

Genesis 2:4b-3:19

Allison Rennie paraphrase: The goal is to remove gender references, and to remove the punishment of sex role stereotypes from the ‘fall’.

In the day Creator made the **earth and the heavens**,
when no plant of the field was yet in the earth
and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—
a stream rose from the earth,
and watered the whole face of the ground,
then Creator formed Earth-being from the dust of the ground,
and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life;
and they came alive with breath and soul.

And Creator planted a garden and placed Earth-being within it
to tend it and keep it

Out of the ground Creator made to grow every tree that is,
including
the Tree of Life, *and* the Tree of Knowledge.

And Creator commanded Earth-being,
“You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
but of the Tree of Knowledge - you should not eat,
for if you do, you will begin to die.”

Then Creator said, “It is not good that Earth-being should be **alone**.”
So out of the ground Creator formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to Earth-being to be named.
But none of them was a fit companion.

So Creator caused a deep sleep to fall upon Earth-being
and then divided Earth-being in two.

When they realized what had happened, they celebrated saying:

“This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
We are made of one earth, and one breath.

They were both naked, and they were not ashamed.

Now...SNAKE was smarter than any other wild animal that Creator had made.

Snake asked them,

“Did Creator say, ‘Do not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

They answered,

“We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
but Creator said, ‘Do not eat of the fruit of the tree
that is in the middle of the garden,
nor shall you touch it, or you will begin to die.’”

But Snake said to them,

“You will not die;
for Creator knows that when you eat of it
your eyes will be opened.”

So when they saw that the tree was good for food,
and that it was a delight,
and that the tree would make them wise,
they took of its fruit and ate;

Then their **eyes** were opened,
and they knew that they were exposed
and they began to worry that now they *would* die.

They heard the sound of Creator walking in the garden
at the time of the evening breeze,
and they hid themselves

among the trees.

Creator saw them.

“You cannot hide.

I see you.

You ate from the tree I told you to leave alone.”

They looked around the garden

And began pointing and naming the creatures saying,

“That one made us.

That one told us to. The snake. It was the snake! We were hungry.

The fruit looked good. We thought you wanted us to eat...”

Then in the voice of grief Creator said to them, “What is this that you have done?”

And then in the voice of anger, Creator said to them,

“Because you have done this -

Because you have done this...

Because you *have done this* I want to curse you and everything
in this garden!

Then Creator said, “See, the earth-beings have become **like one of us**,
knowing good and evil;

and now, they might reach out their hand

and take also from the Tree of Life,

and eat,

and live forever.”

In the voice of love Creator said to them

“Because you have done this,

you must leave this garden and all that it promises

You must live in the world where you are free

to choose what to do, who to believe, and how to live.

I loved you out of earth and into being. I breathed soul into you.
I will love you as you leave.

I will love you as you choose life,
and love you when you choose wisely,
and I will love you when you do not.

Then they left the garden,
and at the east of the garden
Creator placed an angel,
and a sword flaming and turning
to guard and to show the way to the Tree of Life.