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## **Eve's Gift to Us, Adam's Gift to Eve**

Every person grows up in a cultural milieu and is profoundly influenced by the beliefs and stories of that culture. North American culture is based on Christian values and stories. One of our foundational tales is that of creation and the placement of Man above all of Earth's creatures. Given the authority to name the animals and the injunction to populate the earth with humans, North Americans have fallen into an inflated sense of entitlement and power. We have forgotten the original spirit of naming (which bears a responsibility toward the named) and the broader function of reproducing our own kind (which extends beyond the siring and bearing of physical children).

We have led the world in desecration of the earth. As a collective, we devalue the life-giving, life-protecting and life-renewing sensibilities of the feminine principle. This attitude allows us to destroy our very own source of life support.

Cultural change involves a transformation of values. Story touches our hearts, where values take root; story speaks to our minds, where values take form. One approach to addressing psychological sources of human activities that endanger Earth's capacity to support life is an exploration and reinterpretation of old stories that are fundamental to our cultural heritage.

Today I present the story of Adam and Eve through a psychological lens rather than a theological one. Viewed as Mind and Soul, the story of our first parents reveals gifts, not only curses. Such a shift in emphasis holds the potential to alter attitudes toward our home called Earth.

### **The Story**

Once upon a time,  
    in a garden named Eden,  
there walked a woman  
    who had no shame or self-doubt or fear.

She shared this place of mist and fruit and birdsong  
    with a man, who knew no anger, no worry, no anxiety.

Every evening, a big burly presence joined them  
    for chitchat and laughter.

Usually this presence felt generous and loving  
    but sometimes it was moody  
    and sometimes it issued rules and ultimatums.

Yet still, there was no alienation or loneliness...  
    that's just how things were:  
fun, love, closeness, rumblings about rules

especially about a certain tree in the garden.

One day,  
in the middle of the day,  
in the middle of its usual playfulness,

The woman ran to the apple tree  
calling to Adam, "How many apples are on the tree today?"

A serpent of substance  
curled its body around a branch of the tree  
  
and lowered its head so that it looked the woman in the eye.

"Don't just count the apples," it said, "taste one."

"Oh, I can't do that!" said the woman,  
but before the words were out of her mouth  
she realized that tasting might be what those apples were for.  
She reached up, closed her hand around the firm shape and tugged.  
The apple was in her hand and she took a bite.  
"Mmmm, sweet. Crisp. Juicy."

"Adam!" she called. "There's one less apple on the tree.  
Come taste it!"

He looked at her...looked at the red apple  
with a white scoop in it.

"Try it," the woman said. "It's REALLY good.  
Not like anything we've tasted."

Between the two of them, they ate it,  
core and all.

Well, all was well until evening,  
when things did not feel like they usually did.

"Uh-oh," the couple whispered to each other.  
"We weren't supposed to..."

And the presence thundered,  
"Have you done what we agreed you would NOT do?"

The woman thought, "I don't think we *agreed*."

Adam said, "The woman you made tempted me."

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me."

Yet inside herself,  
she knew that she *chose* to taste the apple.

The serpent raised its head and looked eye to eye with the presence.

The presence roared,  
"I punish you, Serpent...  
I punish you, Adam...  
I punish you, Woman!  
Out of my garden! Out of my sight! NOW!"

The presence withdrew, taking the mist with it.

An apple fell from the tree,  
making a little thud on the ground.

Birdsong ceased.

Adam took the woman's hand.  
She turned to face him.

Their hearts were pounding.

"I name you Eve," Adam said.

"I name you Eve, for you are the mother—the genesis—of all that lives."

## Conclusion

In waking up, Eve,  
or Soul,  
freed humanity to *experience* life.

In perceiving Soul, Adam,  
or Spirit,  
bestowed *meaning* on human experience.

These two gifts enable us to take hold of life, to sort it out and conduct it in a new way.

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As the couple left the Garden of Eden, Adam put his arm around Soul, and Eve leaned into Spirit's side where a rib was missing. Light from the flaming sword cast their shadows before them as instruction to leave the past behind them but never forget it because the past must inform the present. And the Serpent went before them, emitting a green glow which led them into imaginations of what might be, of what could be, of what needs to be.

The serpent glides along the surface of the earth and hides in Earth's crevices. Intimately attuned to Earth's moods and rhythms, the serpent embodies the instinctual energies residing in the psychoid levels of the physical world. Eve listened to this representative of the psychic depths and awakened to her instincts. Adam (or Mind) accepted Eve's invitation to partake of Earth's fruit and awakened to the essence of his companion. As Soul awoke, Mind changed course. Together, they shaped the world beyond the paradise of unconsciousness.

Over time, Soul birthed mythologies and culture, and Spirit brought forth ritual and traditions to honor Soul. With the vibrant light of imagination snaking a path at their feet, Adam and Eve found the creative power of their humanness.

We are their sons and daughters, endowed with experience and meaning, embodying the ability to know joy and understanding.

It is true, you see, that the apple does not fall far from the tree.

Thank you.

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link to the full lecture given to the Calgary Jung Society in 2015  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW5LG7ijr4g>