

Americanized

May 6th, 2012

The All-Permeating Light

There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:5

Lucifer

Bringer of Light

But this light is a false light that has a singular intention in its illumination, and that is to question the Words of God. Did God really say? It is illumination of an insidious nature.

You were the anointed cherub who covers . . . Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; **You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor . . .**

Ezekiel 28:14,17

Rationalization

Ignoring the true light (and its accompanying conviction) by turning on a lamp of false light and thus soothing the irritated conscience. Craftily employing the corrupted wisdom for the sake of our comforts.

The Anatomy of Rationalization

1. **The Bait** - an opportunity for self's advancement, comfort, or aggrandizement
2. **The Problem** - a slight hiccup on the 'ol convict-o-meter. To do this would mean to do something that is either questionable or outright wrong.
3. **The Justification** - by applying false light and corrupted wisdom the sting of conscience can be quelled.

Illustration #1 - The Questionable Movie

Illustration #2 - The Dubious Tax Maneuver

Illustration #3 - The Pre-marital Indulgence

Shining Light into the Shadowy Soul

Bringing the Light of Heaven to this Earth

The Sin of Self-Entitlement

- Self-Esteem
- Self-Worth
- Self-Importance

A.K.A. - Gluttony

Self-Entitlement. Self-pampering. Adoring attention paid to Self's tastes, needs, and wants. Turning down the bedsheets for the Self-king of the Body, attentive service unto the ring of every demanding bell from the Self-master of the estate.

The Glutton

- a belly
- a prodigal

- one who wastes their body on self-appetite
- a gormandiser - a man who is, as it were, all stomach

Eric, the Glutton

- The Garbage pale Dad (walking in the shadow of the Legend)
- 7 plates of food, 5 Zips Cheeseburgers . . . and still hungry
- Hiding the Croissant
- The Pancakes
- Losing 25 pounds (attempting to solve my belly)

If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Proverbs 23:19-21

Self-Entitlement

Turning down our own bedsheets instead of another's

The Roots of the Damning Disease of Self-Entitlement

It's Mine!

- It's my throne!
- It's my body!
- It's my time!
- It's my money!
- It's my life!
- It's my future!

The 3 Dangerous Rationalizations of Self-Entitlement

1. **It's mine by Birthright** (I inherited this position and I have a claim on all the luxuries that attend it.)
2. **It's mine by Achievement** (I labored long and hard to achieve this success and I fully expect to soak in all its benefits)
3. **It's mine by Cunning** (I have figured out the system and, due to my extreme intelligence and wit, have manufactured a way to steal from the rich in order to spread the wealth to, um, my own pocketbook - and thusly, I feel that I can certainly enjoy the fruit of my cunning labors)

Christianity - Self-Relinquishment

Paristēmi - Pā-rē'-stā-mē

To present and yield unto the rightful owner, the rightful possessor. To place one's self at the disposal of another. To offer up, to relinquish, to make available, to give back to the One who rightfully owns it in the first place.

Neither **yield you** your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but **yield yourselves** unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God . . . Know you not, that to whom you **yield yourselves** servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? . . . as you have **yielded your members** servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now **yield your members** servants to righteousness unto holiness . . . I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies** a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 6:13,16,19; 12:1

What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus . . .

Philippians 2:3-5

Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth (*well-being*).

1 Corinthians 10:24

Upon the Belly

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.

Genesis 3:14

Whatsoever goeth upon the belly . . . them ye shall not eat; for they are an abomination.

Leviticus 11:42

The First Man - Earthy

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:47-50

We are as our Father, the Devil - Eating Dust

Why do you not understand my speech? even because you cannot hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, you believe me not.

John 8:43-45

For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaves unto the earth.

Psalm 44:25

Introducing . . . The Belly God

[Those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned] For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Romans 16:18

[Enemies of the Cross] Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

Philippians 3:19

Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:13

Upon the Belly

Four things that mark those enslaved to Dust of this Earth

1. Eating Dust (strangely satisfied with worldly rot)
2. Minding Earthly Things
3. Making their appetite their god
4. Serving their sexual craving

The Significance of the Belly

The Innermost Place

Gastēr - Gä-stā'r

- 1) the belly
- 2) the womb
- 3) the stomach
- a) the gormandiser

The Place of Self-Entitlement

and thusly death and decay

One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said , The Cretans are
alway liars, evil beasts, **slow bellies (lazy gluttons)**.

Titus 1:12

The Place of Self-Relinquishment

and thusly the Life of Jesus Christ

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according
to thy word.

Luke 1:38a

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary
was espoused to Joseph, before they came together , she was found **with**
child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1:18

Paristēmi - Pā-rē'-stā-mē

To present and yield unto the rightful owner, the rightful possessor. To place one's self at the disposal of another. To offer up, to relinquish, to make available, to give back to the One who rightfully owns it in the first place. **To set at hand** - *to be the bride, the handmaid, the bondservant, the priest.*

And Mary said, Behold **the handmaid** of the Lord; **be it unto me according to thy word.**

Luke 1:38a

This Innermost Place - the belly / the womb

either the place of self-appetite or the home of Jesus Christ

He that believes on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly** shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:38-39

The Significance of the Thigh

The symbol of self-strength

And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him . . . And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. And as he passed

over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Genesis 32:25,30-32

The Hollow of the Thigh

the Huckle bone; the Groin; the hollow space where the thigh bone moves; The sexual region of a man - his potency, his strength.

The Belly and the Thigh

The Symbol of Sexual Appetite, Rebellion, and Gluttony.

The Brass Kingdom

Thou, O king, saw, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, **his belly and his thighs of brass**, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou saw till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:31-35

The Rotting Thigh and Bloating Belly

Then the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing, and the priest shall say unto the woman, The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell; and this water that causes the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot: And the woman shall say, Amen, amen . . . And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, that, if she be defiled, and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causes the curse shall enter into her, and become bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people.

Numbers 5:21-27

The Curse and the Correction

The Curse - life lived upon the belly in the service of the belly-god; a slave to sexual appetite; a hip swagger on the strong thigh.

The Correction - an emptied belly ready to be filled, bearing the fruit of the Spirit; a servant to righteousness; a thigh touched with a limp of utter dependency.

Ehud - The Man of Consecrated Thigh

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms. So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years. But when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of

Gera. . . Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh. So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man) . . . So Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "**I have a message from God for you.**" So he arose from his seat. Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out.

Judges 3:12-17; 20-22

The Belly Made Right (as it ought to be)

The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

Proverbs 13:25

The blueness of a wound cleanses away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Proverbs 20:30