

## **Reflection - Her Name Was Adam**

God created the first pair, male and female, to be one; and accordingly called them both by the same name. And their name was "Adam."

*"Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."* (Genesis 5:2, KJV)

The New King James Version reads, "called their name Mankind." The New International Version also reads, "called their name Mankind," but enters "Adam" as a footnote reference for the word "Mankind." The New American Standard Bible reads, "called their name Man," and also enters "Adam" as a footnote reference for the word "Man." And the Wycliffe Bible reads, "called their name Adam," however the verse is immediately followed with a parenthesis wherein is entered, "...called their name Man..."

In other translations the word "Adam" in Genesis 5:2 is entered as follows. In Latin: "Adam." In each of three different Spanish translations: "Adam," "Adán," and "seres humanos," the latter of which means "human beings." In Portuguese the word "homem" which means "man" is used (the plural "men" is "homens"). In Italian the word used is "uomo," which means "man"; and in a newer translation the word "uomini" is used, which means "men."

But the bottom line is that God himself named the first pair, and called them both Adam. The man Adam and the woman Adam, together, formed one complete human being. They were to always be together, and when God strolled in the garden in the breeze of the day and called out, "Adam," they would both come to Him. Adam was their name. They were equally named because they were equal, with equal sovereignty.

On the day they were created, when the man Adam first saw the woman, her beauty captivated him. It was love at first sight. And at that glorious moment, like all his sons that would follow after him, he became a poet.

*"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."* (Genesis 2:23, KJV)

It was his way of expressing what his many descendants would later verbalize as, "Behold. What I had right here inside of me, close to my heart, has now materialized. From now on she shall be called Mrs. Me." Yes, the word "woman" literally means "the female man." She was now the man's second self, not his demoted self.

Further, the man Adam committed himself right then and there to be with her through thick and thin, and leave everything and anything just to be with her. What love! This is what he said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Ibid., v. 24) To date, it is as if his words of old still have a hold in our psychic, because men like to be the pursuers. It makes them feel good. And women like to be pursued by the man her heart desires.

Now all of that poetry and commitment happened *before* sin. After sin the story changes. In fact, it was *after* God pronounced what curses would befall the serpent, the woman, and the man, that the man called (not named, but called) his wife "Eve." He did that in recognition

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September 2013

Archived at [www.women1844.com](http://www.women1844.com)

of her being the mother of all living, (Genesis 3:20) and not for any other reason, and certainly not because he had some type of duty to name her. Arguing that it was the man and not God who named the woman from the beginning is a falsity used to impose submission, it leads to the next step, that is, believing she is inferior to man, and further obliterates the fact that God named her, which in fact He did.

God did ordain the man to name the beasts. Hence, if we declare that man had also named the woman, what are we equating women to? This concept makes me recall a disturbing image my husband shared with me. Eddy had lived one year in Angola. He tells me he saw a man who had eight wives. The women would walk down the street, each carrying on their head a wooden crate containing two dozen bottles of beer. The man guided the women with a stick to keep them in single file. Those women were his beasts of burden and he treated them like animals. Yet, knowing that in Eden God gave man the task of naming the animals, then whenever it is declared that man also named the woman, then we are equating women to animals, to beasts of burden. But such is a vain argument asserted nonchalantly and which renders no esteem nor respect towards God's daughters.

It was not until *after* sinning that Adam recognized his wife's motherly attribute and hence called her Eve. Before sin her name was *not* Eve. Now think about this, men seem obsessed in calling out a woman's motherhood just because. Take a Hispanic man calling out to the pretty girl, "Mamita linda." And a Black man, "Hot Mama." And so it goes. It's their way of echoing their father Adam who called his pretty lady, "Eve." Now does that in any way, shape or form mean that those men are superior to women because they thus praised the cutie? Of course not. Likewise, because Adam called his wife Eve it does not mean he had a duty to name her, neither doing so proves that she was his subordinate.

The man in Eden never "named" the woman. The woman was named by God Himself, and He named her Adam, that is, Mankind, Human Being. Those are titles befitting women because they were given to us by God. Fate has thrown us into bitter, cruel, devastating, difficult and impossible-to-bear situations that you would think only a man would be apt to overcome them, that a male is needed to step in and resolve the situation. And when we think that way it is because we keep forgetting that there is a Holy Spirit. It is because of the power of God's Spirit, Who has not abandoned us, that we have gone it alone to pick up ourselves and our children when men have abandoned us chasing other horizons, and we have marched forward in faith conquering the impossible. The glory of our victory has never belonged to a man, but neither has it belonged to us women. The glory belonged and belongs to God alone.