

LOGOSOPHIA

A Pilgrim's Journal
of Life, Love & Literature



Issue #10
Spring 2022

the Virtue of *Temperance*

with Charity, Meekness, & Forgiveness



Greetings, fellow pilgrims!

Welcome to our tenth issue, is based on Temperance, along with corresponding virtues Charity, Meekness and Forgiveness. Continue reading to find poetry, a new ending to an old Greek myth, a review of a comic series and more. We are also introducing a contest - submit a summer photo to win the spot on our Table of Contents page!

Please enjoy, and let us know what you think.

Happy Spring!

Sarah Levesque

Editor in Chief

WANTED

- Readers & listeners of any faith to interact respectfully with writers and other readers through book/media suggestions and letters to the editor, as well as comments on LogoSophiaMag.com and social media
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*Happy
Spring!*



Letters to the Editor & Others

This is where we will be putting anything you send in - letters to the editor, notes to authors, questions, agreements and disagreements... we can't wait to see what you have to say! Just be sure to tell us what article you're responding to!

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But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,
self-control; against such things there is no law.
And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified
the flesh with its passions and desires.
(Galatians 5:22-24)

Definitions

Provided by Merriam Webster Dictionary Online

Temperance - moderation in action, thought, or feeling: restraint

Moderate - : avoiding extremes of behavior or expression : observing reasonable limits

Charity - generosity and helpfulness especially toward the needy or suffering; benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity; lenient judgement

Meekness - the quality or state of being meek : a mild, moderate, humble, or submissive quality

Forgiveness - the act of forgiving

To Forgive - to cease to feel resentment against (an offender): pardon

A Prayer for Temperance

Dear Lord, I pray for the virtue of temperance.

Help me to learn to control my thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Help me to desire what is good and reject what is evil.

I want to honor You in my body and soul.

Teach me how to find balance in my life between prayer, work, rest, and play.

I ask for the grace to grow in meekness, humility, and modesty
so I may reflect Your goodness. Amen.

catholiceasttexas.online/temperance-for-kids/

Temperance: The Basis of Many Virtues

By Sarah Levesque

“Moderation in all things.” -Unknown

Merriam Webster Online Dictionary defines *moderation* as “avoiding extremes of behavior or expression: observing reasonable limits: calm, temperate.” The same dictionary defines *temperance* as “moderation in action, thought, or feeling: restraint.” Temperance, therefore, is a perfect example of Aristotle’s definition of a virtue as the golden mean, the mean between extremes. The Catholic Church has a definition similar to Merriam Webster’s but with an added admonition: “The virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine. Those incur grave guilt who, by drunkenness or a love of speed, endanger their own and others’ safety on the road, at sea, or in the air” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2290).

Any lack of temperance can severely impact the life of anyone, whether it be their own intemperance (lack of moderation) or the intemperance of someone else. An excessive smoker endangers his own life as well as the lives of those living with him. One who drives too fast or too slowly may likewise endanger his own life or the lives of those around him. But these examples, though common, may themselves be extreme.

Every day we each ought to practice temperance in all things but agape love (the love that wants the best good for another in light of eternity; more on that later). This temperance or moderation is the basis of many virtues. We should be temperate in our eating habits lest we fall into gluttony, in our work and leisure habits lest we fall into sloth. We should be temperate in our anger lest we fall into the vice of wrath, in our fear lest we fall into cowardice, in our passion for justice lest it become vengeance. Of course, this is difficult. Our emotions are certainly a part of our human experience, something natural to us. But they, too, need moderation, for an excess of anger causes pain and an excess of fear can lead to hate (as Yoda explained to Luke in the original *Star Wars* trilogy). An excess of passion may be misconstrued, may cause confusion, fear, pain...

An excess of agape love is impossible. Again, agape love is to want the best good for another in light of eternity, desiring that another person reach Heaven and helping them stay on (or go to) the right path. This is the love that God has for us. As such, there cannot be excess, but only a deficiency.

It is also problematic to lack the proper amounts of all these things – food, work, leisure, agape love, etc. A lack of food leads to health issues. Lack of work (intentional or not) leads to poverty. Lack of leisure leads to burnout and health problems. While these may not have fancy names like the above-mentioned vices, they are still problematic, still missing the mean between extremes, the mark of virtue.

Of course, what counts as excess in one situation may be perfectly acceptable in another. The anger felt over an impersonal social media post is expected to be far less than anger directed at someone who is intentionally and physically harming someone. The fear of bees is rightfully more intense for someone who is allergic compared to someone who is merely avoiding the pain of a bee sting. At a feast it seems more acceptable to eat beyond what is customary, while during a fast it is acceptable not to eat at all. Obviously these are just a few examples; I expect you could come up with many more.

The third chapter of Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything. Temperance is knowing what the proper response to a situation should be and responding appropriately, without lack or excess. Without temperance, virtue is impossible, as virtues are found in the mean between extremes. While it is certainly difficult, God calls us to do our very best and try to be moderate in *all* things, to be virtuous in *all* things, to be perfect as He is perfect (Matthew 5:48). If we ask Him, he will give us the grace to persevere in our pursuit of temperance.

Wondrous Be The Blood

By Jordan Ellis Christensen

Oh the love that doth compass me
And brings me to eternity!
Oh the joy and marvel it be
that a wretch as me can come to thee!

Thou, O Lord, art beyond majesty
And art greater than heav'nly beauty!
O none—none are likened unto thee!

Wondrous be the blood that renews me!
And maketh whole shatter'd souls
And brings them fit for eternity
That thee they may ever extol!

O who may boast? None but Jesus Christ
For none but Him make dead men alive!

Beaten and Shot to Death
*To Blessed Stanley Rother,
Padre Francisco, Padre Apla's – a petition*

By Lawrence "Mack in Texas" Hall

Missionaries and martyrs, pray for us
That we may still our anger and intemperance
And listen not to the voices of hate
But rather to the small still voice ¹ of love

Missionaries and martyrs, pray for us
That we may think before we write in blood
And resolve our differences through God's peace
With prayer, understanding, and fellowship

Missionaries and martyrs, pray for us
That we never state a thesis as death

Blessed Stanley Rother – thank you

¹ 1 Kings 19:12



DeeperDown by Zeragii

A Review by T.K. Wilson

DeeperDown is a webcomic inspired by Toby Fox's indie game *Undertale*. Like your humble reviewer, the artist, Zeragii, has never played the game. However, she was enchanted by the loveable monsters and their special human and decided to tell her own story...

On the day the comic begins, Frisk, the girl who freed the monsters from their underground prison, is playing hide and seek with the skeleton brothers Sans and Papyrus, having a grand time. Pessimistic Sans has a bad feeling about their future, despite his brotherly affection for Frisk and the feeling of freedom. Upon their return, the three are confronted by an official from nearby Ebbot City. The monsters will not be allowed into the city, despite King Asgore's pleas and Frisk must return with him and be placed in an orphanage. To save Frisk from people she clearly fears, the monsters decide to flee Ebbot City and head back over the mountain, to find a place where they can be free. The monsters' flight does not go unnoticed. An ancient evil stirs within the mountain, waiting for one thing: Frisk to give up her last chance to reset the world, turning back time to the beginning of her adventures. When she does, the evil creature strikes, kidnapping Frisk and forcing Sans, his magic and body weak, to go after her. The race is on for the rest of the monsters to rescue the skeleton and their special human... before it's too late.

In the world of *DeeperDown*, love is the strongest force there is. The love of friends and family is what will save everyone in the end, though the comic is nowhere near done. All the main monsters (Sans, Papyrus, Toriel, Asgore, Undyne, and Alphys) stick together as a surrogate family for Frisk, even if it is a bit unconventional. Toriel and Asgore's relationship is a bit... rocky, as Toriel left her marriage with Asgore because she vehemently opposed his vendetta against humans and has lost more than one adopted child to it. Asgore for his part is determined to win her back by showing he has changed.

A minor plot point in the *Undertale* game is the romantic relationship between Undyne and Alphys, who are both females. Zeragii has written this aspect out due to her Christian principles, leaving them as good friends who bond over their love for anime and their service to the king as captain of the guard and royal scientist respectively. Editing this out eliminates the main objectionable content in the game for Christians, making this comic particularly friendly towards us.

Violence and magic content in the game is pretty PG, and Zeragii's fanart follows suit. When Sans uses his magic, a heart representing a soul appears in the person who is being enchanted. He can use it to hold someone in place, levitate them, or aim his "Gaster Blasters". He has used this power only twice so far, once to protect Frisk from a government agent, the other to try to save her from the major villain. Souls can be broken, representing the death of the character. In one scene, Sans uses his magic to reach out to his brother and causes Papyrus's soul to glow in answer to him. Sans is also seen to suffer from PTSD and panic attacks.

Monsters are surprisingly fragile, they can easily be mortally wounded and can die for lack of hope, dissolving into dust. Sans lives on the knife edge of "dusting" daily due to his low hope factor (he has depression along with his PTSD) and this comes into play in the comic. The villain attacks Sans, injuring him almost fatally and threatens to crush his soul. A small amount of blood can be seen when Frisk tends to Sans' wounds.

Zeragii's art is beautiful, equal parts 90's Disney, Asterix and Obelisk, and Bone. The scariest looking monsters, the skeleton brothers, look more like humans in skeleton face paint, lending a cartoonish softness to them. Each scene is cinematic in set up, almost feeling like an animated film storyboard. The colors are vibrant, the characters are fun, the script is tightly paced, and the story leaves you wanting more.

In all, if you're a fan of *Undertale* or if you just like fantasy comics, you should give *DeeperDown* a try. The adventures of the little girl and her monster friends continue, full of danger as always, but love, the love of friends and family, lights the way to freedom. Recommended for early teens and all ages after.

HOLY

Elizabeth of Hungary

By Sarah Levesque

HEROES

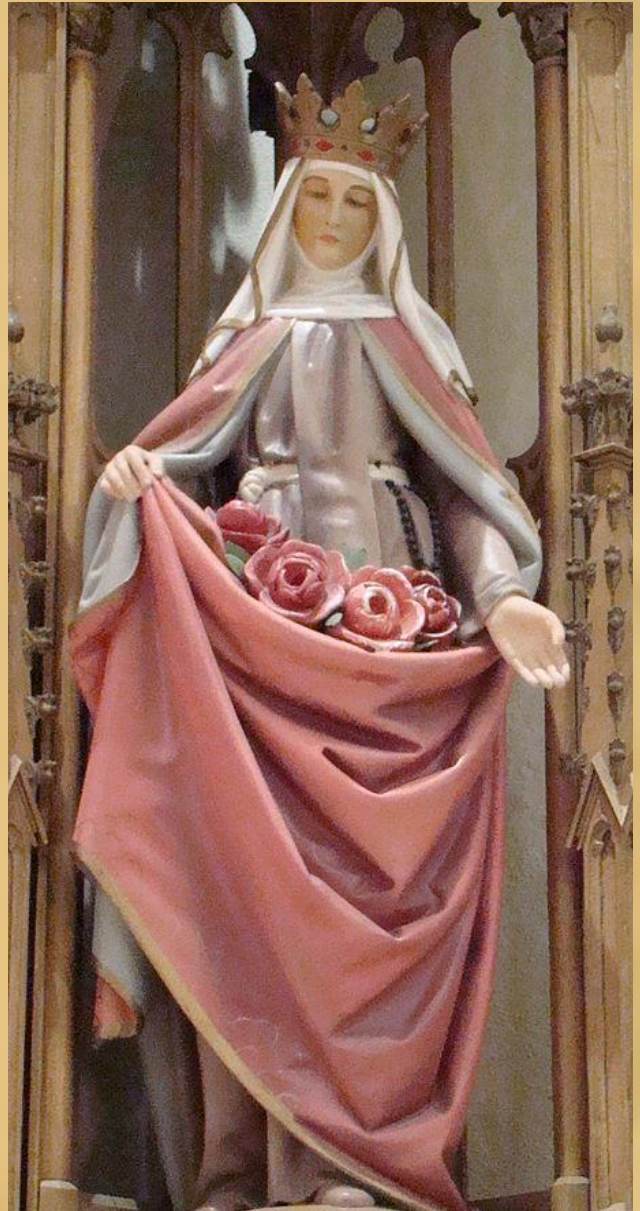
Elizabeth was born in 1207, likely in Pressburg, Hungary. She was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary, and in early childhood she was betrothed to Louis (or Ludwig) IV, son of Hermann I, landgrave (ruler) of Thuringia, and was sent to live with them. They were married in 1221, when Elizabeth was only fourteen years old and Louis was twenty-one. The marriage proved a happy one, for Elizabeth and Louis loved each other. Rather than living in the opulence traditional to royalty, Elizabeth preferred to live simply, temperately, giving away all she could to the poor.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth, Louis died in the Sixth Crusade in 1227, leaving her with three children. Louis' relatives did not look so kindly on Elizabeth's habit of giving away all she could to the poor. Elizabeth joined the Third Order of the Franciscans (a religious order for lay people), and continued to give away food, clothing and money. She also built a hospice for the poor and sick. Elizabeth died in 1231 when she was only twenty-three years old. She was canonized four years later, in 1235.

May we, like Elizabeth, not be satisfied to live in comfort while others are living in poverty, but rather live temperately and give our excess to those in need.

Sources:

- britannica.com/biography/Saint-Elizabeth-of-Hungary
- franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-elizabeth-of-hungary
- newadvent.org/cathen/05389a.htm



A Reflection On **Humility**

By Sarah Levesque

Sometimes you need to lower yourself. Sit down on the ground. Remember being this small? Life was so much easier back then. But now that you're down here, look at things from a child's perspective. Smell the flowers. Spend some time with your pets (dogs are delighted to have someone on their level). Take a blanket and lie under the night sky to look at the stars. Play with small children. Life is not about work, though that is important. Life is not about how other people perceive us. Life is about knowing, loving and serving God and our neighbor, and to do that we need to step back sometimes and take that Sabbath break, even for a few minutes each day. Enjoy the small things every day and be grateful for them, and your life will start being more full of wonder and joy.

Writers & Artists Wanted!

**LogoSophia Magazine is looking for
more contributors for**

- the blog - magazine articles & artwork -**
- Controversy Corner - graphic design**

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EPIC POETRY IS ALIVE!

JOSHUA DAVIDLING.COM

1. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
2. ...make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.
3. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.
4. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

Scripture Search

- A. 2 Peter 1:5-7
- B. Titus 2:11-12
- C. Galatians 5:22-24
- D. 1 Corinthians 9:25

CONTROVERSY CORNER

What do you believe about Jesus' mother, Mary?

What is Controversy Corner?

Controversy Corner is the section of LogoSophia Magazine where people of different faith traditions discuss controversial topics in a succinct manner.

If you would like to submit a topic for discussion, please let us know!

Don't see your denomination represented? Help us fix that! We're always looking for new writers!

Disagree with the representative of your denomination? Write in and tell us why in a respectful manner, and we'll publish it in our next magazine under "Letters to the Editor & Comments"!

For these and any other questions, comments or suggestions, email us at Editors.LogoSophia@gmail.com.

Confessional Lutheran: Jordan Christensen aka J.C. Ellis

Lutherans believe that Mary is rightly called the *Theotokos* (Greek for *God-bearer*) and Mother of God since we confess along with all true Christians that our Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. This does not mean, of course, that Mary is eternal or a goddess or that she somehow created or produced God (which would be an exceedingly gross heresy). Mary was and is a created human being and is only the Mother of God because she gave birth to the only human who is also fully God. We also believe, of course, that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Christ as was written in Holy Scripture. Lutherans differ though on whether she remained a virgin after the birth of Christ but it has been the majority opinion historically amongst Lutherans that she did indeed remain a virgin. Lutherans also believe that Mary is not to be prayed to because it is not promised in Holy Scripture that the saints who are absent from their bodies, awaiting the resurrection, and are present with our Lord in Heaven, can hear our invocations.

CONTROVERSY CORNER

What do you believe about Jesus' mother, Mary?

Roman Catholic: Sarah Levesque

Most Roman Catholics have a special place in their hearts for Mary. We believe that she is the Mother of God, and as such, in the Israelite tradition, she is the Queen of Heaven, for the queens of Israel were the kings' mothers rather than their wives. We also believe Mary was conceived without sin as a gift from her timeless Son, that she was perpetually a virgin, and that she was assumed into Heaven body and soul to take her place as Queen. From the Cross, Jesus gave her not only to John, but to the whole church, and we revere her as our mother, and we ask her to intercede for us using the words of Gabriel, Elizabeth, and Mary herself. For God is not the God of the dead, but of the living (cf. Mark 12:27) and, as the Apostle James indicated, we are to pray for one another (cf James 5:16), and who better to pray for us than Jesus' mother herself, whose pleas Jesus is obliged by the Commandments to listen to?

I've written a good deal on Mary and expect to write much more, so check out my work if you want to learn more about what Catholics think about her and why.



Historic Sam Black Church, West Virginia

Saying “No” to Me

By Amanda Pizzolatto

Temperance - a word not often used nowadays, but a word much needed in this day and age. But what is temperance? When you look up the word on Google, it mostly deals with restraint from drinking, or abstinence in general. What it really should be is basically to avoid the extremes. In other words, moderation in everything. Too much water will drown you, not enough water will cause your kidneys to fail. You need to drink enough to sustain you throughout the day. But temperance shouldn't just pertain to just things, but emotions and desires as well.

Many desires can be for one's good and we are striving for happiness, but what the world wants us to forget is that we are striving for eternal happiness, not momentary happiness, though it is not entirely wrong to have those too. It is merely wrong to seek momentary happiness only rather than seeking eternal happiness. Seeking eternity is hard, saying no to yourself from time to time is hard. It is really hard. It's hard to say no to playing an hour of video games and go for a walk instead. It's hard to eat vegetables and take medicine instead of gorging on candy. It's hard to say no to getting that treat this week and saving up those few extra dollars for a rainy day. It is hard, it is very hard. But sometimes you have to be that parent telling their child no when they want something, merely because it's not good for them to have too much of it. Too much sugar is bad for you, too much television is bad for you, too much of basically anything is bad for you. This is why the word “no” even exists, because no is an answer that must be given from time to time. And like children eventually find out, that “no” could simply mean “not now.” There's still a chance it could become yes later on.

This is also the point of observing Lent and Advent, we must give up our pleasures for a time so we can focus more on God rather than the things of this world. Again, while momentary pleasures aren't all bad, they are not the main reason why we are here. As a matter of fact, momentary pleasures are at most mere shadows of the pleasure God will give us in Heaven. This is why we seek such pleasure; it is within our nature to seek happiness. Unfortunately, the pleasures of this world cannot fill that hole that only God can fill, which is oftentimes why we feel so depressed and anxious when we cannot get our dopamine fix all the time, and why something that once gave us that fix no longer does and we want to find something new. But as with nature, we need the sunshine and the rain to help us grow into the people God knows we can be.

So turn off that computer, put down your phone. It's time to start saying no to what you want to do and time to start getting out there and doing what you *need* to do. There is so much more to life than worshiping false idols and giving into addictions. Of course, no one can or should force you to do anything, but it would be wise to say no from time to time and allow temperance to work its wonders in your life.



Author Interview With...

ERIC TAMBURINO



Hello! Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm from New Hampshire; I work as technical support and I'm a writer on the side. I've written 3 books now; the first was *Where Man and Monster Meet* which was a collection of fairy tales, and then the second was called *Icarus Falls* which is more of a young adult coming of age novel. And the last one that I finished - I think it was last year now was - called *Heaven Sent*, which is the same genre as *Icarus Falls*.

What is your latest book about?

Heaven Sent is about a teenage girl who suffers a loss and I wouldn't say it's about how to deal with the death but more of a spectator watching someone go through it. It takes place a year after her boyfriend dies. Actually technically her ex boyfriend but it was one of those quick break-ups and then close death after it just make it a little more murky. But yeah it's about her trying to find her way back into some semblance of normalcy.

That's cool! What were the other ones about?

Icarus Falls is about someone running away from the past and then... I have such a hard time summing up *Icarus*... even when people were first asking about it as I was writing it but yeah it's about this girl and her meeting this guy who's kind of running away from everything. It's kind of about their friendship and then peeling back layers of that. And then *Where Man And Monster Meet* is a book of short stories, fairy tales, and those I'd been working on when I was in high school. There's a few different reasons as to why I wrote it. It started from a project in high school we had to rewrite a fairy tale because of C. S. Lewis' *Until We Have Faces* and how he had taken this Greek myth and



Author Interview With...

ERIC TAMBURINO



made it his own. And so I liked that idea a lot and I started playing with that. The first one that I wrote was *The Demon of Saint Jude's Abbey* which is like this *Beauty and the Beast*-ish thing. But after that I very much started to move away from fairy tales it was more taking elements of something but making my own story as opposed to rewriting something.

So *Where Man And Monster Meet* is mostly fantasy, whereas the other two are more realistic fiction.

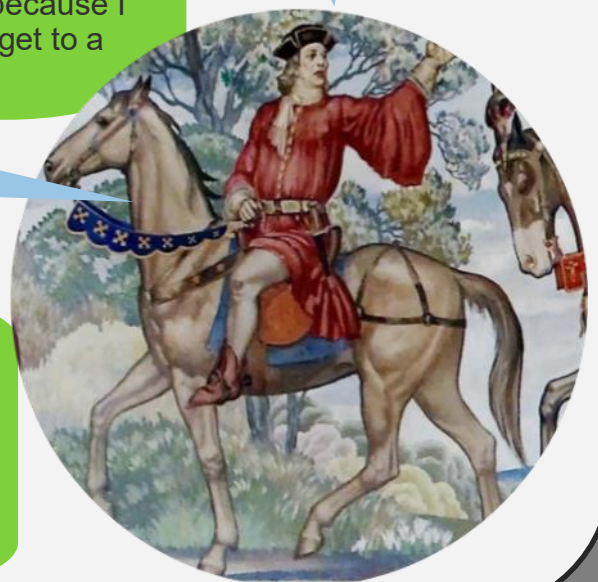
Correct.

Okay. So originally, when you started writing, what made you start?

I always enjoyed it like when I had to do creative writing for school projects. I was very into comic books growing up and then I actually was thinking about like trying to get into that as I got older and I did a lot of drawing when I was younger. I wasn't bad at drawing but it was also incredibly time consuming and as I got older and started seeing the realistic path and the difficulties of that I was just like 'I don't think I'm gonna be the writer AND the illustrator' - which there are some people who are gifted enough to do that, you know, talented, skilled, work hard enough - but I looked at it and I was just like 'I don't think this is gonna happen.' So I stuck more with the writing side because I felt that I knew that better so it would be less of a journey to get to a point where I could actually publish something.

Nice. So how did you come up with the idea for your latest book?

Heaven Sent. That actually came from a break-up. I was having a very difficult time with it. I left her but it still just really bothered me and I was away at college and I was talking to someone about it and he said, "Have you tried writing letters? Don't send them - let me very clear, don't send them - but have you tried writing letters?" And I was like "Huh, that's interesting," and so I started doing that.



Author Interview With...

ERIC TAMBURINO



And because I couldn't send them and I didn't know what to do with them I just left them in a wallet, and it occurred to me, "How awkward would it be if I died in some car accident or something, and someone found them and found her and didn't understand the context and the letters made their way back to her; what would that be like?" It was a strange idea and I honestly never thought I'd get around to writing it but one day I sat down and I think I was like working on story structure and I just grabbed that idea and said okay, *this* would happen and *this* would happen and once I had the outline it was like, "Well, maybe I should start putting a little more into this now" and it just started coming together so I went with it.

So when you were writing your first book, how was that?

Painful. Writing my first book was... time consuming... difficult. What happened with the first one - because I was very young when I started it - is I wrote it the way I wanted to write it and that was great and then I finished it... I didn't put as much time into it as I should have and I think I hadn't quite finished the last story and about a year went by and then I ended up finishing the last story but not doing anything with it because I just started going back to college so I didn't publish it at that point. In the summer between junior and senior year of college I ended up going out to Wisconsin to meet up with a friend of mine and I got out of school week before he did so I was just out there. I didn't have anything to do and I started rewriting one of the stories and when I rewrote it - you saw where it started like seven years before and then you saw what it could be if you went and rewrote it. Most of them I

I think were just rewritten - the same ideas, same story, everything. There was one that there was one scene that I kept it and I just scrapped the rest of it and started from scratch. I was just like, "This this is terrible," and so I rewrote that and I think it came out better. So fast forward and I'm rewriting all these things and then it got to the point where I'd been working on this thing for about nine years and I was right about to get married and my dad again said, "Are you gonna finish this?" I said, "I'll make a deal with you. Give me until my first anniversary and if it's not done I'll just



Author Interview With...

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drop it if I don't have a finished product." Once we were married I started trying to really finish those re-writes, really go through, look for editors, get editors, look at self-publishing versus traditional publishing and the pros and the cons. Everybody asks, "Why did you self-publish?" and it's like well when you took ten years to write the book... I just got impatient. You know, the chances of someone wanting this anyway, the market within the publishing industry is very difficult and for me it's more about the fun of writing.

So after writing your third book, what's different? You're still self-publishing but I assume it's much different than how you wrote your first book.

It's much more streamlined. I know what I'm doing a little bit. Always looking for editors. Most of it's the same - figure out what I want to write about...I'm not very much one for seat of your pants. So I'll map out what I want to write about, write it and then once that happens I'll go through the cover design because I do the cover designs myself at this point. I've been on the fence whether or not I want to contract that out but for the moment I still do it myself. I send out the work to an editor and then, you know, go and to the back blurb and start formatting everything for the print and the Kindle.

Why do you write?

I think I was talking with a different friend of mine that what a lot of what great writers do is they're grappling with questions about humanity, about life. It's universal and everybody goes through a lot of the same stuff but at the same time, the position that you take or the perspective comes from your life and how you lived it and so you have people who have lived these very adventurous, adrenaline-seeking lives, and then they'll write books and it's really exciting because they can really convey different emotions in different situations and scenarios and the psychology of it and stuff. And then you have more everyday people like me and to you still grapple with a lot of the same questions and you get to see different areas, different parts of the answer, and then you can use that to form opinions when you read it. So I think I still do



Author Interview With...

ERIC TAMBURINO



enjoy writing; I think it is very therapeutic and I think that those two work together where you're exploring questions that you don't know the answer to.

What has writing taught you?

I think there's a very practical side where it's taught me a lot about setting goals, hitting goals, mapping things out, planning accordingly, because I've never been super good at that. Lot of stuff, especially academically, I just wasn't interested in it, so to have something that

was mine and all kind of fell on my shoulders taught me about managing time and expectations with yourself. I guess it taught me a lot about myself and about just different things I've gone through, how I feel about them, and what I believe about them. When I was a kid it was like, "I want to write; I want to like tell the world everything I know." Then as I got older I was like, "Oh, I don't know as much as I thought. I don't know that I should be writing. I don't know that this is helpful." So I think those were the two things that taught me - a lot just about myself and how I felt about different situations and this time management and management in general.

What is your advice for writers?

I think the two things that I tend to push on young writers or writers at this point is they need to actually write because there you start your Instagram even though your book isn't written and then you start following all the indie authors and stuff and then you just scroll through "everything I am doing when I'm supposed to be writing" memes and you like all of them and you're like, "Yes, I should be writing right now but I'm doing this." Make sure that you actually carve out time to write. Don't be discouraged. It's like working out - you have to do it; you'll get better at it and it's not always gonna be a good workout. There's a movie called *Finding Forrester* - I didn't love it, sorry guys - it's about Sean Connery being this writer that wrote one book - it was like the greatest book ever written type, the great American novel - and then he just disappeared. It's like nobody knew what happened to him and this kid ends up like figuring out that he's this guy and he's like, "Will you teach me about writing?" because I think he was just like struggling in class or something. And there's this scene where Connery's like, "You wanna write? Write!" And the kid is like, "Well, what am I writing about?"



Author Interview With...

ERIC TAMBURINO



And he's like, "It doesn't matter; write!" Taking that advice when you're sitting there you're like, "Nothing's coming; I don't know what to write," like just start hitting keys, see what happens. Definitely keep writing. Don't be discouraged. Actually carve out time; actually write and fix your writing later. Don't worry about that in a moment; don't be doing the grammar. The other thing, which we talked about a little bit earlier, a lot of people that I meet who are new to writing really, really want to write *The Lord of the Rings*. Or they read all the *Star Wars* books and they're like, "That's what I'm gonna do."

I really recommend short stories for first starting out; I think it's a great way to get a lot of ideas on paper and to get them completed and to hone your craft as well - you'll learn a lot. There's one other friend of mine who has these amazing ideas. And he's a perfectionist and he can just never put it to paper. To actually start an idea that you have and then complete the idea happens in a very short timeline in a short story. People are like, "Well, I don't want it to be a short stories." Work on that. What if it had to be a short story? You can always do more with it later. With some of my short stories that I wrote since *Where Man and Monster Meet* I've actually tried to control the word count where it's like I can't go over five thousand words because if I'm going to submit to a magazine it would have to be under five thousand. For most magazines, anyway - for some it's three thousand, some it's two thousands, you know, it varies. But I picked five thousand and it's like okay, you have this idea; complete it. Hone your craft because you're giving yourself different restrictions. Learn about writing good characters, learn about writing good endings and go from there. One of mine you guys actually did put on the website - it was called *The Dark Valley*. And I have tips for writers my website. When you go to the website, there's the tabs across the top. If you hover over or click on 'Blog' it'll give you a drop-down and in that drop-down is 'Writing Advice'. And also I did end up putting an extra lesson at the bottom and that's for help writing an academic paper so if you're looking for help with that, there is a a brief lesson on that as well.

Like what you see? Find Eric's books and more on his website, WhereManAndMonsterMeet.com. See his book covers on the next page.

But wait, there's more! Eric's interview had a lot more to it - check it out (bloopers and all!) on YouTube or in our audio issue!



Author Interview With...

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Lord of All Hopefulness

By Jan Struther



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

By Ian Wilson



When I was asked to write *Musical Musings*, I initially said yes. When I was told I would write about Lord Of All Hopefulness, I was a bit more hesitant. You see, I have never heard that hymn before a few days ago, but I wish that I had. This song is not found in any of the hymnals in any of the churches I've attended, or if it was, we never sang it. I don't know why; having listened to it now, I see literally nothing wrong with this song at all. In fact, I rather like it.

The tune is the same as used for *Be Thou My Vision*, which is one of my favorite traditional hymns. The hymn itself is not so much a hymn as it is a prayer, petitioning God to grant us various blessings found only in Him throughout the day.

The first verse begins at the break of a new day, entreating the Lord to grant us His divine bliss. The verse is interesting to me because it refers to Christ's childlike trust. It reminded me of a passage from G.K. Chesterton's *Orthodoxy* in which Chesterton refers to God as childlike, in that he never grows weary of things being done exactly the same way day after day. It's true; God is timeless and lives in an ever-present "now". Our Lord Jesus never worried about anything, but He trusted His Father to provide anything and everything He needed, and so should we. God is not sitting on His throne fretting over what might happen. Sometimes we forget that.

The second verse reminds us of Christ's human occupation as a carpenter, and entreats Him to grant us His strength to accomplish our labors. This is useful to remind us that at whatever task we find ourselves, we should do all to the glory of God. Any work that the Christian is engaged in is a holy vocation; one does not need to be a cleric to please God. All things are God's and He will strengthen us for whatever work He has placed in our path.

The third verse reminds us of God's kindness and love for us, His creatures. He will always welcome us home if we listen to His call. I am reminded of the parable of the prodigal son. The father ran to meet his son who had returned home, ready to forgive all that he had done to offend him, and not only that, but hold a feast in honor of his return to the family estate. What a loving God our Lord is!

The fourth verse teaches us that our Lord Jesus is a source of peace and tranquility. He is our peace; peace with God the Father, peace with our fellow man and peace with ourselves. I think too often we are consumed by the noise and business of this world and don't hear the voice of Our Lord when He is trying to tell us something important. We need to learn to turn off the noise and hear what He has to say to us.

The third exciting installment of Ian Wilson's Camelot cycle!

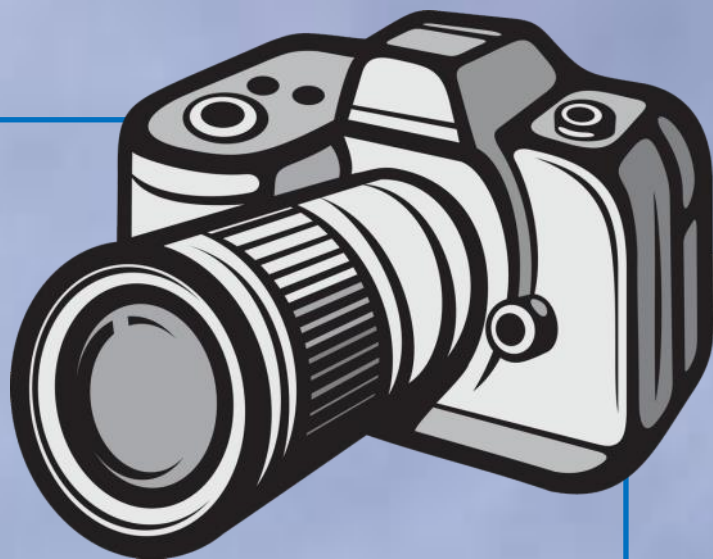
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The Waterfall

By Ryan Ouellette

The golden surface of the waterfall shimmered as the sunlight fell upon it. I gasped, hardly daring to believe it.

Finally, I could be cured.

I climbed over the last rock with renewed vigor. Dread settled in my stomach, stifling any previous excitement.

What would I find here?

So many legends spoke of this place, telling how the most beautiful siren guarded it or how an ancient kingdom of gnomes kept it from outsiders, but only a few knew the truth.

Only one race hoarded anything golden and powerful—and not only were they vengeful, but they were also masters of subtle trickery.

I brushed my fingertips against the veins of solid gold stiffening the side of my face. A stark reminder of my past foolishness. Any sensible person would turn back now lest they face draconic wrath. But I wasn't sensible.

My heart stopped as a shadow flew overhead. A dragon with scales darker than the purest onyx swooped in and landed between me and the waterfall. His fiery gaze locked with mine, drawing a shiver out of me.

"I am the guardian of the Golden Waterfall. Why are you here?"

I craned my neck to focus on the guardian. "My name is King Midas. I've traveled far from my homeland, seeking the power you guard."

The dragon's face came even closer. He took a deep breath. "Yes, you do reek of our gold."

I braced myself for an attack, but he retracted his head a bit. "The day I stole from the Dragon King still haunts me," I murmured.

Memories of flames falling from the sky and crumbling buildings rushed back. Reminders of how I failed my people.

"As it should—but tell me. Why do you seek me alone? You have powerful enemies."

I lifted my chin. "I didn't wish to see any companions die along the way, or accidentally turn them to statues. So I came alone."

The guardian narrowed his eyes. "A wise choice." He paused for a brief moment. "Why do you seek this place?"

This was the hardest part. "I seek to turn my curse into a gift. I exploited it to make myself rich...but it never filled the emptiness. I've given my riches to others, but if this curse could become a gift, I could do more."

The dragon crept around me, as if taking in every angle. "What kind of gift?"

I gulped. "Whatever I touch turns to gold. If I could control what becomes gold and the amount, I can better fix my mistakes."

His breath rolled over my back. "It's a miracle you're still alive after stealing enchanted gold from the Dragon King. Now you're asking for us to turn your punishment into a reward? I can see the curse on your face, slowly turning you to gold. Are your motives truly selfless?"

"It's true that the more I use the curse, the faster it kills me. But I want to help my people. I don't want to leave them now. I still need time to gain their trust back. The material kingdom is restored—houses, towers, altars. But the people don't trust me. I need time to show them I've changed."

"Your death would be the consequences of your choices."

I shifted. This wasn't something I could run away from, but that didn't make the challenge less uncomfortable. "Yes."

"And you want...mercy?"

"Yes."

Heavy silence fell over us for several moments. He stopped in front of me. "The Golden Waterfall can only take away the curse."

My breath caught in my chest. I'd come all this way—only for my hope to be taken away. I straightened, forcing myself to breathe again. "Then I would rather live with this curse."

He stopped. "You would exploit the curse for others even at the cost of your own life?"

"Yes." I forced myself to meet his gaze, as unnerving as it was.

His golden eyes softened. "Your intentions—and your defiance—are genuine. Submerge yourself in the waterfall, and your curse shall become a gift."

I clenched my fists. Was the dragon toying with me all along? "You said it could only be taken away!"

His lips curled in what could almost be considered a smirk. "I lied."

No, he wasn't toying with me. It was all just a test. One I seemed to have passed.

"What are you waiting for?"

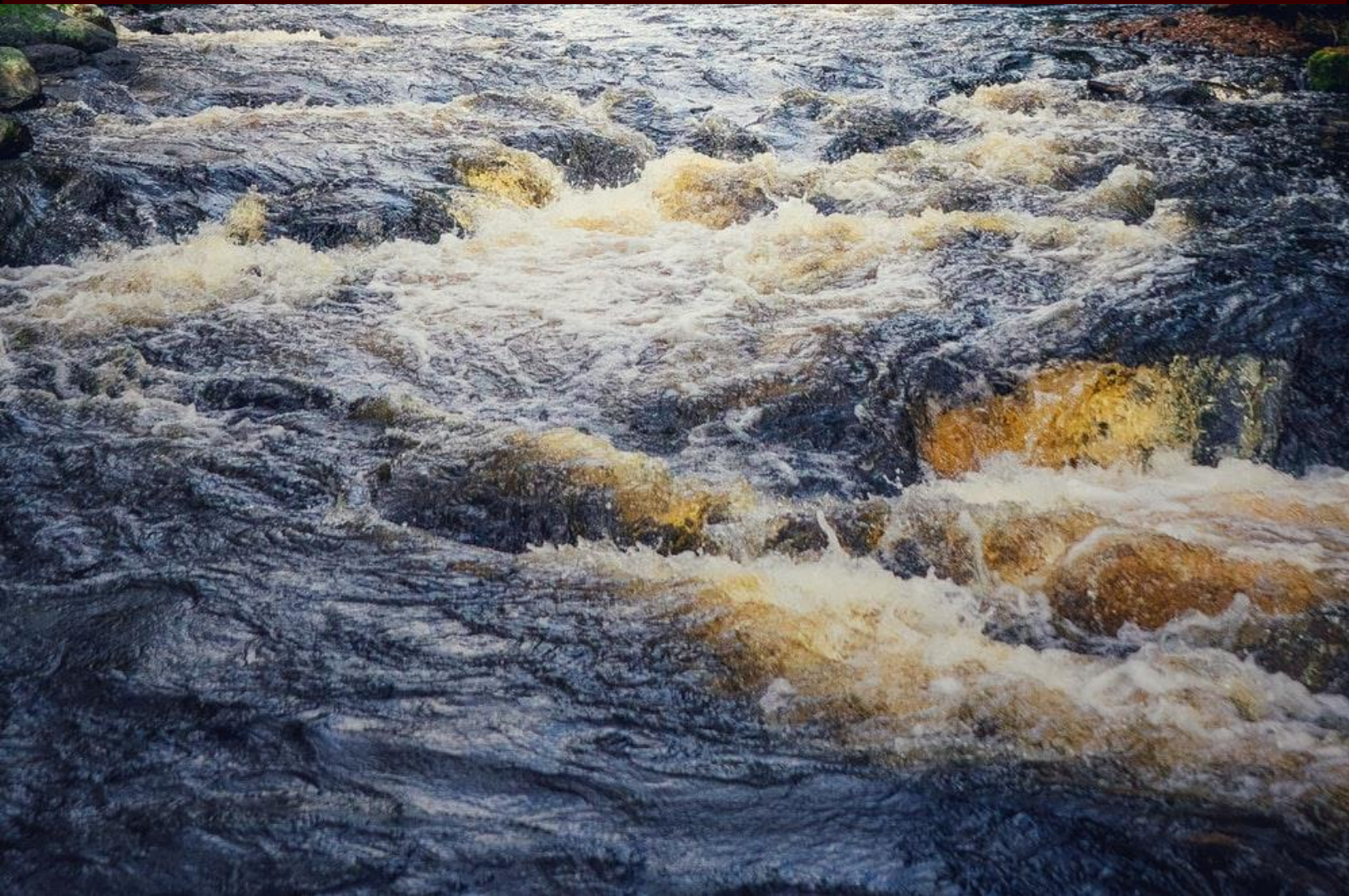
Right..

I walked past the guardian and stopped at the edge of the water.

At the edge of a cure.

I almost didn't believe it.

Taking a deep breath, I stepped into the waterfall.



Book & Media Recommendations

White Collar - this tv show follows FBI agent Peter Burke and his assistant, ex-conman Neal Caffery, as they attempt to catch the white collar criminals of New York City and beyond. The interactions between Burke and his team, Caffery and his less-than-above-board associates are very well written, bringing humor, anger, and many other emotions to the fore. Highly recommended, though I'd rate it PG-13 for sexual content.

- Sarah

Dinotopia is both a book series created by James Gurney (1992) and a TV series from ABC (2002) that centers around a mythical island where dinosaurs still roam and humans live in harmony with them. A great, family adventure following in the vein of Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World and Jules Verne's Journey to the Center of the Earth, any dinosaur fan would enjoy having this in their collection. -Amanda

Dreamhop Music- YouTube Channel. Enjoy soothing music and charming visuals and animations with Dreamhop! Fall into a magical world where anything can happen, where independent artists weave instrumentals great for writing, studying, or relaxing. Great for young and old! -TK

Young Heretics with Spencer Klavan (podcast, produced by Soundfront, found on all major podcast platforms). In his podcast, writer and scholar Spencer Klavan delves into "truth, beauty, and the stuff that matters" through the Great Books of the West, giving you the classical education you may have been denied. - Monica

more

Book & Media Recommendations

The Light Princess by George MacDonald. For those who don't already know, MacDonald had an enormous influence on Tolkien, Lewis, and Carroll (of Alice in Wonderland fame), among others. His short fantasy book The Light Princess follows the story of a young woman who was cursed to have no gravity physically or emotionally. Consequentially, she is always in danger of floating away, and she laughs at everything, no matter how tragic. -Sarah

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suggest?

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LogoSophia@gmail.com

Jake Westbrook is a YouTube channel specializing in gathering and creating playlists of old time music, mainly from the forties and fifties. Each playlist is centered around a theme or holiday and includes some lesser known songs that are great to listen to if you're looking for something different. -Amanda

Merlin: The Lost Years, by T.A. Barron, first published in 1996.

The inspiring story of the legendary Merlin's possible childhood. The first novel gives us a backstory for Merlin's mysterious past, how and why he has magical powers, and even how he came to be called "Merlin" in the first place. Complete with mysteries, incredible creatures and an adventure into another world, The book is a good, clean, fantasy adventure story inspired by Celtic mythology and appropriate for all ages.

Note for those Christians who are squeamish about "magic": Merlin's magic is not depicted as occult sorcery, but an innate gift that our young protagonist has been blessed with by God, similar to characters like Superman who were born with extraordinary abilities, or the historical Samson who was born with supernatural strength. -Tom



The Necessity of Temperance By Amanda Pizzolatto

Do what makes you feel good. Give in to your desires. Live your truth. These and similar lines are being spouted by mainstream media as well as social media. It sounds good, right? And therein lies the catch. What makes us feel good isn't always good for us. Like a piece of candy or piece of cake, many of these things are not bad in and of themselves; it is the excessive consumption of these things that are not good for us. We will get sick if we eat too much cake and candy and not enough vegetables, fruits, grains, and meat as the latter has vitamins and nutrients our body needs to function. So then what must we do? How can we battle this? The answer is temperance.

Temperance, in short, is discipline, typically self-discipline, something many have trouble with. Sometimes we don't know when to say no to ourselves, especially when we feel like we deserve the treat, and many times we do deserve it. But how much sweeter would it be if we held off on treating ourselves for a little bit longer, if we worked harder for it. How much stronger would we be if we said no to ourselves a little more often, especially way before we get to that point of going too far.

Basically, temperance is moderation, a moderation in everything, as the saying goes. As with just about everything, going too far to either side of the pendulum can prove to be rather unhealthy for us. The key is finding the middle, that balance, that really keeps our bodies, and our minds, souls, and hearts, working properly. It also prepares us for life in general, for, like medicine and candy, life is full of nasty but healthy things and sweet but unhealthy things (as well as vice versa). The trick is finding that balance.

So save that piece of candy for another day, hold off on getting yourself that treat for a little longer, made all the more sweeter by waiting just a bit longer, by saying no to yourself this time. In a world filled with a constant "yes", a constant "me", and constant "now", take time for "no", give time to someone else, and wait a little longer. Patience is a virtue, they say, and good things come to those who wait. This is still true, and temperance helps us by showing us the way.



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Bible Trivia!

Answers on the following page

- 1) What Greek word is used to denote the relationship between Abraham and Lot, his nephew and nearest male relative?
 - A. Adelphos
 - B. Agape
 - C. Christos
 - D. Philia
- 2) What are the three major festivals according to the Mosaic Law?
 - A. Passover, the Scapegoat, High Priest Ordination
 - B. Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
 - C. Passover, the Scapegoat, Tabernacles
 - D. Pentecost, High Priest Ordination, Tabernacles
- 3) The prophet Zechariah foretold how, after the exile, the King of Israel would return. How did Zechariah say the king would enter the city?
 - A. Walk
 - B. Ride a horse
 - C. Ride a donkey
- 4) When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (cf Matthew 21, etc), what did this show?
 - A. He was the foretold king
 - B. He was humble
 - C. He was righteous
 - D. All of the above
- 5) On the Cross, Jesus said, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" What was he quoting from?
 - A. Isaiah 53
 - B. Psalm 22
 - C. Exodus 14
- 6) Who saw the Risen Jesus first?
 - A. Peter
 - B. John the Beloved
 - C. Mary Magdalene
- 7) On which Jewish Feast did the Holy Spirit come upon Jesus' apostles?
 - A. Feast of Passover
 - B. Feast of Pentecost
 - C. Feast of Tabernacles

Bible Trivia Answers

- 1) A. The Greek word is used to denote the relationship between Abraham and Lot, his nephew and nearest male relative is *adelphos*, the same word used for those called "Jesus' brothers" in English
- 2) B. The three major festivals according to the Mosaic Law are the Feast of Passover (to celebrate God freeing the Israelites from Egypt and protecting their first-borns), The Feast of Pentecost (aka the Feast of Weeks, thanking God for the harvest) and The Feast of Tabernacles (aka the Feast of Booths, commemorating the wandering in the desert). See Leviticus 23.
- 3) C. The prophet Zechariah wrote, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9
- 4) D. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, it showed He was the foretold king, He was humble and He was righteous. See the answer to #3.
- 5) B. On the Cross, Jesus said, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" He quoting from Psalm 22. The Psalmist feels abandoned and cries out for help, ultimately putting his trust in the Lord despite mockery.
- 6) C. Mary Magdalene saw the risen Jesus first. See Mark 16:9, John 20:11ff
- 7) B. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' apostles at the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, also known as the Feast of Weeks, thanking God for the harvest (see Acts 2, Leviticus 23).



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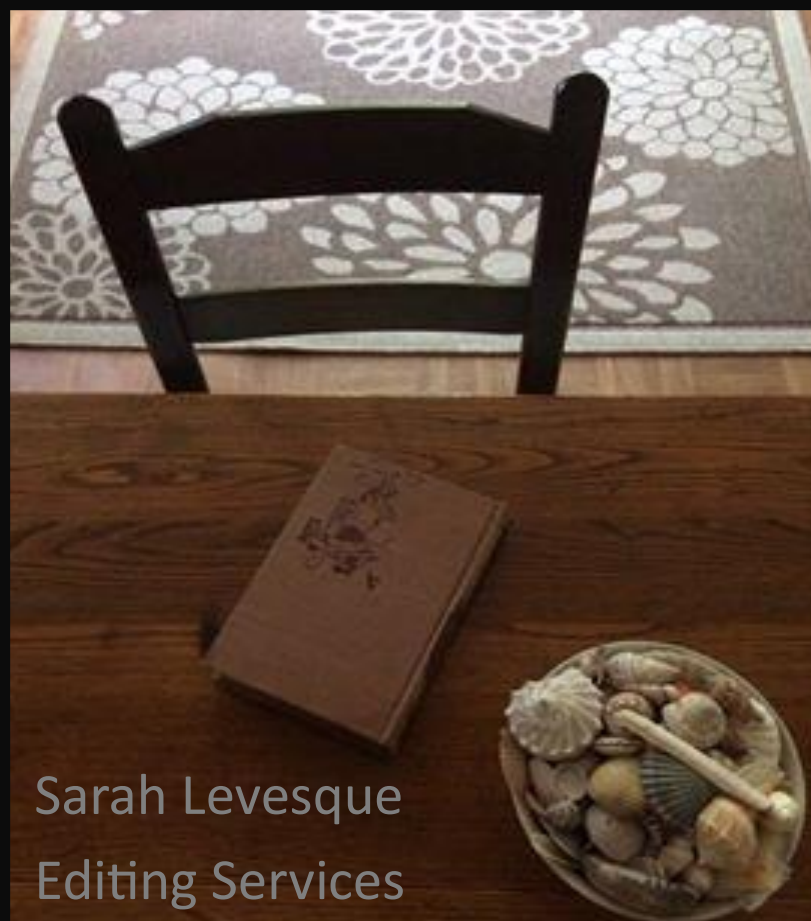
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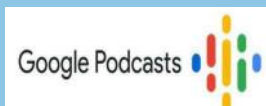
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