



When All In is All Out



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Lament of a Feminist Theologian

I am scholar, BUT my flaws are my foundation. I am funny, I admit it. I draw cartoons that scandalize worthy people in my discipline, and outrage serious onlookers.

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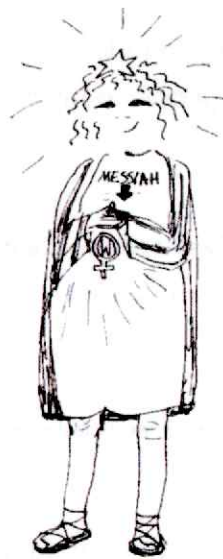
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"Oops, I did it again," I would have muttered under my breath (had Brittany been alive then and singing it), when a professor at Yale told me forty years ago, "We do not encourage creativity in Biblical Studies. You will never be happy in this setting." I was outraged by what seemed so dismissive, determined to subdue myself for the sake of Truth in Interpretation.

One Ph.D. later and multiple scholarly publications to my name, I found myself in art school, trying to learn how to sharpen up my archaeological drawings, when my drawing tutor told me, "Go home and just do what you do; you already are what you are trying to be. We have nothing to teach you here; this is for 23 year old white boys who are willing to settle for tricks and techniques, in lieu of authenticity. Just go home and be it, damn you! Stop looking for your perfect medium; whatever you do will be your perfect medium. You are already you; stop shunning your words. Are you TRYING to make me feel irrelevant? Go home, woman."

A career in a Baptist school of theology made me more receptive than I had been in my earlier studies to the little Irishman now trying to wrest stereotypes out of my hands. I had been working on the assignment “make your most beautiful ideal look like a dirty floor”, when I began to embrace what my teachers had been telling me. Yes, I thought, the dirty floor **is** an excellent interpretation of the Mount of the Beatitudes. Or Sermon on the Plain, if you prefer—and certainly more thought provoking!

What if I **was** doing exactly what I yearned to do all along? Certainly, I was operating all out of the norms of my discipline, but I was “all in”, words and dirty hands and all...



*Unwed Mary Decides
to Keep Her Baby*

Creativity

Religion

Feminism

Spirituality



Written by Carole Fontaine, WUNRN Research Associate-USA

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I am a fancy Biblical scholar, who survived by poetry, art, glass making. Human Rights advocate, feminist, artist, friend of Earth. Sadly, I went to Yale.

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