

Repentance as Tragic Virtue in the *Greek Life of Adam and Eve*

Lilach Stone
ensalmo@student.ubc.ca
MA thesis defence
11 April 2025

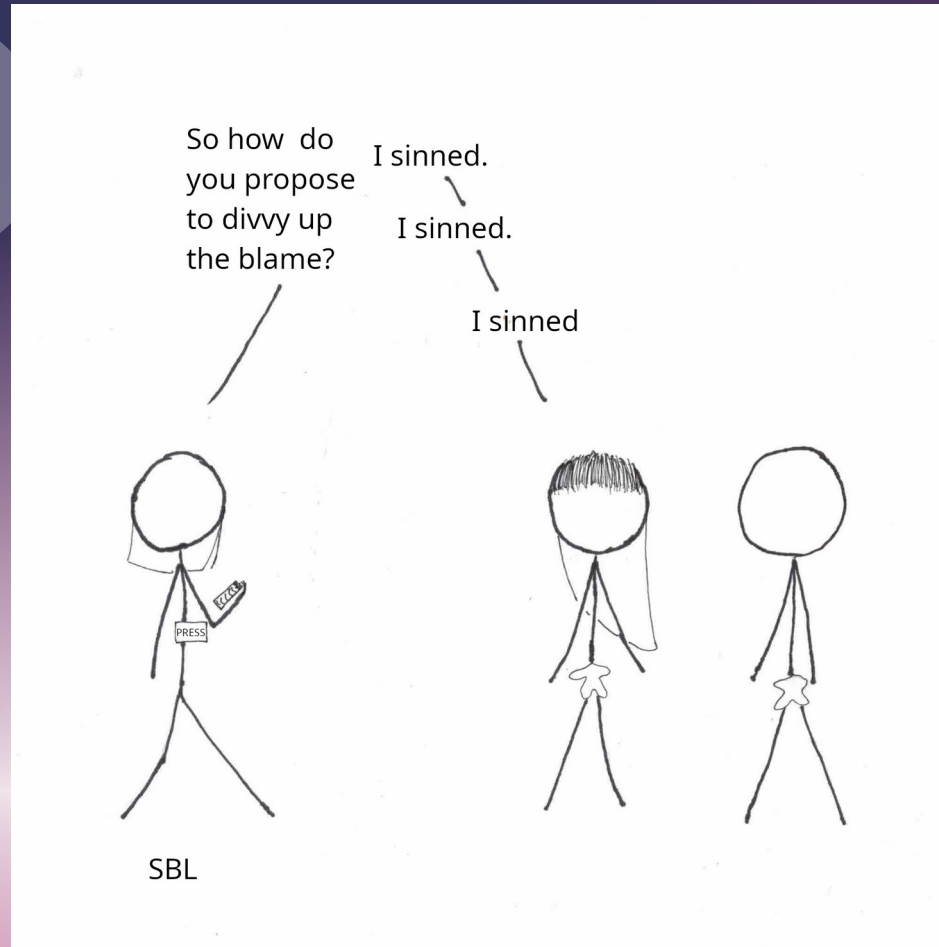
with art by Siona
stoneartcommittee@pinksnaill.com

This is where you've seen Eve before



"You are charged with the murder of 100 billion people.
How do you plead?"

Eve, would you care to comment?



What she actually said

32.1 ...And falling upon the earth, she recited, 2 “I sinned, God, I sinned, father of all, I sinned against you. I sinned against your chosen angels, I sinned against the cherubim, I sinned against your immovable throne, I sinned, Lord, I sinned much, I sinned in your presence, And all sin in creation has happened because of me.”

32.1 ...καὶ πεσοῦσα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἔλεγεν· 2 ἥμαρτον ὁ θεός, ἥμαρτον ὁ πατήρ τῶν ἀπάντων, ἥμαρτόν σοι. ἥμαρτον εἰς τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς σου ἀγγέλους, ἥμαρτον εἰς τὰ χερουβίμ, ἥμαρτον εἰς τὸν ἀσάλευτόν σου θρόνον, ἥμαρτον κύριε, ἥμαρτον πολλά, ἥμαρτον ἐναντίον σου, καὶ πᾶσα ἁμαρτία δι’ ἐμὲ γέγονεν ἐν τῇ κτίσει.

Today's Program

- (1) **narrative** structure
- (2) the structure of **repentance**
- (3) categories and **tragic genre**
- (4) **theme**



(1) narrative structure

Look at this



painting by
Benjamin
West

No, wait, actually, look at this



painting by
Harmonia
Rosales

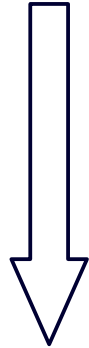
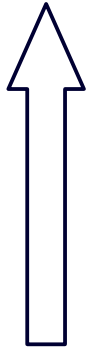
The Chronicle of a Relationship



wrath

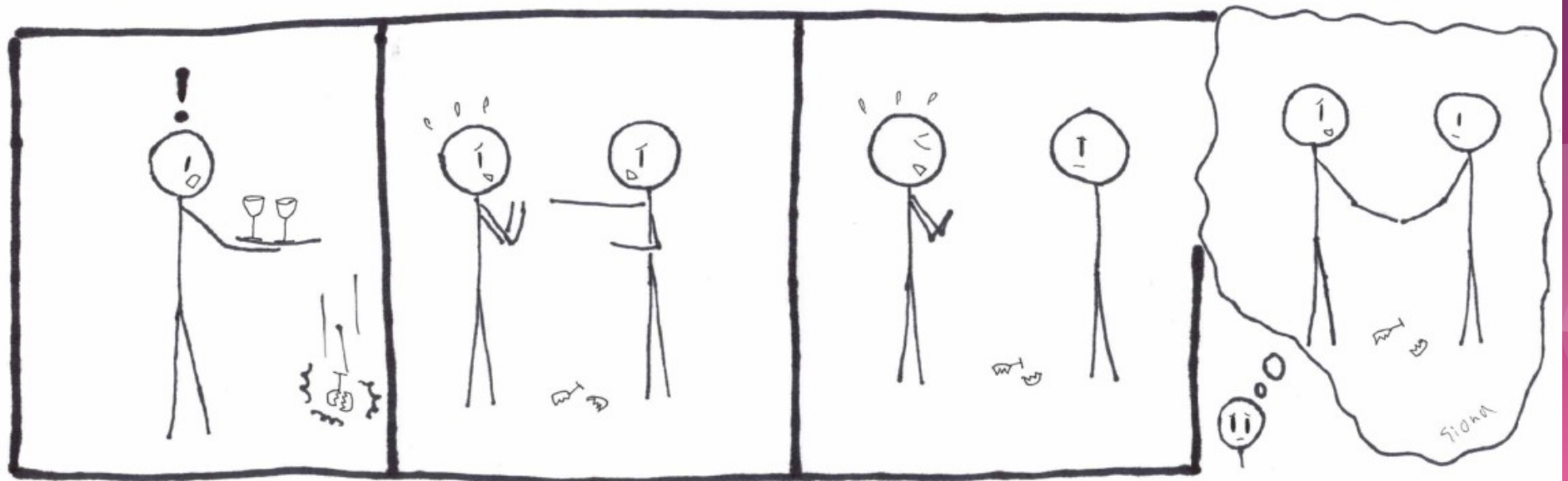
mercy

Adam: God is angry, maybe God will be merciful. Eve: prayer of repentance	
analepsis: God exiles humans	angelophany
analepsis: God gets angry	divine procession
denial of medicine	announcement of mercy
animal hostility	care of the dead
illness	burial



(2) structure of repentance

Supplicatory Repentance

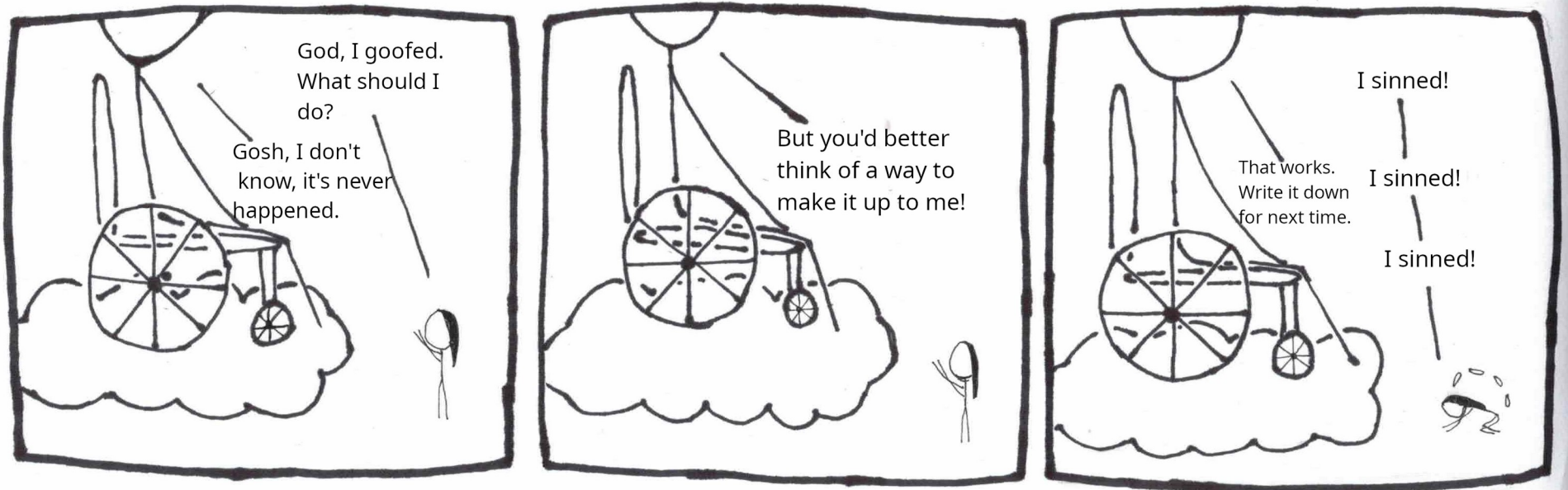


David and Cadmus

<i>2 Kings</i> 12.7–13	<i>Eur. Bacchae</i> 1330–1344
GOD (through NATHAN): You despised my word and did evil, so there will always be violence in your household, and your neighbours will get your wives, and they will do {censored} in bright daylight, just like you did.	DIONYSUS: You and your wife will be transformed into giant snakes, and drive an oxcart at the head of a barbarian army and sack lots of cities and even the oracle at Delphi. I might've helped you out—but you dishonoured me, so you're out of luck.
DAVID: “I have sinned [ἡμάρτηκα] against the Lord.”	CADMUS: “Dionysus, we beseech you—we have done wrong [ἡδικήκαμεν].”

Repentance in the *GLAE*

The Greek Life of Adam and Eve (abridged)



(3) categories and tragic genre

Radial Category: Dairy



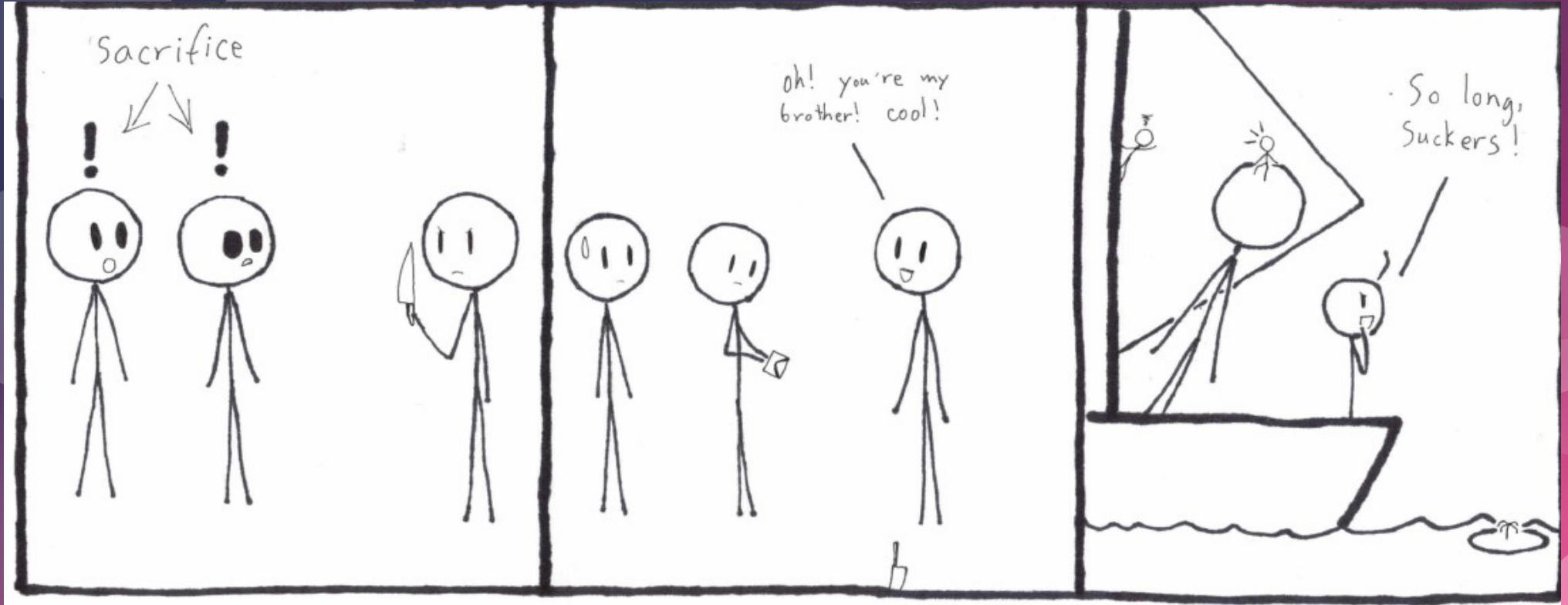
The Suffering of Adam and Eve

9.1 ...Adam groaned loudly and said, "What will I do? I am in great pain!" 2 And Eve wept, saying, "My lord Adam, get up, give me half of your illness, and I will bear it. It's because of me that this has happened to you, it's because of me that you're in trouble!"

9.1 ...ὁ Ἄδὰμ ἀνεστέναξεν μέγα, καὶ εἶπεν· τί ποιήσω ὅτι ἐν μεγάλῃ λύπῃ εἰμί. 2 ἔκλαυσεν δὲ ἡ Εὐὰ λέγουσα· κύριέ μου Ἄδάμ, ἀναστὰς δός μοι τὸ ἥμισυ τῆς νόσου σου, καὶ ὑπενέγκω αὐτό, ὅτι δι' ἐμὲ τοῦτό σοι γέγονεν, δι' ἐμὲ ἐν καμάτοις τυγχάνεις.

Iphigenia Taurica (abridged)

danger—recognition—salvation



GLAE (Egyptian edition) danger—recognition—salvation





(4) theme

Go ahead and try this at home



art by Siona
stoneartcommittee@pinksnaill.com











