

Was the Serpent a Paedophile?

Sam Toolan

Before university, I was encouraged by my teachers at school to take a gap year abroad so I decided to go to America. I did all sorts of exciting things with lots of other charming young people, but I think the best thing was going to the Creation Evidence Museum in Texas. While I was there I was lucky enough to attend a free lecture called, Was the Serpent a Paedophile?

This seemed like a strange question to me. When I was a child I used to go to church every Sunday with my parents so I knew a bit about the Bible and that sort of stuff. My understanding was that the crafty serpent managed to trick Eve into biting into a forbidden apple, and that led to Adam and Eve's fall from Grace and all that. Yes, but I didn't remember anything about the serpent being a paedophile.

The lecturer – a very thin red-faced man wearing a long raincoat and thick glasses – started by saying a prayer, thanking Almighty God for granting us freedom from tyranny and sin. Then he asked the audience, “so, was the serpent a paedophile?”

Now I knew this was one of those rhetorical questions so I said nothing, but some people at the front of the auditorium murmured, “yes he was!” The lecturer smiled at this. “To those of you with any doubt,” he said, “I'd like to start with the words themselves.”

“Now we all know what the word serpent means don't we ladies and gentlemen? That's right: it means a snake. But, sometimes words have other meanings, and in this case, that's important.”

“Now serpent comes from the Latin word, *serpere*, which means to creep. Creep is another way of saying steal, as in to steal a child's innocence, and that's exactly what a paedophile does, isn't it?” Now a larger part of the audience made encouraging sounds of affirmation, and the lecturer continued.

“But, what about the word paedophile ladies and gentlemen? It's a big word isn't it? It's made up of three syllables, and the middle one is

“do”. Isn't this the exact noise Homer Simpson makes when he makes a mistake? And Homer's named after a famous ancient Greek poet. The ancient Greeks believed that there were lots of gods, so they were obviously strange, and it was a big part of their culture for older men to pick out their favourite young boys. Need I go on?” By this point sighs of disgust from the crowd filled the hall, and the lecturer licked his lips with glee.

“Now then,” he said, raising his right arm above his right shoulder to quieten the audience, “shall we have a look and see what the good book says about this?” To the enthusiasm of the audience he began flicking through the Bible until he found the correct page. “Now then, Genesis 3.” He began to read.

“The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals...’ Well, we know how crafty these paedophiles can be, don't we? Using the Internet to find their victims. I mean look at the name of one of the biggest companies! Apple!

“God knows,” says the

serpent to Eve, ‘that when you eat the forbidden fruit your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ Well, do we want our children to know evil, ladies and gentlemen? We do not! We must keep these evil serpents away from them!

“Now, ladies and gentlemen, have you heard of a writer called John Milton?” “Yes sir! Oh yes!” they cried. “He wrote a long poem about the serpent called *Paradise Lost*. It's a disgusting piece of writing. Milton feels sorry for the serpent. Can you believe it folks? He thought the serpent had had a hard life! And did you know that Milton was blind? That's right, and because of this he made his poor young daughter listen to his filth and write it down for him. Milton is just one example of many who were clearly paedophiles, just like the serpent they all loved!”

By this point the voice of the lecturer was almost inaudible over the roar of the audience. “Slay the serpent paedophile!” they cried, as they jumped up and down, banging desks. “Murder Milton. Murder Milton!”



North Road Loft Conversion

Tom Walker

Durham's new lap-dancing club is struggling to get its feet off the ground. Well-placed sources suggest that the nightclub has only received three visitors since being granted a license in August. Two of these were a pair of rather puzzled Jehovah's witnesses.

An exclusive BluLov poll has revealed a lack of enthusiasm among local residents about the new venue. Respondents suggested that the sight of naked flesh was no great novelty in the North East. "Why (ay) should I pay for that?" asked Saul Gascoigne, of Chester-le-Street. "I heard they've got lasses in there with skirts as long as 3 inches, like." North

Road's obligatory lack-of-a-dress-code looks set to scupper the club's progress.

With the present influx of students into the small city, however, the Loft's prospects appear somewhat brighter. Male students are expected to flock to the venue, visibly salivating at the prospect of catching sight of a female neck sans pashmina.