

A Personal Creed on Sacred Texts and Spiritual Insight

By Jason Page

The Bible, to me is not a text to be taken wholly at face value. Much of it, particularly the Old Testament, speaks in figurative terms, rich with metaphor and symbol. As I delve deeper into its language I find it weaves a broader tapestry of understanding about our world and the divine beyond. This perspective becomes critical when considering the pitfalls of transliteration. The Bible was not translated in the modern sense but transliterated, adapted to the cultural and intellectual contexts of its time. Its original languages—Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek— are deeply symbolic, and rendering them into Anglo-Saxon or Germanic tongues often strips away the extent and sometimes a misconstrue of God's teachings. Those who undertook these transliterations were aware of the challenge, yet their efforts, including the widely revered King James Version, fall short of capturing the full depth of the original. Other versions echo these same linguistic limitations. Tools like Strong's Concordance attempt to bridge the gap but remain far from conveying the totality of God's word.

Consider a scenario where a self-proclaimed Christian debates a Muslim, citing their respective sacred texts to dispute the meaning of "virgin" in the afterlife. The Christian might challenge the Quranic depiction, but both often overlook a deeper question: what does "virgin" signify when divorced from Earthly, carnal desires in the flesh? The concept of virgins in the afterlife, as described in Islamic and Christian traditions, is not rooted in physical lust but in a yearning for spiritual purity. These "virgins" symbolize entities of eternal purity, untainted by worldly corruption. Yet the challenge of transliteration muddies this understanding. When sacred texts are rendered into languages lacking equivalent conceptual frameworks the profound symbolism of "virgin" is often lost, reduced to shallow or misleading interpretations.

To truly grasp the Bible's meaning requires immersing oneself in its entirety, a task so vast it may exceed a single lifetime. Those who claim full understanding are either deceiving themselves or swayed by fleeting convictions, symbolically of a lunatic that sways with the tides. Yet, connection to the Holy Spirit doesn't hinge on mastering the Bible's text. It flows through introspective insight, a spark of divine light that pierces the moment. This is the essence of the Holy Spirit—access to a timeless, radiant truth. The Trinity, I see as a boundless highway, transcending time: omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. Love is the unseen force, like gravity, guiding us along this spiritual path, binding all things in its eternal pull.