

International Conference: Biographically Grounded Literature in Late Hellenistic and Early Imperial Times

Bern, 24. – 26. Juni 2024

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Title: Eve as Exemplar in the Greek *Life of Adam and Eve*

Abstract: In the Greek *Life of Adam and Eve*, Eve is vulnerable, grief-stricken, remorseful, and ignorant – but also capable of receiving dreams and visions and recasting the first sin into a compelling testament. She is a complex character whose partial biography – and autobiography – is captured in this tantalizing iteration of Genesis 1–5, in which she functions simultaneously as an exemplar of virtue and vice. On her journey to paradise with Seth, for example, to retrieve oil to palliate Adam’s pain, she becomes the exemplar of both the dutiful mother and unchecked greed. At Adam’s deathbed, she is at once the exemplar of a dutiful wife and of the source of sin and death. In paradise, she is the exemplar of the deceived, though her narrative – deception is spun from *her* perspective – prompts readers to resonate with her predicament. After Adam’s death, she is the exemplar of the visionary, though she requires the mediation of Seth to interpret her visions. And her hope for burial alongside Adam is rooted in an idealized portrayal of the life she had lived with him. Even Eve’s autobiographical testament, in which she is the quintessential exemplar, is negatively construed, prompted by Adam’s command, “Call all our children and the children of our children, and reveal to them the manner of our sinful neglect” (14.3), and concluding with her own command, “Now therefore, my children, I have disclosed to you the way in which we were deceived. And you yourselves – guard yourselves so as not to disregard what is good” (30.1).

The purpose of this paper is to explore how the figure of Eve functions as an ambiguous exemplar. Eve is not characterized as θεῖα, nor is she guided by τύχη or πρόνοια. She is not, in short, an exemplar of the virtuous life. Yet she is an exemplar nonetheless, characterized by the sort of complexity that reflects both the rich imagination of Antiquity and a realistic portrayal of the human predicament – what Johannes Tromp calls “the story of our lives.”