

WHY DID THE SNAKE WANT THE APPLE?

*Typing Scope
Pete
Children's
Sermons*

In the story of the Garden of Eden in our Bible, we are told that the snake plays an important part. Adam and Eve were quite happy in their garden until they met Mr. Snake. They had sparkling water for refreshment when they were thirsty. When they were hungry, they just took a bunch of ^{juicy} grapes off the vine, or reached up to take a fig or a ^{sweet} ~~juicy~~ apple off the tree. The sky ^{seemed} ~~seemed~~ to be almost always blue, ^{needed} The bright sun was so warm that they ~~needed~~ hardly any clothes. Ah, how wonderful life was until - until they met Mr. Snake!

There were plenty of animals running in and around the Garden of Eden, and many of them were friendly to Adam and Eve. Big lions came up to Adam to be petted, and beautiful deer ^{brushed playfully against} ~~came up to~~ Eve. Deer are often afraid of people and run away when they see someone, but these deer weren't afraid of Eve. They came up to her and licked her leg and ate berries which she held in her hand. Everyone seemed to get along just fine in the Garden of Eden, but one fellow wasn't content with all of this pleasantness. Can you guess who was the unhappy one? Yes, it was Mr. Snake.

To know why Mr. Snake seemed to be unhappy, to understand why he was always alone, by himself, seemingly planning and scheming, we have to learn something about Mr. Snake's history. You see, Mr. Snake was older than everyone else in the Garden. He looked very young, but he really was very very old.

Let me tell you how I know Mr. Snake was so old.

Long before anyone ever heard about Adam and Eve, people knew about another man named Gilgamesh. We can use the nickname Gilga for Gilgamesh. Gilga was a very strong man who went on a journey around the

the world looking for the answer to a riddle. Gilga wanted to know why everything that is born dies, in time. You see, Gilga didn't ever want to die. Once, a wise man told Gilga that if he could find a certain plant or flower and eat it, ^h he would never die. So, ^o Gilga went on his long journey trying to find this wonderful flower.

When Gilga had gone half way around the world, he met another wise-man who told him he could find the flower growing under the water in a big lake a thousand miles away. "In order to find this lake," said the wise man, "you will have to cross a hot desert and a ragged mountain". Gilga almost died from thirst in the desert, and he almost fell off the ragged mountain, but, as last, he came to the lake of which the wise-man spoke.

Into the water, Gilga dived, down, down until he could hardly breath. Then, at the bottom of the deep lake, Gilga saw the wonderful flower, [!] ~~and~~ ^W With a great burst of strength, he swam ^{TOWARDS} for the flower, and reached out his hand to pluck it from its roots. Alas, before Gilga could pick the flower, however, it was gone, [!] ~~It~~ was swallowed up by a snake. in that split instant.

Poor Gilga never got what he had travelled so hard and long to get, and in a few years, he died, the way all men die. We are told, however, that the snake did not die, ^H he just shed his skin and seemed to go ^{about living} in his new skin, ^{as if he were} ~~like he was~~ just born.

¹ Now, ^{no one} ~~no one~~ ever told me this, but I bet it is true. The snake which stole the flower from the grasp of poor Gilga is the same snake who lived in the Garden of Eden. He was Mr. Snake, The Snake.

^{I believe that} ~~You see~~ Mr. Snake really wanted to be like God. He wanted to

live forever, and he wanted to control everything that happened in the world. He knew, did Mr. Snake, that in the middle of the Garden of Eden was a special tree, called, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. On the tree was ^a fruit ₁ no animal or man had ever eaten. That fruit was not like any fruit that you or I know. It certainly wasn't an apple, although people speak of the fruit as an apple.

Anyway, the snake had heard a rumor that this was a fruit only God ate. The snake also heard that if you ate from this tree, you would get the power to cause things to happen. If you ate this fruit, the snake was certain, ~~that~~ you could cure people who were sick and make a strong man weak. If he ate this fruit, the snake imagined, he could take ^{anything} ~~everything~~ he wanted away ^{from anyone} ~~from everyone~~ else.

Since he already had eaten the flower which kept him from dying (^{he took from ~~the~~ Gilga} the flower), Mr. Snake now desperately wanted this fruit that would make him in every way like God.

This is why, dear friends, the snake spoke to Eve and made her eat of the fruit which she was not supposed to eat. You see, Mr. Snake wanted that very fruit for himself, only he could not get near the tree. Someone had to get the fruit for him.

The Bible tells us that Eve, and then, Adam, ate of this fruit, and from that time ^{on} ₁ they had the power to cause things to happen. They were able to help people or to hurt people. They became like God in one respect. They could ^{build up} ~~be creative~~ or ^{tear down} ~~destructive~~. ~~The could build up or tear down.~~ They could make war or peace.

Mr. Snake never did get to taste of this forbidden fruit. ~~The~~ So he failed in his crafty effort to be like God. The snake is still today something that lives a long-time, but he is not

as powerful as he wanted to be. In fact, most people and animals don't like the snake at all. Adam and Eve got the power that Mr. Snake wanted, but they never ate the flower that fights death. They were chased out of the Garden before they could find out where this flower grew in the Garden. So both Mr. Snake and Adam and Eve had one of the two things you need to be like God. Each had a power the other didn't have.

After Adam and Eve left the Garden, they were never as happy as they used to be. →

They had to take care of themselves now. They had to plant trees and grow their own food. They didn't know how to use ^{wisely} their new power, so they suffered a great deal because, ^{of this} of course, Adam and Eve had many children, and their children had many children. All of this, you see, happened thousands of years ago.

From the wars and hatred ~~that hatred~~ that ~~today~~ ^{TODAY} we see amongst people, I wonder if we will ever learn to use wisely the power that Adam and Eve got for us. *IT ISN'T EASY TO BE LIKE GOD IN ANY WAY.*