

Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden™

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The Garden of Eden Revisited

Not surprisingly, the earliest recorded case of depression happened with the first human beings, Adam and Eve. Due to a serious miscalculation with their truth detectors, they took the word of a talking snake over the Creator of the universe. An obvious mistake!

You and I would never do such a thing—even if we could find a talking snake and then ask the serpent to give us its best shot.

In Eden, pharmaceutical remedies for depression lay far off in the distant, medicated future. Instead as a solution, God invented shopping. How? Well, that takes a little explaining.

Two things happened simultaneously. Number One: Oddly, up to this point, each human thought the other's nude body quite grand. But, after the "mistake" they felt as if all the animals and sprouting foliage froze for a moment knowing the upright two-leggers were something called "naked." The animals engaged in polite hush-hush talk amongst themselves. Through a literal grape vine, green things bowed their heads to discuss the matter, and leaves shuddered at the fleshy sights. None could figure out why "naked" conflicted with just plain nudity. But whatever the mystery—this would be resolved when He showed up! He is a reference to deity—as in Supreme. None of these earthbound observers understood what Supreme Deity meant. When He did show up, they did get "it."

Back to the snake. The slick-bodied reptile strode away from the fruit eating couple with a smile. But he didn't get far. Yes, if you wondered—snakes originally strode—more vertical than horizontal.

Realizing that being the gossip talk of The Garden came with a horrible down-side, the two humans wanted to hide—and hide bad. Without any bedroom to go into or a TV to take their minds off of their blunder, Adam and Eve decided to invent a hobby. Sewing. They sewed defensive (non-military grade) camo-wear.

Eve made the first bikini and Adam made a thong. Eve asked Adam to stand behind her and fasten a small knot in her dainty vine. Which he dutifully did, remarking, "You need a zipper back here, Evie!" (Sometimes, he called her Evie.)

"What's a zip-pur?"

Stunned, Adam thought for a moment. "I don't know! But whatever it is, you need one."

The vines itched and refused to stay in place, but the leafy wardrobe did the job. Okay...not really. And that's why we don't put on—and stores don't sell—plant wear. The first fashion rage on planet Earth lasted all of one very long afternoon.

The Creator arrived on the scene. He realized the two-leggers invented the game of Hide n' Seek. (They lost the first round.) At break-time, He did a brief Q&A. They lost again.

Frowning on the theft of the fruit (I assume you know that part of the story), He even felt worse for their inept skills at hobbing. Yes, He did grade them on a curve. But remember, He took a lot of pride in creating the entire Universe out of nothing...or next to nothing. That part of the story is a little fuzzy.

He pitied them, laid down some laws, fined them both, then after some thought, decided to curse the whole planet. Within seconds, snow fell for the first time, causing the humans to shiver. So, the Creator acquired the hides of a couple of recently created furry creatures and supplied these as improvised garments to the regretful humans. Certain versions of the story have the animals volunteering their hides. Other versions have anything larger than a squirrel scampering away in all directions as fast as they could.

Number Two: Eve scrutinized the hide on herself, scrunched up her face and with noticeable grumpiness said to the Supreme Being, "Ahh...thanks." She was not happy. But then again it was a step up from the whole vine thing. In her mind, the one-piece outfit He made didn't seem to match any of the local flora or fauna. But, He wagged a finger at her with an added look of, *You got yourself into this kiddo, not Me.*

Thoroughly depressed, Eve rolled her eyes at her husband. Adam's open hands portrayed his inability to do anything about the situation. God knew this woman well. In a roundabout way (though she took credit) Eve started looking for a clothing store, but He had placed the idea in her pretty head. That's when shopping was born. Depression lifted.

The snake? He got run over by her shopping cart on their way out of the mall.