

CAIN AND ABEL, BLOOD AND WATER

Written by
Matthew Akisanya

Based on
Genesis, Chapter 4

makisanya@hotmail.co.uk

OVER BLACK

SUPER: 'Adam knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bare Cain. She then bare Abel, who became a herder of sheep, while Cain was a tiller of the rich soil.'

TEXT FADE OUT

SUPER: 'In the first year of the third Jubilee, Cain and Abel were tasked by their father to present gift offerings to the omnipotent LORD OF HOSTS to seek his favour and blessing.'

The Book of Jubilees (iv. 1-2)

FADE OUT:

EXT. FOREST PATH - NIGHT

CAIN, late 20s and ABEL, early 20s, walk hastily along a natural path in this spacious forest on a dark night. They are both carrying heavy sacks made of animal skins on their backs.

Cain is a bearded physical type, while Abel is a slender, gentle young man who walks with a shepherd's staff. They are both dressed in stone age type clothing. Cain has a blue shawl round his waist, while Abel has a white shawl around his neck.

Tired Abel stops and leans against a tree.

Cain stops and jogs back to his brother.

ABEL

I'm sure that we have passed this place before.

CAIN

One part of the wilderness looks the same as another.

Cain grabs Abel by the shoulders and turns him round. Abel grimaces from this rough treatment.

Cain throws Abel's sack aside and pulls up Abel's clothing, revealing his back.

Cain pulls out a flint from his back and breaks off a small branch from the tree.

Cain lights the branch and shines it on Abel's back, revealing an elaborate tattoo map of the forest.

CAIN (CONT'D)

For the amount of strong drink our father consumes, he has quite good map making skills.

ABEL

Show respect! The Lord of Hosts moulded him with his own hands, and gave him great wisdom.

Cain stops his finger into the part of the map on his lower back, causing Abel to groan.

CAIN

Not wise enough to keep his hands off forbidden fruit. We should reach Eden in two days.

EXT. GROVE AREA - NIGHT

A hexagon shaped tent makes up a small encampment. The tent is made of animal skins, like a teepee. Wolves can be heard howling.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Quite a spacious family tent. Full of utensils you would find in a stone age home.

A lantern on a table burns between a blue and white shawl decorated side by side on the tent wall.

ADAM, 70+, holds the end of his very long beard into a paint pot, mixing it vigorously. His leather tunic is covered in smudges of paint.

He dips his beard into another pot of paint and enthusiastically mixes like he is making a cake, his face beams with excitement.

EVE, 60+, sitting down, looks contemplative as she mixes a pot of broth.

She tops stirring and looks up at Adam.

EVE

Do you think -- Do you think they have reached it --

She sighs, seeing Adam is paying no attention.

Adam, looks at the bluish color at the end of his beard with glee.

ADAM

Wonderful! My new creation. I think
I will call it Cyan.

The sound of the wolves growling, it sounds more vicious. Eve turns her head to the front of the tent with a look of concern.

EXT. TENT - NIGHT

Eve throws open the entrance and looks ahead.

[STOKE SHOT] - TWO WOLVES are fighting viciously in the distance.

BACK TO EVE

Eve casts her eyes to the ground.

EVE

Sin has started to affect the
beasts. How long before it falls
upon human?

Eve clasps her hands in prayer and turns back into the tent.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

A dead young lamb lays by a riverbank.

A stream of blood flows from the mouth of the lamb into the river.

Cain is suddenly standing over the dead animal, with a sinister look of absolute hate, breathing heavily.

Cain kicks the lamb into the river.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Abel, laying by the tree, jumps up, perspiring.

Abel looks at Cain stirring beside him. He shoves him in the shoulder to awaken him.

CAIN

What!

ABEL

I had a dream Cain! Like I have never had before. My lamb, it was like I was there. You kicked it into the river.

Cain looks at him curiously.

CAIN

I also was having a dream. It was raining blood, the river turned to blood.

ABEL

It is the Lord of Hosts. He is trying to speak to us.

Cain jumps up and puts his sack on his back.

CAIN

I told you, you did not cook that bird well. Affecting the mind and the stomach. Come on!

Abel slowly gets up on his staff, as Cain marches off.

INT. TENT - DAY

Eve puts the flame out on the lantern, then strokes the white shawl.

She goes over to Adam offers him some bread. Adam pays not attention, painting on a huge stone, using his beard as a brush.

ADAM

The generations to come will see this. These events will not be forgotten.

EVE

Come, eat husband.

ADAM

Soon. I am just finishing the judgement of the snake.

EVE

And we all know what happens after that.

Eve glances on the stone, and her disinterest at the artwork turns to look of concern on the striking image.

There are four panels on the stone depicting the story of the forbidden fruit. The paintings are incredibly detailed, like a renaissance painter.

The fourth panel is a disturbing image of a human like snake head, mouth open in great pain and anger.

Reaching the eyeless sockets of the snake, Adam suddenly seems disheartened by his subject. He stops and looks away to his wife.

EVE (CONT'D)

Do you think -- after our sons have found him, will the Lord of Hosts lift the curse?

(beat)

Let us return?

Adam slowly but assertively shakes his head.

Adam limps over to the tent entrance and looks out, as if he was taking in the whole world.

ADAM

On the day you eat thereof, you shall surely die.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Cain hastens his step and Abel is trying hard to keep up with his much more energetic brother.

Cain throws Abel a piece of bread which he devours quickly.

ABEL

What if -- What if the angel with the flaming sword still guards the entrance?

Cain shakes his head in disbelief.

CAIN

I'll piss on his sword. And you can tie him up against the tree of knowledge.

They both laugh hysterically. Abel quickly stops laughing, feeling guilty over the 'blasphemous' joke.

Cain winces, and holds his nose for a second. He glances back at the dead lamb's head sticking out of Abel's sack.

CAIN (CONT'D)

Do you really think the creator is really going to appreciate the stench of a defenceless young beast that you slaughtered?

Abel now realizing the lamb's head is sticking out, pops it back in his sack.

ABEL

Why do you always call him the creator? He is the Lord of Hosts!

CAIN

(sarcastically)

If you say so my dear Abel.

ABEL

I can feel his presence, his wants. He values blood and sacrifice more than anything. Certainly more than your stale vegetables.

Cain stops, looking very insulted.

He grabs Abel by the ear and twists. Abel howls in pain. Cain throws him down to the ground.

CAIN

Didn't our parents teach you to respect your elders?

Abel turns on the ground to look at Cain with a very angry look.

CAIN (CONT'D)

Blood is like water. It enters the body and is pissed out when its job is done.

Abel's anger is quickly changed to curiosity, as he looks all around him.

He crawls closer to the river. Cain looks at him confused.

CAIN (CONT'D)

What?

ABEL

That was the river in my dream.

Cain goes down on Abel and rips open his shirt roughly to look at the tattoo map.

CAIN

It must be the Pishon river.

Cain gets up, looking anxious, he runs to the side.

ABEL

Wait!

Abel quickly gets up and follows him.

INT. TENT - DAY

Eve lies on the ground, washing a garment in a basin.

She looks up on the sound of rushing wind in the tent.

She looks around, trying to find the source of the sound. She stops on the two shawls on the wall, they are lifted up by the force of this strange wind.

The lamp between the shawls is suddenly relighted, Eve shouts in a fright.

EXT. BARREN FOREST AREA - DAY

Cain and Abel slowly move forward, looking at the dead leafless trees.

ABEL

No! This cannot be Eden.

CAIN

It is! Just as our parents described it to me before you were born.

Cain moves closer to look at one of the dead trees.

CAIN (CONT'D)

A garden dies with no one to tend it.

Cain steps in something. He looks down. He has stepped on a circle pentagram made of branches and twigs. In the middle of the pentagram, a goat's skull.

Abel looks extremely worried on seeing the pentagram.

Cain reaches down.

ABEL

Don't!

Cain picks up the goat's skull.

As Cain takes a closer look at the skull, it breaks, and Cain is left holding the jaw.

CAIN

It looks like someone else took residence after our parents were driven out. And not much of a gardener.

Abel looks, tense, as if sensing something.

Abel dashes forward.

CAIN (CONT'D)

What?

Cain tucks the jawbone in his blue shawl, then runs after Abel.

Abel stops at a tree, looking forward, wide eyed in terror.

He drops to his knees with his arms around the tree as Cain moves forward.

Cain stops on seeing what Abel sees, quite disturbed. Abel points his finger to what he sees.

ABEL

The Lord of Hosts!

INT. TENT - DAY

Eve rushes up and stands before the blowing shawls.

She looks at the light and kneels before it, and clasps her hands in prayer.

EVE

Dear Heavenly Lord, Creator of
Heaven and Earth, Lord of Hosts.
Please spare my son from my sin --
At least spare Abel.

Eve closes here eyes, and bows her head as her prayer becomes more fervent.

EVE (CONT'D)

I know you will not harm him. I know -- you will bring the promised one through his seed, because he is pure of heart.

EXT. BARREN FOREST AREA - DAY

Cain and Abel are slowly moving forward cautiously. They are mesmerized with whatever it is they are looking at.

They stop.

They stand before A TREE, but unlike any of the other barren trees in this area, this tree is well blossomed.

The tree is decorated with fine jewels, gold, parrot feathers, honeycombs, and other beautiful items. It looks like an overly ornamented Christmas tree.

Cain walks right up to the tree, ignoring Abel's signals not to.

Cain stops underneath the tree and touches a hanging tortoise shell.

CAIN

He is not here.

Abel becomes less apprehensive and approaches.

ABEL

It must be a representation of the Lord of Hosts on Earth.

Cain starts to slowly move around the tree, taking it in.

CAIN

Not the tree of life then. So who did all this?

Abel shrugs his shoulders. He then has a thought.

ABEL

Maybe those others, the ones that father said were created after us.

Cain nods his head in disbelief and starts to take the bag off his back.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Maybe the Lord has decided it is
time for us to mix with them and
have seed.

Abel is struck by the intensity of the experience he closes
his eyes and drops his body to ground in worship.

ABEL (CONT'D)
This must be a holy place.

Cain chuckles at him in amusement.

Cain holds out his sack, some barley and corn fall out.

He throws the sack at the trunk of the tree.

He then slowly backs away, occasionally looking skyward.

CAIN
I feel really stupid right now.

Cain stops and looks up.

CAIN (CONT'D)
(shouting upward)
Creator! It is I! Cain! First born
man and cursed with Adam and Eve's
transgression. We have followed our
father's instruction, done what you
have requested. Now where is our
reward.

A terrible crack of thunder causes Cain to cover his head.
Abel rolls over in reaction and slowly gets up.

Cain goes for cover behind a bare tree.

Abel moves out of the way as a bolt of lightning hits the
sack. The sack catches fire.

Abel quickly takes his sack off and drops it near the tree
and it.

The sound of the storm quickly subsides.

INT. TENT - DAY

Eve lifts her tearful face up from her prayer to see both
shawls stop blowing and relax in the wall.

She breathes a sigh of relief.

EVE
Oh wonderful Lord!

EXT. BARREN FOREST AREA - DAY

Cain shows his face from behind the tree.

Cain looks at Abel standing before his sack in front of the tree, Abel seems to be in a trance like state.

A beam of light comes from the centre of the tree and penetrates Abel's forehead.

Cain shields his eyes from the bright light.

When Cain looks again, Abel is looking directly at him. With yellow tinted eyes. Abel looks totally calm and assured than he has before, this seems to unsettle Cain.

ABEL
I have seen God.

Cain's look of wonder at his brother changes to a depressing frown.

ABEL (CONT'D)
I am now the older brother, and you
are the younger.

Cain's frown becomes a scowl of rage.

Abel starts to very, very slowly walk towards Cain.

ABEL (CONT'D)
Why has your face fallen brother?
If you do what is right, will you
not be accepted? Beware. Sin
desires to have you, but you must
rule over it.

Abel stops. His eyes return to normal. He appears to have come out of a trance.

He looks to the sky and gives a cry of triumph as Cain looks down to the ground pathetically.

INT. TENT - DAY

Eve happily goes and sits by her washing.

The blue garment drops off the wall. Eve looks up, her elation quickly changing to concern.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAY

Abel and Cain walk by the river. Abel is animated and elated, while Cain looks downcast.

ABEL

It was incredible, my spirit was lifted to his kingdom. The streets are made with gold! Winged angels sing praise to his throne day and night without end.

Cain rubs the jawbone tucked away in his shawl.

ABEL (CONT'D)

He showed me the healing blood of the holy one. He instructed me how we should sacrifice and praise his name --

Cain stops in front of him.

CAIN

Enough! I have heard enough.

Abel looks generally hurt, but is determined to stand up to his brother.

ABEL

Do you not understand? The Lord of Hosts has chosen me to guide our family from the darkness that hangs over it.

Cain shakes his head and keeps walking.

Abel follows right behind Cain as if to intimidate him.

ABEL (CONT'D)

You want to know why you were not chosen? Because you are selfish and full of pride. Remember that pride is what caused the evil one to lose his station.

Cain stops and turns to face Abel, pointing his finger in his face.

CAIN

I'm warning you! BACK OFF!

Cain starts walking at a faster pace.

Abel hesitates for a minute, then runs after Cain.

ABEL

I love you. If you continue down
this raging path, you will always
be a failure.

Cain stops, shouts a massive cry of rage. Then in one quick action, he pull the jawbone from his side and smashes it with great force on Abel's head.

Cain looks shocked by his own actions as Abel stumbles and falls to the ground, his face covered with blood.

Cain breathes heavily as Abel slowly turns his head to him and tries to say something, but he does not have the strength.

Cain looks at the jawbone. He then goes down on Abel and repeatedly hits him on the head.

INT. TENT - DAY

As Eve tries to affix the blue shawl back on the tent wall, the light of the lamp goes off.

Suddenly, the white shawl on the tent wall is torn in two.

EXT. TENT - DAY

Adam is putting seeds into a planting area.

Eve's terrible scream comes from the tent, causing Adam to drop his bag of seeds. He looks towards the tent with great concern.

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Cain sinks Abel's body into the river by pushing his head down.

He then grabs the goat's jawbone on the ground and throws it into the river.

EXT. BOTTOM OF HILL - DAY

Cain rushes along, holding Abel's staff and talking to himself.

CAIN

There was nothing I could do
father. A wild beast struck him.

Cain suddenly stops.

He turns and looks back.

At the top of the hill, a STRANGE FIGURE that appears to be glowing stands there.

Cain continues to look up at the figure, developing fear showing in his eyes.

He drops the staff and begins to run away.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Cain continues to run, we hear him panting in fear.

CLOSE UP - BACK OF WOMAN'S HAND

The hand is painted a gold color. The golden fingernails each have a pattern around a Hebrew letter.

The hand raises up as if giving a command.

Suddenly, daylight TURNS TO NIGHT.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Cain stops in his tracks. He looks up to sky in concern.

Realizes that something is behind him. He slowly turns round, shivering in fear.

It is the figure on top of the hill A WOMAN, visible parts of her body are golden. She wears a robe that is also golden. She has no pupils, eyes are totally black.

The woman opens her mouth. A splitting sonar sound comes out.

Cain holds his ears, falling to the ground.

The woman closes her mouth and the sound ends.

CAIN

How should I know? Am I my
brother's keeper?

EXT. RIVER BANK - NIGHT

Abel's blood soaked white shawl floats to the edge of the riverbank.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

The woman suddenly looks very distressed.

She looks at her hands as if she has blood on them.

She opens her mouth again as if to make a loud cry. She lets out another high pitched scream, louder than the first.

Cain holds his ears and screams in pain. He runs for it.

As Cain runs away, the sonic pitch lessens.

The sound is nearly completely gone.

Cain smiles in relief. He looks back, then trips and falls.

As Cain raises his head, his eyes are crying with blood.

He wipes the tears and sees the blood.

He roles his body to the side, and wails uncontrollably.

EXT. RIVERBANK - NIGHT

Cain crawls his body towards the riverbank, exactly where he killed his brother.

Cain looks totally miserable and desperate. He is still crying blood. And he now has a circular mark on his forehead, made of several Hebrew letter characters, different fonts; some are backward, sideways.

Cain reaches the river. He sees the bloodied shawl and tries to grab it.

His tears of blood drop into the river, mixing with it.