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Eve the Ezer: Minerva Teichert Award Winner 2021

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Cover Page Footnote

Minerva Teichert Award Winner 2021

Eve the Ezer

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THE GODS CREATED ADAM AND PLACED HIM IN THE Garden of Eden. They saw that Adam was in need of guidance and companionship, so they commanded and instructed him that he could freely eat of almost every tree, except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. While instructing the man, the Gods prepared a woman to join the man in companionship. They named her Eve and called her to be Eve the Ezer: a rescuer, a spiritual guide, a source of help from God.

They explained, “Your role will be important in doing our work and carrying out the plan. You shall be our helper, our messenger, and the one who starts it all. You are called to be Eve, our Ezer. Indeed, you will be a blessed soul.”

The woman then joined the man and together they tilled the Garden. The Gods walked with them, conversed with them, and instructed them. Their time together was drawing to an end in the Garden.

The Gods then took Eve aside and said, “Your work and time is approaching. Let us give you a blessing to provide comfort, encouragement, and guidance on what you were ordained to do.” Eve, confused and curious, listened intently to her blessing with a willingness to do the Divine’s will. In this blessing, she envisioned a tree with fruit, much like the many trees in the garden. But this tree was different. It felt different. She could see something in this tree, but she didn’t know what. She could feel that it was important to the Divine. Eve could sense that there was something about this tree and felt what she was meant to do. The Gods left her feeling loved and assured.

Some time passed for Eve and Adam.

One day they were gathering fruit and plants when a serpent appeared. It went by the name Lucifer and claimed that he knew them. Eve was confused but curious as to who this being was. Lucifer saw Eve and recognized

something about her presence and her questions. He proceeded to speak to her. He showed them fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and explained to Eve that if she ate the fruit, she would be like the Gods, knowing good and evil. Eve, at first sight, recognized this tree. She remembered Adam telling her that God commanded him to not partake of this fruit. But this is not why she recognized it.

She pondered intently at this tree, gently held the fruit in her hands and said, “This fruit. It feels familiar, soft, and pleasant . . .” As she gazed at the fruit, she was reminded of a memory. A memory of a feeling. It was the love and the reassuring feeling she felt in the Gods’ blessing. Eve saw something good in this fruit. It wasn’t clear, but something was coming back to her.

“This,” she thought. “This is what I am meant to do.” She took a bite and said to the serpent, “I am Eve, the Ezer.”

—Genesis 2:7–9, 15–18, 22; 3:3–6

