

The Lithuanian Heresy

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Esther 2:7 states that, “she had neither father nor mother.”

The tiny country of Lithuania is located west of modern day Russia, near the Baltic Sea.

Rarely commented on, from any pulpit these days, the Lithuanian heresy is one of the most bizarre and mind boggling twists in all of church history!

Dating back to the year 1471, the original Hebrew text of the Book of Esther, had been translated into Greek, then Latin, and finally to the native Lithuanian language, Lithy. Centuries ago, one lonely monk with a heart for his people, worked on this project for 12 long years.

As is always the case, any translation from one language to another requires a need for scrupulous scholarship, accurate cultural context, historical vs contemporary idioms, but most of all- the need for good eyesight and adequate lighting.

As it turned out --you might say-- one “tittle” ended up where a “jot” should have been. Thus changing the entire meaning of this verse in ways God never intended.

The damage done... the heresy began, lasting for centuries.

What is it you ask?

Even up until the early 1960's, the Lithuanian Orthodox Church taught that Esther miraculously... was her own *GRANDFATHER!*

Whether the lone monk was a teary-eyed, sympathetic scribe who purposely added a warm family member for the orphaned Esther...is debatable. But these days, most Lithuanians don't care, and just want to *forget the whole thing!*

Yet, generation after generation of faithful Lithuanians – without question, wholeheartedly accepted what might seem foolish to us as a true miracle. They easily wedged this perplexity beside other Bible stories involving the supernatural. Quite an impressive childlike faith! That is, if it wasn't so ridiculous and heretical. Not even Jesus Himself could've been his own uncle – let alone a grandparent.

But, even today, in certain remote mountain villages, where farmers toss hay into horse-drawn carts, and cell phones have never rung...this false belief is still held as gospel truth!

After some 500 years, the revised and updated versions of the Lithuanian Bible have correctly translated this verse. Strangely, there isn't even a footnote referring to the glaring error of their not so distant ancestors.

Besides, if Queen Esther had been her own grandfather...*who was her grandmother?*

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!)

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