that blow, God's ever-watchful care might see."

David Macbeth Moir



Plant

Nature

OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST



When we have done wrong it is often our nature to feel great shame. This is where the devil gains great pleasure and foothold on us. Guilt.

It's one thing to feel guilty so that we repent and turn away from our sins and ask for forgiveness which we have just learned God so lovingly is willing to give each and every one of us.

But if the devil can keep us in shame he can damage us even further, keeping us in his evil grip. With shame often comes secrecy, silence and judgment. It grows like a fungus that creeps into every crack of our lives that affects how we live. The decisions we make; who we marry, choose as friends, the how we cope with our guilt and shame and **abuse** it. (addictions)

The only way shame can stay alive...is by buying into the devils deceit.



So, how do we break this natural tendency of believing our wrongs can not be healed or forgiven? By accepting God's forgiveness that is only received through Christ's blood that was shed for us. *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."* Ephesians 1:7

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:18-19

Plant Transplant



WITHIN

"Adam is reinstated in his first dominion. Transported with joy, he beholds the trees that were once his delight - the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored."

Ellen White: The Great Controversy p.648

**I can easily envision Adam and Eve
standing hand in hand in heaven,
taking in their garden once more
And all about them are the
generations that Loved the Lord**

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7

THE BEAUTY OF HIS CREATION

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*Calla
Lily*

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