

The Gospel of Mary

From *A New New Testament* edited by Hal Taussig

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The Savior teaches about matter, sin, and the Good

2¹“Will matter then be destroyed or not?” ²The Savior said, “All natures, all forms, all creatures exist in and with one another,³and they will be resolved again into their own root. ⁴For the nature of matter is released into its own nature. ⁵Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!”

3¹Peter said to him, “Since you have explained everything to us, tell us one other thing. ²What is the sin of the world?” ³The Savior said, “There is no sin, ⁴but it is you who make sin when you do the things that are like the nature of adultery, which is called ‘sin.’ ⁵That is why the Good came into your midst, coming to the good which belongs to every nature, ⁶in order to restore it to its root.”

⁷Then he continued. He said, “This is why you become sick and die ⁸for you love what deceives you. ⁹Those who understand, let them understand! ¹⁰Matter gave birth to a passion that has no image because it proceeds from what is contrary to nature. ¹¹Then there arises a disturbance in the whole body. ¹²Because of this I said to you, ‘Be satiated, and if you are discontent, steady yourselves in the presence of the other image of nature.’ ¹³Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!”

The Savior Departs

4¹When the Blessed One had said these things, he greeted them all, saying, “Peace be with you! ²Bear my peace within yourselves! ³Beware that no one lead you astray ⁴saying, ‘Look over here!’ Or look over there! ⁵For the Child of Humanity is within you! ⁶Follow it!

¹ Pages 1-6 of the manuscript are missing. The text begins abruptly here.

⁷Those who seek it will find it. ⁸Go then and proclaim the good news of the realm. ⁹Do not lay down any rules beyond what I determined for you, ¹⁰nor give a law like the lawgiver, lest you be confined by it.” ¹¹When he had said this, he departed.

Mary Comforts the Other Followers

5 ¹But they were pained. They wept greatly, saying, ²“How shall we go to the nations and proclaim the good news of the Child of Humanity? ³If they did not spare him, how will they spare us?”

⁴Then Mary stood up. She greeted them all, and said to her brothers and sisters, ⁵“Do not weep and be pained, nor doubt, ⁶for all his grace will be with you and shelter you. ⁷But rather let us praise his greatness, ⁸for he has prepared us and made us Humans.” ⁹When Mary said this, she turned their heart to the Good, ¹⁰and they began to discuss the words of the Savior.

Mary’s Vision of the Savior

6 ¹Peter said to Mary, “Sister, we know that the Savior loved you more than the rest of the women. ²Tell us the words of the Savior which you remember, which you know and we do not, nor have we heard them.” ³Mary answered and said, “What is hidden from you I will tell you.” ⁴And she began to say to them these words.

7 ¹“I,” she said, “I saw the Lord in a vision ²and I said to him, ‘Lord I saw you ¹³today in a vision.’ ³He answered and said to me, ‘Blessed are you that you did not waver at seeing me. ⁴For where the mind is, there is the treasure.’ ⁵I said to him, ‘Lord, now, does one who sees the vision see it with the soul or with the spirit?’ ⁶The Savior answered and said, ‘One does not see with the soul or with the spirit, ⁷but the mind which is between the two sees the vision.’”

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² Pages 11-14 of manuscript are missing. The missing pages most likely contain a part of the Savior’s recounting of the soul’s journey to God, which is still being presented when the text picks up.

The Ascent of the Soul

9 ¹“And Desire said, ²I did not see you go down, but now I see you go up. ³Why do you lie, since you belong to me?’ ⁴The Soul answered and said, ‘I saw you. You did not see me or know me. ⁵I lived as a garment ⁶and you did not know me.’ ⁷When the Soul had said this, it went away rejoicing greatly.

⁸“Again the Soul came to the third Power, which is called Ignorance. ⁹It closely examined the Soul saying, ‘Where are you going? ¹⁰You are ruled by wickedness. ¹¹ You are ruled—¹²do not judge!’ ¹³And the Soul said, ‘Why do you judge me since I have not judged? ¹⁴I was ruled though I have not ruled. ¹⁵I was not known. But I have known that all things are being released, both those belonging to earth and those belonging to heaven.’

¹⁶“When the Soul had left the third Power desolate, it went upward and saw the fourth Power. ¹⁷It had seven forms. ¹⁸ The first form is Darkness; ¹⁹the second Desire; ²⁰the third Ignorance; ²¹the fourth Eagerness for Death; ²²the fifth is the Realm of the Flesh; ²³the sixth is the Foolish Wisdom of the Flesh; ²⁴the seventh is Wrathful Wisdom. ²⁵These are the seven Powers of Wrath. ²⁶They asked the Soul, ‘Where are you coming from, human-killer, and where are you going you place-destroyer?’ ²⁷The Soul answered and said, ‘What rules me has been slain, and what sways me has been destroyed, and my desire has been filled, and ignorance has died. ²⁸In a world I was released from a world, and in a mold from a higher mold, and from the chain of forgetfulness which is temporal. ² From this hour on, at the time of the season of the generations, I will rest in silence.”

³⁰ After Mary said this, she was silent, ³¹ since it was to this point that the Savior had spoken with her.

The Followers Argue about Mary’s Teaching

10 ¹ But Andrew responded and said to the brothers and sisters, “Say what you will about what she has said, ² I do not believe that the Savior said this, for certainly these teachings are strange ideas.” ³ Peter responded and spoke concerning these same things. He questioned them about the Savior, “Did he really speak with a woman without our knowing about it? ⁴ Are we to turn around and all listen to her? Did he choose her over us?”

⁵ Then Mary wept and said to Peter, “My brother, Peter, what are you thinking? ⁶ Do you think that I have thought this up myself in my heart, or that I am telling lies about the Savior?” ⁷ Levi responded and said to Peter, “Peter, you have always been an angry person. ⁸ Now I see you ⁹contending against the woman like the adversaries. ⁹ But if the Savior made her worthy, who are you, then, to reject her? ¹⁰ Surely the Savior’s knowledge of her is trustworthy. That is why he loved her more than us. ¹¹ Rather, let us be ashamed. We should clothe ourselves with the perfect Human, acquire it for ourselves as he commanded us, ¹² and proclaim the good news, ¹³ not laying down any other rule or other law beyond what the Savior said.”

¹⁴ After he had said these things, they started going out to teach and proclaim.

¹⁵ The Good News according to Mary