

## Blindsight, Mythology and the Bible

In the novel *Blindsight*, the story incorporates elements of Greek mythology, using names such as Helen, The Icarus Array, and Theseus. The narrative also contains Judeo-Christian biblical aspects, evident through the use of crucifixes, the virtual afterlife, the rapture aspect with the digital singularity, and the resurrection through blood and other rebirths in the form of transhuman augmentations and synaptic edits. Interestingly, the novel portrays a society experiencing a decline in religion, yet ironically counterbalanced by a society of virgins who shun physical intercourse. Instead, the novel presents a world where the comatose bodies of the ascended, stripped of their consciousness of the real world, can experience their personal, walled-garden of Eden (Watts 37). It is not until *Firefall*, with references to the fall of the Greek Icarus and the Christian Lucifer, that Siri leaves the Christian purgatory and embarks on the Greek underworld exploration aboard Theseus, both literally and metaphorically. While Siri's mother Helen is virtually omniscient in her personal garden of Eden but ignorant, Siri embarks on a Greek odyssey to explore the enigmatic Big Ben, surrounded by a crew with Greek mythological characteristics. As they delve into Rorschach's underworld, Siri discovers aspects of themselves and the nature of consciousness (Watts 139).

Siri's mother Helen, shows Biblical but more Greek references being named after the greek Helen of Troy a figure whose face launched a thousand ships. Its ironic when Siri remarks "But the thing my mother had become had no face..." right before Siri's space odyssey aboard the Theseus (Watts 140). In the article *Transhumanism: Christian Destiny or Distraction*, Winyard shows the intersection of Christianity and scientific transhumanism with Ray Kurzweil, real life inspiration for *Blindsight's* Kurzweil Institute, and other proponents talking about the

singularity, an event which would effectively transcend death in the form of a digital afterlife or upload (Winyard 7). In relation to Helen, the article also discusses a form of a transhuman version of theism with the Kurzweil Singularity, a world free of pain and death where man takes the role of an artificial god. With Siri rejecting the neurotypical heaven that Helen created, he is cast out through the Firefall event with rest of the rest of humanity's recons and hybrids, similar to Adam and Eve's expulsion due to choosing the apple of knowledge over ignorance (Watts 49).

### **Works Cited**

Watts, Peter. Blindsight. Tor Essentials, 2014, print.

Winyard Sr., David C. "Transhumanism: Christian Destiny or Distraction?" Perspectives on Science & Christian Faith, vol. 72, no. 2, June 2020, pp. 67–82. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=143607625&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=asn&AN=143607625&site=ehost-live).