

THE OTHER BIBLE STORY

"There was a time when Goddess, Priestess, Woman had great power exceeding God, Priest and Man. The Matriarchal System was the order of the day. 4000 years ago things were very different. It is amazing to find out how powerful the feminine influence had been on society and religion. I am stunned by this and all its ramifications." Rolf Gompertz

I come to caress you
To kiss your lips,
To suck your breasts,
To plow your vulva,
I come to your lap
I come to your holy lap
I come to make love to you.
Bless us, Inanna, Bless us,
Bless our wombs,
Bless our fields, Bless the work of our hands,
Bless us with abundance
Of food, of goods, of children and all living things
Bless us, Inanna, Bless us, Bless us, Bless us.' (Invocation to the goddess)

IN THE BEGINNING, WAS THE MOTHER GODDESS, and she reigned in clans, tribes, and communities in Sumer, Egypt, Babylon and Classical Greece. To be a high priestess was a holy calling. All appealed to her, so she would bless the land and the people with abundance and fertility. She was schooled in the subtle art of love, and performed the 'SACRED MARRIAGE RITE', the sexual act of goddess and human being, symbolizing the coming of new life. Every woman had to come to the temple at least once in her life, and lie with a man, to serve the goddess. She could return to the temple at any time during her single or married life. She could not have children and if she did, the child would be sacrificed. Many men worshipped her and cut off their penises to serve. Later in time, castration and circumcision was substituted for the ritual of sacrifice.

This was the backdrop of history in which we find Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, the first family of the bible. Using 98 books for research, and 3 Biblical sources, Rolf Gompertz has written a provocative novel called, 'ABRAHAM, THE DREAMER-AN EROTIC AND SACRED LOVE STORY.' It is the work of a master storyteller using the 'Midrash', the rabbinical tradition of telling stories to shed light on biblical texts. At age 70, Rolf felt that it was time to send a message through the story of Abraham, our founding patriarch. 'I hope', he says, 'you will find my book a value intellectually, emotionally and spiritually as we continually journey in love and service to God and our fellow human beings.'

Through Rolf's work we explore the love triangle of Abraham, Hagar and Sarah; the binding of Isaac on Mt Moriah; the move from polytheism to the worship of one god; and we connect sex and religion, human and divine love.. ALL THIS IN 260 PAGES. Rolf says, 'I really wanted to show how important love is, what it can be like and should be like between a man and woman, when it is right on all levels, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual'. The book is filled with erotic and graphic sex, because Rolf believes that sex is a powerful and basic force in life-the creative force in the universe. By the way, all this is in character with the bible itself which deals openly with sex. (Example- David and Bathsheba, Samson and Delilah, Lot and his daughters, the songs of Solomon.)

I am grateful to Rolf for taking a serious look at our 'holy book'. So many of us believe that every word in the Bible is the work of God. This creates serious problems, because the truth is, the bible underwent all kinds of editing, by many individuals for many reasons. The Hebrew bible with its 5 books of Moses, the 21 books of the prophets, and the other 13 books were only standardized after 5 centuries of handling. We are left with unsatisfactory explanations. What happened to the woman?

Rolf has put back the goddess in his-story and honored her in all her power. Rolf agrees with the many scholars who proposed that Sarah, our first patriarch, was a high priestess in service to the goddess, and not

just a wife, a homemaker. IT WAS ONLY MUCH LATER THAT MEN OVERCAME WOMEN AND EMERGED TRIUMPHANT. Northern invaders, hunters and warriors, brought their male supreme father gods that they created in their own image. Our feminine movement reaching back into the 19th century and coming into its own by end of 20th century represents the same effort to correct the imbalance. It is time to bring back the powerful goddess in all her power for the mutual benefit of the world.

Rolf came to America in 1939 at 11 years of age to escape Nazi Germany. He lived through Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass on November 9, 1938, and settled in Los Angeles with his parents. In 1987, he returned to Krefeld, his birthplace in the Rhineland, to give a keynote speech on the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht. He served as a German translator and worked as a publicity director at NBC for 30 years. He started his own company, raised a family and hosted his own cable tv show called 'Journeys into Judaism'. But through all his days, he had a deep calling to write. His six other books, including, 'My Jewish Brother Jesus', his short stories, and his poetry, are messages of faith, love and hope.

It is said in the Jewish mystical tradition that we are all messengers. Rolf's Hebrew name is Menacham, which means comforter. He comforts us with his magical works of love.

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Book 14.95 from iUniverse.com
Toll free 1-877-823-9235
Available at neighborhood bookstores.

.Suggested reading

Jonathan Kirsch-'The Harlot by the Side of the Road'

Merlin Stone- 'When God Was a Woman'

Elizabeth Gould Davis, - 'The First Sex'

Riane Eisler, 'The Chalice and the Blade'

B.Z.Goldberg-' the Sacred Fire- The Story of Sex in Religion'

Savina J. Teubal- 'Ancient Sisterhood: The Lost Traditions of Hagar and Sarah

Diana Wolkstein and Samuel Noah Kramer-'Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth'