# Unit 6 Adam-Cain & Abel

Liu Xiaoxia English Dept

**Peking University** 



Annunciation Tempera on wood

Fra Angelico, 1433-34

# Seven days of creation

- 1st day: Light— "let there be light"
- 2nd day: divided the sky from the earth
- 3rd day: gathered all the water together to make the seas, so that dry lands appeared

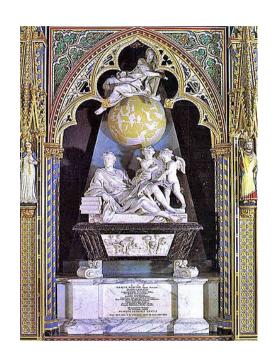
made grass grow on the land, plants give seeds and trees bear fruit

- 4th day: creating the sun, the moon and stars to shine in the sky
- 5th day: created sea animals and birds
- 6th day: made land animals and human beings
- 7th day: stopped working, make it holy

# parody

Nature, and Nature's law lay hid in night. God said, let Newton be! And all was light.

-- Alexander Pope, 1727 Epitaph for Sir Isaac Newton



to which J. C. Squire (1884–1958) in his *Epigrams* replied:

It did not last: the Devil howling "Ho! Let Einstein be!", restored the status quo.

# irony

• If there is anything in being first, man must acknowledge the supremacy of the goose, for according to Genesis the fowl was first created.-- *Nasby* 

Bone of the bone, flesh of the flesh

- And Adam said: "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
- Woman: literally woman-man

• Forbidden fruit is sweeter.

# 'Sometimes forbidden fruit tastes the sweetest, doesn't it?' Breaking Bad: the transgressive journey of Walter White

Hazel Work

Research output: Contribution to journal > Article





Fingerprint Profiles (1)



# **Abstract**

This article addresses some of the key moments in the first two seasons of Breaking Bad (2008-2013). It utilises the concept of the liminal subject to address the ways in which protagonist Walter White's actions disrupt and trouble the boundaries between criminal and conforming behaviour; in so doing, it suggests that the series' narrative framework orients viewers' attention toward a sociological, rather than a populist understanding of crime and deviance.

Original language English Pages (from-to) 19-27

Number of pages

American Studies Today lournal

Adam's apple

• "good evening", he said, his eyes finding his clients. "I am Andre Vernet. How can I be of service—"the rest of the sentence lodged somewhere beneath his Adam's apple. The woman before him was as unexpected a visitor as Vernet had ever had.

# Fig leaves





- Fall of man (transgression)
- Original sin

# Hamlet Act V Scene I

**ORIGINAL TEXT** 

## **GRAVEDIGGER**

20 Ay, marry, is 't. Crowner's quest law.

## **OTHER**

Will you ha' the truth on 't? If this had not been a gentlewoman, she should have been buried out o' Christian burial.

# **GRAVEDIGGER**

Why, there thou sayst. And the more pity that great folk should have countenance in this world to drown or hang themselves more than their even Christian. Come, my spade. There is no ancient gentleman but gardeners, ditchers, and grave-makers. They hold up Adam's profession

# **MODERN TEXT**

# **GRAVEDIGGER**

It sure is. The coroner's inquest law.

## **OTHER**

Do you want to know the truth? If this woman hadn't been rich, she wouldn't have been given a Christian burial.

## **GRAVEDIGGER**

Well there, now you've said it. It's a pity that the rich have more freedom to hang or drown themselves than the rest of us Christians. Come on, shovel. The most ancient aristocrats in the world are gardeners, ditch-diggers, and gravediggers. They keep up Adam's profession.

# arms:

- 1. emblems originally borne on shields in battle and now indicating allegiance to, or the property of, an individual, family or country
- 2. two upper limbs



30 Was he a gentleman?

### **GRAVEDIGGER**

He was the first that ever bore arms.

#### **OTHER**

Why, he had none.

#### **GRAVEDIGGER**

What, art a heathen? How dost thou understand the Scripture? The Scripture says Adam digged. Could he dig without arms? I'll put another question to thee. If thou answerest me not to the purpose, confess thyself—

#### **OTHER**

Go to.

## **OTHER**

Was he an aristocrat? With a coat of arms?

## **GRAVEDIGGER**

He was the first person who ever had arms.

## **OTHER**

He didn't have any.

## **GRAVEDIGGER**

What, aren't you a Christian? The Bible says
Adam dug in the ground. How could he dig
without arms? I'll ask you another question. If you
can't answer it—

## **OTHER**

- . ..

# Pun

• a joke exploiting the different possible meanings of a word or the fact that there are words which sound alike but have different meanings

# By the sweat of one's brow

- Punish man—by making him work hard all life "by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you will return"
- Punish woman—by making her childbirth extremely painful and putting her under the rule of her husband

Raise Cain

• to get very angry about something, to create a disturbance, to make trouble

• The curse of Cain

When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A
fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth. KJV Genesis 4: 12

# NIV

10 The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground.

11 Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

• The mark of Cain

<sup>15</sup> But the LORD said to him, "Not so <sup>[e]</sup> ; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over."
Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. 16 So Cain went out
from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod,[f] east of Eden.

originally as a sign that he should not be killed or harmed; this was later taken to identify him as a murderer

Land of Nod

• "Nod" (נוד) is the Hebrew root of the verb "to wander"

- Genesis 4:16
- Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

# Punning

- Jonathan Swift in Polite Conversation (1731–8): 'I'm going to the Land of Nod'.
- The book was so dull that it had him into the land of Nod in half an hour.

•Am I my brother's keeper?

 Not responsible for what someone else does or for what happens to them • image of God

"Then God said, Let us make human beings in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all and creatures that move along the ground." So God created human beings **in his own image**, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."----Genesis 1:26-27