

Speculative Realms

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011

The Enduring Love of the Woman-Girl: Who Are We to Disregard Her?

by Gary Haden

There was a big stink raised over Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* some years ago, especially as its sales rose to blockbuster levels. The tale, as you recall, was stitched around the central thesis that Mary Magdalene was the earthly bride of Jesus Christ.

Brown's work of fiction ignited a spate of nonfiction books devoted to debunking the story. The sheer bulk of material produced in response to Brown is testimony to just how disturbed some people get by anything—even fiction—that challenges their faith.

Let's clear some brush here at the start. There is no proof Mary, called, by some scholars, *The Magdalene*, was Jesus's wife. It isn't germane here but you should know there are some skeptics who don't believe Jesus even existed. These folks base that line of thinking on assertions that Nazareth and Bethlehem didn't exist at the time of Jesus. Since Nazareth and Bethlehem didn't exist, Jesus couldn't have existed. I suppose that, since the true authors of the Gospels weren't the actual Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, next they'll say Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John didn't exist. Therefore, the people who wrote the Gospels didn't exist.

That would be treacherous as you'd pretty much have to contend the Gospels appeared out of thin air. Skepticism taken to its ultimate extreme will eat itself alive.

But the point is, for a few skeptics out there, Jesus's nonexistence makes not just his life but his resurrection a fairy tale. And it makes Magdalene, witness to the fairy tale resurrection, irrelevant. So speculation about her relationship with Jesus is pretty pointless.

From what we know so far, we can't say Mary was Jesus's wife. At least, not yet. Biblical archaeology is a vibrant business. There is always digging going on. Scholars are always looking for the next big edge they can get on their colleagues.

But quite aside from the race between scholars for the next big find, the issue is instructive because it exposes the church's—especially the Catholic Church's—attitude toward sex. For instance, can spiritual people engage in it? Are they even allowed? Why does the notion of a sexual Jesus scare so many people?

After all, the Buddha was sexual in his life. He and his wife were so enraptured by passion they fell off a roof making love and kept at it even after they had soft-landed in a garden. Yet, no one questions Buddha's asceticism or his purity and devotees obviously have no problem revering him. It is also interesting to note, tangentially, that where it is okay to proclaim oneself (and everyone else) the Buddha, to proclaim oneself the Christ is deemed megalomania. You hear so much the phrase "Jesus, God AND man," but it seems as though it is merely a catchphrase and it isn't really taken seriously. Because if Jesus's manhood were truly accepted by the Church, there would never have been any problem with the *Da Vinci Code* or the *Last Temptation of Christ* because there wouldn't be anything wrong with Jesus taking a wife or having a lover. And there wouldn't be anything wrong with proclaiming oneself the Christ.

But obviously there is something that disturbs the Christian priestly caste about this.

It would be nice to contend that this is essentially a male hang-up. However, even feminist scholars have problems with sex, particularly in the case of the Magdalene, where some argue that her status is diminished by a kind of sexual devaluation born in the form of her prostitutionalization by church patriarchs on the one hand and now rumors of her marriage to Jesus on the other. She is a utility for the man to use. Gender and sex become more important than her contributions to the birth of Christianity.

Though some contemporary female artists have no compunction about following the lead of male counterparts in painting Magdalene in full frontal nudity with full erotic power, the fact remains Jesus and Mary are not allowed the humanity of sexuality. Jesus is not permitted at all. Mary's sexuality, fit to the procrustean bed of prostitution by Pope Gregory the Great, is not fully free of utility. She is not a wife but she *is* a prostitute. She's damned if she does and damned if she doesn't.

RESEARCH RESOURCES

- [Anomalist](#)
- [Crankdotnet](#)
- [Emma Woods's Website](#)
- [Fact Check Dot Org](#)
- [False Memory Syndrome Foundation](#)
- [Federation of American Scientists](#)
- [FindArticles.com](#)
- [Glossarist Dictionaries](#)
- [Independent Investigations Group](#)
- [Joe Nickell](#)
- [Journal of Scientific Exploration](#)
- [JSTOR.ORG](#)
- [Law.com's Law Dictionary](#)
- [Magonia](#)
- [Paranthropology](#)
- [Philosophical Terms and Names](#)
- [Rhine Research Center](#)
- [Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice](#)
- [Skeptic's Dictionary](#)
- [Sleep and Hypnosis: An International Journal](#)
- [Sleep Paralysis Page](#)
- [SUNlite](#)
- [The Trickster Book by George Hansen](#)
- [The Word Nerds](#)
- [Trickster's Way Online Journal](#)
- [When Healers Harm](#)

THE LATEST

[Annie Jacobsen](#) Kepler Space Telescope
Libya NATO Fukushima Syria

[Recommended Reads: A History of Area 51](#), Patch.com

Then along came Annie Jacobsen who managed to gain interviews with men who worked at the base. These men, now in their senior years, provided information on the site and allowed her access to military and intelligence personnel, scientists, pilots, ...

[Dubious Book: Area 51 by Annie Jacobsen](#)
Left Eye On Books

Dwayne A. Day, writing at The Space Review, notes that he does not have additional sources confirming this, but: many of the elements that Annie Jacobsen's source used in her Roswell story are there in [science fiction writer James] Blish's short story ...

['Area 51' expose by investigative reporter](#)
Plain Dealer

The real Area 51, as depicted in investigative journalist Annie Jacobsen's often fascinating, ultimately exasperating expose, is, on the whole, less spooky than its Hollywood persona. Ultra-secret, yes, but more "Dr. Strangelove" than "The X-Files" ...

[The United States of conspiracy: Why more](#)
New York Daily News

BY Annie Jacobsen The truth, many Americans insist, is not what it seems. On the verge of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, about 15% of your fellow citizens still believe that the attacks were the result of a clandestine "controlled demolition" ...

powered by Google™

Web2PDF

converted by [Web2PDFConvert.com](#)

There is no specific identification of Mary Magdalene as a prostitute in the Bible. Since her stigma is not biblical, the problem was the Church's and Pope Gregory's. Even though Gregory's actions were rationalized as providing solace to sinners, it is very difficult to escape from Magdalene's historical stigmatization by the Church with any other conclusion but that the Church had a problem with sex. And it seems plausible to conclude that there is a direct parallel between this problem and the problem the first pope, Peter the Apostle, had with Mary.

The Church still has a problem with sex—even as the Church corrected Gregory in 1969, noted that there was no evidence Magdalene was a prostitute, and proclaimed her a disciple.

Well, she was considerably more than a disciple. And she wasn't just an "apostle to the apostles" like some waitress in a five-star.

She was an apostle, period.

THE DEHUMANIZATION NESTED IN ASEXUALITY

There's something that happens in the human psyche, according to psychoanalysts, called the *Return of the Repressed*. The psychological task of the vow of chastity, that of sublimating sexual ecstasy into spiritual ecstasy, sometimes fails. Sexuality has to go somewhere and in the psyche of some priests it colonizes innocence. This is why the vow of chastity has been connected to the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church. Confused sexually by the vocational requirements of chastity, and its insistence on innocence, the molesting priest projects his sexuality onto an innocent child. The vow infantilizes the priest's sexuality. As a result, the priest sexualizes the infant.

The vow of chastity becomes an instrument of perversity.

This is not meant as an anti-Catholic polemic. I've read and admired the Church's Saints and been taught by their theologians. There is breathtaking beauty in the Church's symbolism and in fact one of the greatest works of art in history, the *Ecstasy of St. Teresa*, evokes as near as humanly possible a sublime mutual orgasm between God and Devotee.

Nor is the Church alone in its fallenness. The Protestant Church has had its own problems with witch hunts and sexual red scares. Its paranoid herding of the "un-churched" into hell in some Sunday sermons is particularly grating.

But equally, child molestation is not an internal affair of the Catholic Church. We've seen where that took us. The Church's cover-up of the abuse was yet another example of the nonviability of self-oversight. And if it can't stop itself, stop the abuse, the law, at least in America, will.

It is important to bracket the fact that the scandal can give the impression that all Priests are child molesters. The perpetrators were a small percentage of the caste. The landslide, overwhelming majority of Priests are not even close to being child molesters. The problem comes in the comparative math: The population of children molested or sexually assaulted in the Catholic Church *should equal zero*. It is decidedly not zero. Nor does euphemistic percentage math reduce the impact of that result.

The Catholic Church has recently taken extraordinary steps to address the problem of pedophilia in the priesthood but it isn't likely the exorcism is complete. The problem is very likely to continue to exist as long as the vow of chastity is a staple requirement of priests. The vow should be an *option* for those who find it appealing but it should not be *mandatory*. Priests should not only be allowed to have sex they should be allowed to marry. If the question of Mary Magdalene's marriage to Jesus has any backdoor value at all it is in valuing the manhood of Jesus and the manhood of priests and thereby *their humanity* and their ability to *relate to humanity*.

And Mary's story, setting aside the unproven marriage issue, is even more a hom of plenty for the Church. Most people outside the Catholic Church, and many, silenced or otherwise, within it, see what it most needs to do. They understand what Her penance should be: Allow priests to marry and ordain women. There is no reason whatsoever for the Church to continue to torture the humanity of its clergy and silence the call to priesthood so many women hear.

There are those who feel that Mary as Prostitute offers an important message to sinners. If Magdalene can be forgiven and loved by God, well then, so can I, they say. It is pretty to think so. But it seems pretty clear that her stigmatization was a repressive act designed to keep women in their place. The myth that Mary was a prostitute was Gregory's fiction and his move has been critiqued as an effort to demean Mary's status as a disciple of Jesus and more properly repose apostolic authority safely in the loving arms of disciples with penises. *How Essene of them*.

And there's still something wrong with sex.

There's a nested notion that Mary can't be sexual unless there's something sinful about it. Something's got to be wrong with her, after all *she's female*. I suppose in a theology of Wall Street prostitution comes out okay, but it is not sex for sex's sake. By embracing the prostitution myth are we permitting Mary an orgasmic experience or is it doubling for something else? Such as nested contempt for her authority? And doesn't it still imply that only sluts enjoy sex?

Understanding, of course, that, in Wall Street Theology, not all prostitutes are sluts and are in fact business women, some with MBAs, who watch Maria Bartiromo Saturday mornings like the rest of us.

THE SCIENCE NETWORK PODCASTS

- [INC/SCCN Open House Hi Lite Reel](#)
- [INC/SCCN Open House Hi Lite Reel](#)
- [Gert Cauwenberghs](#)
- [Gert Cauwenberghs](#)
- [INC Presentation](#)

THE SCOOP SHEET

- [Today's News With Alternative Feeds and Think Tanks](#)
- [Terror Economies, Perverting Language, and Msogyny](#)

NEWSJACK— TOPICAL SKETCH SHOW

DAKTARI IMPOSSIBLE

- [UFOlogical Suspension of the Ethical](#)
- [Gawd Awful Time for Paranormal Cognoscenti](#)
- [Mndwebs](#)
- [The Uncomfortable Juxtaposition: Lennox versus Hawking](#)
- [The Interesting Juxtaposition: Is Mothman the Answer to Our Economic Woes?](#)

KURZWELAI.NET ACCELERATING INTELLIGENCE NEWS

- [Better brain maps](#)
- [New tool may yield smaller, faster optoelectronics](#)
- [How the visual system constructs moving objects](#)
- [Bacteria-produced nanowires can act like a biological transistor](#)
- [Sifteo announces upcoming availability of Sifteo cubes](#)

SCIENCE SCIENCEWEEKLY | GUARDIAN.CO.UK

- [Science Weekly Podcast: Man's best friend? In Defence of Dogs](#)
- [Science Weekly podcast: GM drugs, Juno and Jupiter](#)

THE PROCESS IS...

- [Lies, Levitation, and Defamations Most Foul](#)
- [Remembering Lies: Interview with Psychiatric Abuse Victim Jeanette Bartha](#)
- [Electric](#)
- [Last Train to Transcendental](#)
- [Imagining the World without You](#)

JULIAN BAGGIN

- [The Shrink & The Sage: Habit](#)
- [Clemency still has its place](#)
- [The Shrink & The Sage: Independence](#)

FORUM NETWORK | PUBLIC LECTURES PODCAST

- [Net Delusion: Dark Side of Internet Freedom](#)
- [Fab Lab: How to Make \(Almost\) Anything](#)
- [Exorbitant Privilege: Rise, Fall and Future of the Dollar](#)
- [Exorbitant Privilege: Rise, Fall and Future of the Dollar](#)
- [Understanding Porpoises Using Technology](#)

I agree with some feminist commentators that, at least in part, though underhandedly, the prostitute myth allowed Mary her sexuality but the myth casts sex as sin and therefore as, still, something that is wrong. The Church doesn't get over the problem it has with sex and feminist attempts to liberate Mary's sexual persona by invoking the sexiness of prostitution doesn't quite dispense with the issue, either. It's a kind of negative narcissism, something that occurs frequently in abused populations, where a victim falls in love with her victim status and becomes proud of it.

It is a kind of sexual Stockholm Syndrome. It might seem like an assertion of Mary's right to orgasm in the sphere of sexual politics but it says more about the people asserting those rights and the *time they live in* than it does about Mary and the time she lived in. At bottom, *Mary was not a prostitute*. She was never identified as such in the Canon—the Canon identified as authoritative *BY THE PATRIARCHY*. There is something not quite right about feminists reanimating Pope Gregory's contempt for Magdalene by a kind of sexual-political retrofit. It is both an anachronism and a Stockholm Syndrome improvisation.

It dehumanizes and zeroes out her sexuality.

It makes for good art but is that really Mary or even fair to Mary? Who was she really?

THE AUTHORITY PROBLEM AND THE RESURRECTION

The *canonical, patriarchal* Gospels contend that the resurrected Christ appears *FIRST TO MARY MAGDALENE*.

That's not some Gnostic heresy. Jesus didn't appear first to Peter, or to the self-appointed beloved Disciple, John (who some contend *may have been Mary Magdalene*), or to his brother James or even to Mother Mary.

He appears FIRST to Mary Magdalene.



Correggio's Noli Me Tangere

Why?

If apostleship is a "man" thing, why does Jesus unveil the resurrection to a woman?

It is certainly natural to conclude that he appears to Magdalene because she was his wife and his wife would be the first in line. It is also understandable that some feminist scholars have a problem with that. The role of wife, to them, isn't much of an improvement over the role of prostitute. It is still a subservient role. The female is always put in her place. She is always subordinate to the male. If it isn't the role of prostitute, it's the role of wife. It is the same old misogynistic claptrap and it is an insult to Mary's apostolic status.

No, they say. Mary was the first because *she was the beloved disciple*, something that gets hinted at in Gnostic texts. She was given secret teachings by the Master. She was an apostle. What's more, she was the most *advanced* apostle. Jesus *chose* to appear to her first. We have to assume that was an *informed* choice. If it was not an informed choice, are we then saying the Master was mistaken? And if the Master was mistaken in this might he not have been mistaken in other things?

Legend has it, the Master was sinless and did not make mistakes.

This is not Jesus's first mistake, a curious anomaly we can all sneeze our way past. This

BRITANNICA BLOG » THE FUTURIST

- [Surviving the Great Recession's Aftershocks](#)
- [Kyoto: City of a Thousand Futures](#)
- [Nurturing the Spirit in the Age of the Web](#)
- [Reviving the Aral Sea](#)
- ["Waste Heat" a Potential Threat to the Climate](#)

UFO RELIGIONS

- [More Journalistic Incompetence in Reporting on "ET DNA"](#)
- [Probability of ET Life Arbitrarily Small](#)
- [Junk DNA as Evidence of ET Life in our Genes? Try Again.](#)
- [Could We Tell An Advanced ET from God?](#)
- [Geraldo Rivera Predicts Alien Contact in 25 Years](#)

DR. DAVID CLARKE

- [The Inconvenient Truth is Out There...](#)
- [If you go down to the woods \(again\)](#)
- [Hilary Evans 1929-2011](#)
- [Aliens in the imagination](#)
- [UFOs and the Vietnam War](#)

POINT OF INQUIRY

- [Donald Prothero - The Psychology of Cryptozoologists](#)
- [David Frum and Kenneth Silber - Conservatives and Science](#)
- [Jaco Gericke - Confessions of a Died-Again Christian](#)
- [Rebecca Watson - Skepticism and Feminism](#)

PHILOSOPHY BITES

- [Nick Bostrom on the Simulation Argument](#)
- [Luc Bovens on Catholicism and HIV](#)
- [Peter Singer on Henry Sidgwick's Ethics](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery 'Picturing Philosophers' a free tour](#)
- [Victor Tadros on Punishment](#)

21ST CENTURY RADIO WITH DR. BOB HERONIMUS, PH.D.

- [Dr. Gay Bradshaw, PhD: Elephants on the Edge](#)
- [Chesapeake Climate Action Network and Baltimore Free Farm](#)
- [Hour One with Nancy Jo Fox author of Liberties with Liberty The Fascinating History of America's Proudest Symbol - 7/17/11](#)

BAD UFOS: SKEPTICISM, UFOS, AND THE UNIVERSE

- [ASkeptic does the MJFON Symposium - Part 5 of 5](#)
- [ASkeptic does the MJFON Symposium - Part 4 of 5](#)
- [ASkeptic does the MJFON Symposium - Part 3](#)
- [ASkeptic does the MJFON Symposium - Part 2](#)
- [ASkeptic does the MJFON Symposium - Part 1](#)

SKEPTICALITY: THE OFFICIAL PODCAST OF SKEPTIC MAGAZINE

- [Skepticality #162 - Bill Nye "the Science Guy" - Guest: William Sanford Nye](#)
- [Skepticality #161 - TAM9, Tyson From Outer Space - Interview: Neil deGrasse](#)

appearance was made for a reason. Mary Magdalene, some feminist scholars contend, and not Peter or Paul, was the founder of Christianity. She was the first witness to the resurrection, the discoverer of the Empty Tomb, and that Christ favored her with the honor conferred upon her the title of founder.

Why then is Mary not amplified in the "canon"? Is the reason we don't see more of Mary Magdalene in the "canon" the something-less-than divine intervention of the patriarchy, orchestrated to suppress her influence?

If you subtract the intervention, remove the tumor so to speak, what remains?

If Jesus's decision-making is authoritative—and it makes no sense to surmise that it suddenly became stricken with error, especially in the advanced spiritual state of resurrection—then it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that Mary Magdalene was extremely important to him. If Jesus's decision-making is authoritative, she must have been more important than Peter. And in the Gnostic texts one of the things that pokes out right away is the fact that Peter had a problem with Mary Magdalene. He didn't like her teaching. He is jealous of Jesus's love for Magdalene. He implies that she was lying about the resurrection. And according to the *Pistis Sophia*, he doesn't like women.

The man called the "first Pope" had a problem with women. Is it all that surprising then that the Catholic Church, to this day, refuses to ordain women to the priesthood? Is being a nun or a mother superior really the same thing? And if Mary was good enough for Jesus isn't that good enough theological ground for female priesthood? It is telling that the Church doesn't think so. Who, then, is the Church's Master, if not Jesus Christ? When the Master said to Peter, "get thee behind me, Satan," did Peter ignore the Master's command? Is that the Church's theological ground for denying the priesthood to women?

Peter apparently had an authority problem that went beyond just his contempt for Magdalene. In the Gnostic texts, he doesn't just question Magdalene's authority but Jesus's authoritative choice of her as recipient of secret teaching not bestowed upon the male members of the community. And this authority problem doesn't appear in Gnostic texts alone.

In the Gnostic *Gospel of Mary* (GOM), Peter asks Magdalene to tell them what Jesus taught her. After she does so, Andrew says, "Say what you will about the truth of the things she has said, but I do not believe that the Savior said these things. For indeed these teachings are strange ideas!" (*Gospel of Mary, Coptic version*, (GOMCV) 10:2, taken from *The Complete Gospels*, citation below, p. 365.)

"Did he, then, speak with a woman in private without our knowing about it? Are we to turn around and listen to her? Did he choose her over us?" Peter asks. (GOMCV 10:3, 4; *The Complete Gospels*, p. 365.)

Mary weeps and says to Peter, "Peter, my brother, what are you imagining about this? Do you think that I've made all this up secretly by myself or that I am telling lies about the Savior?" (GOM Scholars Version (SV) 10:5, 6, *The Complete Gospels*, p. 365.)

Then there is an intervention on Mary's behalf. Levi says to Peter, "Peter, you have a constant inclination to anger and you are always ready to give way to it. And even now you are doing exactly that by questioning the woman as if you're her adversary. If the Savior considered her to be worthy, who are you to disregard her? For he knew her completely and loved her devotedly." (GOMSV 10:7-10; italics indicating the scholars' conception of implied language.)

Was this knowledge carnal?

Some go to another Gnostic text, the *Gospel of Phillip* (64:34-64:5), to bolster claims that Jesus knew Mary sexually: "And the companion of the S[avior . . .] Mary Magdalene [. . . loved] her more than [all] the disciples [and used to] kiss her [often] on her [. . .]. The rest of [the disciples . . .]. They said to him, 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Savior answered them, 'Why do I not love you like her?'" (Quoting the notes to the GOM from *The Complete Gospels*, page 365.)

Elaine Pagels corrects the lacuna, the bracketed material indicating places where the original text is damaged, the following way:

". . . the companion of the [Savior is] Mary Magdalene. [But Christ loved] her more than [all] the disciples and used to kiss her [often] on her [mouth]. The rest of [the disciples were offended by . . .].

They said to him, 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Savior answered and said to them, 'Why do I not love you as [I love] her?'" (*The Gnostic Gospels*, citation below, p. 64.)

If you look at Mary's *strange ideas*, however, you get a sense that the flesh was something not indulged but overcome. There is in fact a kind of Hindu flavor of desirelessness in her lesson:

"And Desire said, 'I did not see you go down, yet now I see you go up. So why do you lie since you belong to me?'

"The soul answered, 'I saw you. You did not see me nor did you know me. You *mistook* the garment I wore for my *true* self. And you did not recognize me.'

"After it had said these things, *the soul* left rejoicing greatly.

Tyson

- [Skepticality #160 - Paranormality - Interview: Professor Richard Wiseman](#)
- [Skepticality #159 - From Darwin to The Ledge - Interview: Matthew Chapman](#)

THE SKEPTIC ZONE

- [The Skeptic Zone #147 - 12.Aug.2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #146 - 6.Aug.2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #145 - 29.July.2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #144 - 23.July.2011](#)
- [The Skeptic Zone #143 - 15.July.2011](#)

WHO SPILLED MORE BLOOD IN THE 20TH CENTURY?

Science
Religion
It is a tie
Not a fair question

Votes so far: 45

Poll closed

SEARCH THIS BLOG

powered by 

DISCLAIMER

The Author of this blog is not responsible for comments made in the comments section. Opinions expressed there, except those of the blogger, are solely owned by the commenters.

FRIDAY NIGHT COMEDY FROM BBC RADIO 4

- [FriComedy: Peter Hook John Cooper Clarke](#)

UNBELIEVABLE?

- [Unbelievable? 13 Aug 2011 - Hitler & Stalin's regimes - 13 August 2011](#)
- [Unbelievable? 6 Aug 2011 - Bart Ehrman & Darrell Bock on "Forged" - 06 August 2011](#)

DHARMA PODCAST

- [Natalie Goldberg: 8-10-2011: A Teacher's Legacy](#)
- [Kaz Tanahashi: 8-4-2011: Dharma Blossoms](#)
- [Dogen Sesshin Series: All 5 Parts](#)
- [Kaz Tanahashi & Beate Stolte: 8-02-11: Dogen Sesshin: Dharma-Blossoms \(Parts 5 of 5\)](#)
- [Kaz Tanahashi & Beate Stolte: 8-01-11: Dogen Sesshin: Dharma-Blossoms \(Parts 4 of 5\)](#)

RADIO NATIONAL - THE SPIRIT OF THINGS

- [What To Say To Suffering and Death](#)
- [An Evening With John Lennox](#)
- [Couples: In the Light of Love - Una and Denis Glennon](#)
- [Play It Again God](#)
- [Global Village, or Techno-Tribalism?](#)

CONTEMPORARY PSYCHOANALYTIC MUSINGS

- [Richard Geist delineates Self from Ego Psychology](#)
- [Review of "Gaslighting, the Double](#)

"Again, it came to the third Power, which is called 'Ignorance.' [It] examined the soul closely, saying, "Where are you going? You are bound by fornication. Indeed you are bound! Do not pass judgment!"

"And the soul said, "Why do you judge me, since I have not passed judgment? I am bound, but I have not bound. They did not recognize me, but I have recognized that the universe is to be dissolved, both the things of earth and those of heaven."

"When the soul had overcome the third Power, it went upward and it saw the fourth Power. It had seven forms. The first form is Darkness; the second, Desire; the third, Ignorance; the fourth, Zeal for Death; the fifth, the Domain of the Flesh; the sixth, the Foolish Wisdom of the Flesh, the seventh is the Wisdom of the Wrathful Person. These are the seven Powers of Wrath."

"They interrogated the soul, "Where are you coming from, human-killer, and where are you going, space-conqueror?"

"The soul replied, "What binds me has been slain, and what surrounds me has been destroyed, and my desire has been brought to an end, and my ignorance has died. In a world, I was set loose from a world and in a type, from a type which is above, and from the chain of forgetfulness that exists in time. From now on, for the rest of the course of the [due] measure of the time of the age, I will rest [i]n silence." (GOMSV, 9:2-29, *The Complete Gospels*, pp. 363-365; italics equaling implied language.)

This passage would not be considered *strange* if it were cut and pasted into the *Bhagavad Gita*. It is filled with ascetic wisdom and an underlying almost Buddhist notion of ignorance. Given that three of the powers of wrath are desire, the domain of the flesh, and the foolish wisdom of the flesh, it doesn't sound like flesh worship. It sounds as though the Gnostic Mary is a devotee of an ascetic master and ascetic masters typically aren't actively sexual. In her Gospel, Desire mistakes the body for the Soul. "You mistook the garment I wore for my true self."

In view of this, it is hard to contend Mary's own Gospel argues for a sexual relationship. Also, it isn't surprising modern Gnostics feel quite comfortable incorporating Buddhist and Hindu traditions in their practices. Was it the influence of burgeoning Eastern trade? Or was it genuine? Or both?

"In the Coptic version [of the *Gospel of Mary*]," say the Scholars of *The Complete Gospels*, at page 365, "Levi calls Peter a *wrathful person* and then accuses him of acting like one of the Adversaries (Powers) by opposing Mary. *Wrathful person* is also the name of the seventh form of the Powers of Wrath (9:24). The Coptic version clearly aligns Peter with the Powers that try to entrap the soul, much as Jesus in the Gospel of Mark calls Peter 'Satan' (Mark 8:33)."

Following the Scholars' reference, you can see Peter has no problem questioning Jesus's authority:

"He started teaching them that the son of Adam was destined to suffer a great deal, and be rejected by the elders and the ranking priests and the scholars, and be killed, and after three days rise. And he would say this openly. And Peter took him aside and began to lecture him. But he turned, noticed his disciples, and reprimanded Peter verbally: 'Get out of my sight, you Satan, because you're not thinking in God's terms, but in human terms.'" (*Gospel of Mark, Scholars Version* 8:31-33, *The Complete Gospels*, p. 32.)

Isn't it interesting that after preaching about resurrection Jesus gets a lecture from Peter and, later on, at least according to Gnostic texts, Peter has a problem with the authority of the witness to the resurrection. You can get to the point where you wonder if Peter was really a Christian.

Because he sounds a lot like an insurrectionist whose problem with the authority of the Roman Empire infects his religious dealings. It is as though he is in an insurrectional feedback loop. The insurrection is applied to everything. Even Jesus himself.

For those wishing to prove the Jesus Movement a rebellion against the Empire, the likeliest centerpiece would be Peter.

FINDING THE HOLY GRAIL

The story of the *Da Vinci Code* hints, as was held elsewhere, most suspiciously [Holy Blood, Holy Grail](#), that Mary Magdalene was the Holy Grail.

Was she the vessel through which Jesus was made one with God? Did an ascetic, unselfish, ego denying, unconditional love powerfully thrive between Jesus and Mary? Was the love between them the cross before the Cross? The sacrifice before the sacrifice? Isn't it possible they denied themselves in flesh but indulged themselves in spirit?

Jesus would have been able to practice what he preached in a focused and personal way. Just how personal we may never know. But he could then generalize to his community and to the entire world in a graduated way, culminating in the ultimate act of unconditional love, submission to crucifixion.

Those are questions for people who wish to respect Magdalene as an apostle in her own right, without cunctating before her subservient role to the Man or to the men. And arguably, she is the

Whammy, Interrogation, and other Methods of Covert Control in Psychotherapy and Analysis" by Theo Dorpat (1996).

- "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"
- An Introduction to "Prisoners of Childhood" by Alice Miller (1981)
- The Person of the Patient

MONSTERTALK

- A Connecticut Haunting in a Keen Author's Court
- Ancient Alien Astronauts: Interview with Ken Feder
- Hayley Stevens' Lake Monster Mysteries
- Searching For Sasquatch
- The Zombie Autopsies

COUNT GORE DEVOL'S DEVILISH PODCASTS

- Let's Make a Monster!
- Gary Jones, Robert Dix, Horror of Party Beach & More!
- The Bloody Ape & Jebediah Buzzard!
- Last man on Earth - Part 1

FILM: FILM WEEKLY | GUARDIAN.CO.UK

- Film Weekly podcast: Monkeying around with Rise of the Planet of the Apes and Project Nim – audio
- Film Weekly podcast: Dominic Cooper on playing the Devil's Double – audio
- Film Weekly podcast: Alternative content in our cinemas – audio
- Film Weekly podcast: Jamie Thraves on Treadle Jr and Bobby Fischer revisited – audio
- Film Weekly podcast: Jessica Chastain on Terrence Malick's Tree of Life – audio

DOCTOR MADBLOOD

- Madblood Manor Tour
- Doctor Madblood's Podcast: "30 Years of Madness: The Podcast"
- Doctor Madblood's Podcast Episode #22: "Dimitri Slept Here"

SUBSCRIBE TO

 Posts 

 Comments 

BLOG ARCHIVE

▼ 2011 (34)

► July (3)

► June (2)

► May (4)

▼ April (5)

The Enduring Love of the Woman-Girl: Who Are We to...

Karl Popper and Why Your Abductionist May Be An AI...

The Paranoid Pom of the Repto-Religionists and a ...

Cautionary Tales, Part Two

Cautionary

LABELS

- Acting (2)
- alien abduction church (6)
- American Bullyism (1)
- anthropocentrism (1)
- anthropomorphism (1)
- argument from authority (1)
- Argument from Bloodbath (1)
- argument from ignorance (2)
- argument from omniscience (1)
- Attack on Iran (1)
- Banning (2)
- Blood Feud (1)
- Bozotopia (5)
- Centre for Global Research (1)
- Chronicles of the

founder of Christianity, as she is canonically recognized as the discoverer of the Empty Tomb.

For people who wish to recognize Jesus's humanity, his unproven marriage to Mary Magdalene is a source of comfort in the face of much denial of that humanity. Is the relentless emphasis on his divinity, the so-called High Christology, a dehumanizing influence in the Church, especially in the Petrine lineage? For Low Christologists, people who emphasize Jesus's humanity, isn't it a little too consistent a thread to see Peter deny Christ in the Gospels and to see his Church deny the humanity of its priests? Isn't it still the case that Satan refuses to get behind Christ?

Here again, Mary Magdalene offers the Church resurrection. She could be the canonical justification for ordaining women to the Priesthood. Some have concluded not just that she was the mysterious *Beloved Disciple* but that she was an early incarnation of George Eliot: In fact, they say, she was the *author of the Beloved Disciple's Gospel*, the *Gospel of John*, a Gospel that, many scholars agree, differs radically from the first three and, compellingly, was a favorite of *Early Christian Gnostics*.

Were there ever to surface conclusive proof of a sexual relationship between Christ and Mary Magdalene, the Church's sexual inquisition might finally end and the priesthood would be liberated and given new life. Priests could marry. They could decline the *offer* to take a vow of chastity. The cowardly Petrine demonization of sex and consequent devil worship of sexual wickedness would dissipate and the Church would be more sober about human sexuality and consequently, since they go hand-in-hand, human spirituality.

Liberating women in the church would liberate men. Liberation of the feminine has always been about human liberation, the liberation of humanity as a whole. Here, the psychosexual disfigurement of young men entering the priesthood, damaging not just to their manhood but their humanity, would stop. If the Church were truly interested in ending its disgrace in the sex abuse scandals, it would confess the sin of hatred of human sexuality and acknowledge its dehumanizing influence. Satan would finally get behind Christ.

In the Petrine tradition, Mary Magdalene is an outsider. Her authority was challenged. Her gender was used to devalue her. Because of gender hatred, she may have had to cloak her true role in obscurity so that the Jesus message could survive.

The problem for Petrites is this: For Jesus, there are no outsiders.

His love is for everyone. Atheist, Gnostic, Catholic, saint, sinner, butcher, baker, beggarman, thief. Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Shinto. Woman, man, girl, boy. The President of the United States. The mass murderer on death row. The child molesting priest. His love is unconditional. That makes it divine love. Anything less is an indictment of the power of the Divine.

Unconditional love contains a nested crucifixion. There is an ego death within it. It is an unbiased activity. Because we are largely egomaniacal critters, we don't have the power to do it for long. But if we practice it, we can for a time mirror divine activity on Earth. We can experience a piece of what it was like to be Jesus. We can participate in the Incarnation. We don't usually because we're human. We're fallen. We're imperfect. We get tired.

But Divine love doesn't have these problems.

Too often, in fact to an off-putting degree, Catholic and Protestant Churches consign doctrinal opponents and nonbelievers to hell. There are too many spiritual bureaucrats tabulating venial sins until the total equals mortal sin. Then they favor us with a smile and a polite convocation to hell. I think I'd prefer to be damned vociferously by the Street Preacher. At least he isn't treating the matter of my burning in hell like a scholarly exercise. He has no lengthy checklist. There are no points to go over with the Father Confessor. There are no footnotes and no calculator tape. He's at least honest with himself and me about his contempt for my soul.

I'm hellbound. He knows it. That's all there is to it.

Well, honest or not, they're just giving their Savior more work. His project, legend has it, is to empty hell of its contents, working from the inside out.

That means everybody out.

No man, woman, child, demon, demoniac, or heretic left behind. Petty human vengeance is not an evacuation plan. Pathetic power plays and assertions of authority and threats of damnation are not evacuation plans. They are interment proceedings.

If not, who are we to disregard them? Who are we to damn to hell? Whose authority are we usurping?

Christ brought the message of the resurrection to an outsider. She brought that message to us. Everytime we contemplate her she makes special delivery. What is it? What is the message?

Maybe this:

The truth you might be running from is so small, but it is as big as the promise of a coming day.

Occultary
Tales, Part
One

- ▶ March (5)
- ▶ February (7)
- ▶ January (8)
- ▶ 2010 (59)

Dark Side (1)

- Couter-transference (1)
- Cyberbullying (1)
- Dan Burisch (1)
- David Locke (1)
- David Jacobs (21)
- Doctor Madblood (1)
- Doctor Who (1)
- Emma Woods (31)
- ETH (3)
- Eugenics (2)
- Extradition Act of 2003 (2)
- Faith-based communities (2)
- False Memory (3)
- falsifiability (1)
- fermi paradox (1)
- Fluffcasts (1)
- Flying+Saucer+Nick ukes Psyops (1)
- Friday Fakes (4)
- Gameplaying (1)
- Gary McKinnon (2)
- Gender Issues (1)
- Girl Who Saved Her Own Life (2)
- Grays (2)
- Ham and Egger Review (6)
- Human Subjects Research (2)
- Humanity Plus (1)
- Hybridization-Dehumanization (1)
- Hyperbolic Chamber (2)
- Hypnosis (7)
- hypnotic regression fraud (4)
- Immigration Laws (1)
- Jeff Ritzman (1)
- Jeremy Vaeni (1)
- Jungian Compensation Theory (2)
- Karl Marx (1)
- Madonna Complex (1)
- Mary Magdalene (1)
- mass hypnosis (1)
- Matt Graeber (10)
- MLABs (1)
- Miracle Man (2)
- MMORPG (1)
- Moderation policy (1)
- monkey trial (1)
- moon anomalies (1)
- MPD (3)
- Multiple Personality Disorder (4)
- Munchausen Syndrome By Proxy (1)

POSTSCRIPT—HYMNS OF THE PASSION AND THE RESURRECTION

Southern Cross—Crosby, Stills, and Nash

Can a man's love for a woman make him one with God? In the *Southern Cross*, a man undergoes a break-up, a kind of romantic crucifixion, and finds that music is all he has left. The song is filled with allusions to religious and Grail Legend icons: The man places a call to his lover from Avalon, a port in California, but also, in mythology, the resting place of Arthur, interestingly a jilted lover himself. The Southern Cross, or the Crux, is a constellation boats steer by. The Southern Cross somehow heals and transfigures the Sailor as he journeys through the expanse of the sea.

Though the Sailor has fallen many times, the spirits use him and larger voices call him. What heaven brought him cannot be forgotten. He has been around the world, looking for that woman-girl who knows love can endure.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPK_IV-J3Co&playnext=1&list=PL1CBF469D60064017

Nights in White Satin—The Moody Blues and the Agony in the Garden

What would the strange mixture of a cosmic, unconditional love of all humanity with absolute terror sound like?

Crucifixion was state-sponsored terrorism. Crosses used to line the highways and byways of Judea. The corpses were left on most of them to rot. Wouldn't your mind scream a bit if you knew it was going to happen to you? Wouldn't it scream even as you were declaring your love?

There is a strange chorus in the original recording of *Nights in White Satin* that sounds a lot like screaming as the lead is singing "and I love you, oh how I love you."

Here's a live performance of the song by the Blues but without orchestral and choral assistance.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I59IPomH7Q&feature=related>

Morning Has Broken—Cat Stevens

This is a song many Christian (and non-Christian) churches will be singing this Sunday. It has come to symbolize the resurrection. The feature virtue of this video is seeing Cat in his younger days, in all his glory. This one loads slowly. If it you download it, it plays Ok.

- Music (1)
- Nazi Super Race Fantasy (1)
- New Normal (1)
- Night Terror (2)
- Nora D'Amico (1)
- Paracast (3)
- Paranoid Porno (1)
- Paratopia (2)
- Perspectivalism (1)
- Psychosocial Hypothesis (1)
- Ray Kurzweil (1)
- Regan Lee (1)
- Reptilians (1)
- Repto-Religionists (1)
- Satan Shrinks of Texas (2)
- Satanic Ritual Abuse (2)
- Saucers of Mass Destruction (1)
- Science Fiction (1)
- scientific egomania (2)
- Scopes Trial (1)
- Second Skin (1)
- Self-Injury (1)
- Sideways Worlds (2)
- Singularity (1)
- skepticism (1)
- skeptics (3)
- Sleep Disorders (1)
- Source A (1)
- Special Compartment in Hell (4)
- Spooky Chronister (1)
- Spring Shadows Glen (1)
- SRA (1)
- Starlost (1)
- Super Bowl Predictions (1)
- Survival of the Fittest (1)
- T-Rex Reptilians (1)
- The Final Solution (1)
- The Pickering's (1)
- Thugs of the Universe (1)
- Toxic Slop (1)
- Transhumans (2)
- TV Horror Hosts (1)
- UFO Papacy (1)
- UFO Religion (1)
- Ufology (1)
- UFOLOGY (2)
- Virginia Creepers (1)
- World War III (1)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5sSEkZB6ts&feature=fwrel>

It Amazes Me—John Denver

Just saying his name sends people to the exits. In fact, if your browser stalled just now that was all the people leaving Speculative Realms. But the words to this John Denver song constitute a kind of Gnostic Anthem. The balladeer sings, echoing Mary above, that he knows that the wind will surely someday blow it all [the universe] away. He asks, must we always live in fear? He says that our father watches over us and *our mother provides. God is androgynous. Male and female.*

The tubist here puts the song to images from NASA and elsewhere. While maybe not a technical marvel, I think the analogy is apt.

Sources and Follow-Ups

[To the Dark and Endless Skies, My Love](#)

Robert J. Miller, Editor. *The Complete Gospels: Annotated Scholars Version*. Polebridge Press, Sonoma, CA: 1992.

Elaine Pagels. *The Gnostic Gospels*. New York: Random House: 1979.

[Pistis Sofia](#), Searchable Online Edition.

[Secrets of Mary Magdalene](#)

[Mary Magdalene: An Intimate Portrait](#), Netflix Stream

[Something About Mary Magdalene](#)

Ramon K. Jusino, M.A. [My Appearance on Something About Mary Magdalene on THE HISTORY CHANNEL.](#)

Ramon K. Jusino, M.A. [Mary Magdalene: Author of the Fourth Gospel? \(PDF\)](#)

Dr. Esther A. De Boer. [Did He Love Her More Than Us?](#)

[Women Priests](#)

[Gnosis.org](#), an online resource for Gnosticism containing its corpus, founding documents, lectures and more.

[The Buddha](#), a documentary on the Buddha's life.

Sheila T. Harty. [The Gnostic Challenge to Orthodoxy \(PDF\)](#)


[The Lost Tomb of Jesus](#)

[The Gospel of Judas \(PDF\)](#)

Posted by Gary Haden at 6:44 AM 
Labels: [Mary Magdalene](#), [Miracle Man](#)

0 comments:

Post a Comment

Comment as: 

Post Comment

Preview



[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

Simple template. Powered by [Blogger](#).