

The Great Divorce Small Group #8 “The Red Lizard” **LEADER’S GUIDE**

Ver. 1.1

Covers: The Great Divorce Chapter 11

Main Scriptures: Colossians 3:1-17

Main Idea: It was God’s idea that we would be creatures that have needs and therefore he gave us desires for the things we need. But because of the fall of humanity into sin, many of our desires have become bent and distorted. The Red Lizard of Chapter 11 represents sensual desire in general and sexual lust in particular. The Lizard whispers dirty ideas (lustful thoughts which reduce others to objects) in the ears of the man. It is a parasite that has lived on the man so long that the man thinks it is part of him. Our study is about the difficult topic of putting sensual desires in their right, godly place – where they serve us as servants instead of ruling us as masters. Participants that were not able to hear the sermon can hear a fairly close rendition of it at www.levpres.org/the-great-divorce-podcasts/

How to use this Guide: This study includes a section for each of five basic steps – THE OPENER starts where your people are, THE BOOK gets them into *The Great Divorce*, THE CHALLENGE gets them to share honest things about their own lives, THE SCRIPTURE helps them dig into a scripture that can help them with this issue, THE TAKEAWAY allows them to create a plan as they go back into their world. THE PRAYER creates space for prayer partners or small groups to pray for each other by name as an end to the group. During THE BOOK section, we encourage you to have two people read (or act out) the script found at the end of this guide to the rest of the members.

THE OPENER:

ASK:

There are countless movies and books (especially in the Sci Fi and horror genres) where someone's personality is taken over by a foreign being. For example, in the movie version of *The Lord of the Rings*, the good King Théoden is controlled/(possessed) by the spirit of the evil wizard Saruman until Gandalf is able to release him. Can you think of other examples where someone is controlled by another person, spirit, or force? Why do you think we are so fascinated by / terrified by such scenes?

THE BOOK:

SAY: In most chapters of *The Great Divorce*, C.S. Lewis shows us a person who has to choose between the joy of heaven and something they don't want to let go of. Once again we get the gift of being read to, so X and Y are going to read excerpts from chapter 11 to refresh our memories! As they do, try to imagine the scene and what the angel, man, and lizard are like.

HAVE TWO PEOPLE READ THE SCRIPT FOUND AT THE END OF THIS STUDY

ASK:

1. What struck you most about this scene?

2. When you think about the relationship between the small lizard and the man, how is the relationship like the relationship between an addict and his addiction ?
3. What is Lewis implying by having the man refer to the horrible lizard as "this little chap"?
4. Why does Lewis have the Angel keep asking again and again if he can kill the Lizard when he could have instantly done it with flick of his hand ?
5. What profound Truth about God and his stance towards Human free will is implied here ?
6. What do you think the author was trying to say by choosing a horse and a lizard ?
(LEADER'S NOTE: one warm blooded, the other cold blooded, the reptilian mind, horse as faithful friend, one sits on top directing, the other you sit on top directing)
7. Why would he have the Lizard die and turn into a horse instead of just die ?
8. What do you think the overall message of this story was supposed to be ?
9. In the book, Lewis argues that while the sins of the flesh are very, very serious, they often are not as deadly as sins of the heart such as greed, gossip, pride, etc. Why do you suppose he thinks that, and do you agree with him?

THE CHALLENGE:

ASK: Sexual Lust is not the only sensual desire we are tempted with. What are other sensual desires that can turn into a snare for us ?

SAY: Take a moment to name to yourself in the silence of your heart the sensual desire you are most tempted to distort.

THE SCRIPTURE

SAY: Today we look at a central teaching of Paul on living out Christian discipleship.

(Have someone read Colossians 3:1-16)

NIV Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

SAY:

In the sermon podcast they broke this scripture down into four moves we can take so that lust and other desires don't master us. Let's work through each section one at a time. Read verses 1-4 again. Now listen to the main idea and four phrases from this section:

Verses 1-4 is about Remembering the Big Picture:

*God has raised you
Jesus is on the throne
Focus on the things of God
Who you are becoming is hidden*

ASK:

1. How could remembering any one of these four things help you or encourage you when you are tempted to give in to temptation ?

SAY:

Read verses 5-11 again. Now listen to the main idea of this section:

Verses 5-11 is about Turning from the old familiar ways of living by

*Putting to death: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed idolatry.
Getting rid of: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language, lying*

ASK:

2. How do you react to the list in verse 8 ? Does it make sense to you that God and the bible would call these things sin? Why or why not ?
3. Now go back to the list in verse 5. How do you react to them ? Does it make sense to you that God and the bible would call these things sin ? Why or why not ?

4. Do you think that different generations tend to downplay different sins ? Which of the sins presented in these two lists do you think are most often dismissed as no big deal in our current cultural moment ?
5. There are several different explanations as to why what the bible states as sin is seen as "no big deal" in our culture. What is yours ?

(NOTE: We are referring here to those major sins in these lists that appear again and again throughout the New Testament, not to obscure, debatable cultic rules found in some Old Testament books that were meant to govern the customs of ancient Israel).

6. In *The Great Divorce*, The Red Lizard supplies the man in *The Great Divorce* with sexual images and stories that are corrupt.¹ In our podcast it was argued that Pornography causes far more kinds of damage than people tend to realize. Putting our heads together, how many kinds of damage can we identify ?
7. Paul is writing to people who already call themselves Christians, so it is clear that many Christians are still dealing personally with these sins. You are not a weirdo if you are struggling with one of the sins listed. How can the fact that "We are all in this together" shift the way we deal with and talk about sins ?

SAY:

Read verses 12-15 again. If verses 5-11 about turning away from the old ways...

Verses 12-14 are about turning to New ways of behaving:

clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, Bear with & forgive, love

ASK:

8. How could pursuing these positive things effect the hold that temptations have on me ?

SAY:

Read Verses 16-17. Finally in the podcast the argument is made that

Verses 15-17 are about letting God Re-wire you by letting the peace of Christ rule in you and the word of Christ dwell in you.

A.A. and other groups that are successful with addiction state that one of the first steps a person must take to truly be set free of an addiction, is to come to the place where they declare:

*"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—
that our lives had become unmanageable..."*

"And came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.""

Remember in *The Great Divorce* – the higher power of the angel would only kill the Lizard if the man gave his ascent.

ASK:

9. In what ways do you think this AA Quote applies or does not apply to our struggles with sin in general?

¹ In the beginning of the book Lewis includes the strange phrase "bookshops of the sort that sell *The Works of Aristotle*." In Lewis' day that book title was innuendo for a smutty sex manual.

10. According to verses 15-17 what practical things can we do to keep us more open to the power of God working in us?

THE TAKE AWAY – PART 1

SAY: In many cases Jesus seems to give a very liberal and generous interpretation to the ethical standards of the Ten Commandments, but in the case of sexuality he seems to expect even more as he cares not only about outward behavior but inward thoughts. He says in Matthew 5:

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'
28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

ASK:

1. Is this standard too high, and why do you think Jesus takes lust so seriously ?
2. What are practical steps we can take to limit our opportunities to lust?
3. How would we know if we were not taking Jesus' warning serious enough ?
4. How would we know if we had become too legalistic and judgmental in terms of rules or habits to limit opportunities to lust ?

THE TAKE AWAY – PART 2

Lewis implies that until you can see your addiction for the horror it is, you can't get rid of it. If it really is an addiction and you think you just have to dial it back a little bit, it will pretend it's asleep, but then it will come back to life when you are not looking, often stronger than before. You are deluding yourself and guaranteeing that a year from now you will be in the same place, or likely a worse place. Take a moment to be honest with yourself about what most tempts you and to what degree it has control over you.

THE PRAYER

Pray in partners as this could be a very intimate prayer. Have each person tell their partner if they are willing to share a specific temptation they face, or a particular action or behavior they want to pursue. They can either share it, or just say "the things I am tempted by" Take turns praying for each other. Ask God to set them free from the temptations they struggle with. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them, and to sweep their heart clean and fill them with the power of God.

(If they are facing an addiction, ask God to kill it and send people like the angel who can help your partner walk free from the addiction)

Ask God to help them set up practical guard rails for themselves that help them stay away from temptations and to give them strength to turn away from sin and pursue God when they do feel tempted.

EXTRA STUFF - IF YOU NEED IT

A. HEBREWS 12:1-2 says

"... let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith ..."

1. How would you apply this verse to the story we just saw ?
2. Are we responsible or is God responsible to change us ?

B. A DEEPER STUDY ON THE ROLE OF SENSUAL DESIRES IN THE SANCTIFIED LIFE based on scripture and the writings of Blasé Pascal

PART 1 - Lizard or Stallion – What is a Godly/healthy view of sensual desires ?

Using the verses below, create a balanced understanding of Human Desires

(Genesis 1:31 NIV) "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning--the sixth day."

(Jeremiah 17:9 NIV) "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

(Ecclesiastes 7:4 NIV) "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure."

(Romans 8:13-14 NIV) "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

(Colossians 2:20-23 NIV) "**Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?** 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence. Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ... **5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry...** 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ... 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.... 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in

perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

(Song of Songs 7:8-13 NIV) "I said, "I will climb the palm tree; I will take hold of its fruit." May your breasts be like the clusters of the vine, the fragrance of your breath like apples, 9 and your mouth like the best wine. May the wine go straight to my lover, flowing gently over lips and teeth. 10 I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me. 11 Come, my lover, let us go to the countryside, let us spend the night in the villages. 12 Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom-- there I will give you my love. 13 The mandrakes send out their fragrance, and at our door is every delicacy, both new and old, that I have stored up for you, my lover. If only you were to me like a brother, who was nursed at my mother's breasts! Then, if I found you outside, I would kiss you, and no one would despise me. 2 I would lead you and bring you to my mother's house-- she who has taught me. I would give you spiced wine to drink, the nectar of my pomegranates."

(Psalms 104:14-15 NIV) "He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate-- bringing forth food from the earth: 15 wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart."

(Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 NIV) "Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him--for this is his lot. 19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work--this is a gift of God. 20 He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart."

(Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 NIV) "Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise-- why destroy yourself? 17 Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool-- why die before your time? 18 It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all extremes."

(Philippians 4:12-13 NIV) "**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation**, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

PART 2 "I don't want to be a ghost !" – The sanctified life according to Blasé Pascal

We believe we are JUSTIFIED in a moment:

(Romans 10:9 NIV) "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Pascal: "We shall never believe, with an effective belief and faith, unless God inclines our hearts, and we shall believe as soon as he does so" [380]

But how do we become SANCTIFIED (i.e. how does our character become more and more Christ-like) ?

Consider these three quotes from Pascal:

"Submission and use of reason; that is what makes true Christianity" [167]

"In short, we must resort to habit once the mind has seen where the truth lies, in order to steep and satin ourselves in that belief which constantly eludes us, for it is too much trouble to have the proofs always present before us" [821]

"There are three ways to believe: reason, habit, inspiration. Christianity does not admit as its true children those who believe without inspiration. It is not that it excludes reason and habit, quite the contrary, but we must open our mind to the proofs, confirm ourselves in it through habit, while offering ourselves through humiliations to inspiration, which alone can produce the real and salutary effect" [808]

1. Sanctification is a journey or process over time:

(Ephesians 4:13-15 NIV) "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

(Philippians 1:6 NIV) "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

C.S. Lewis says somewhere in Mere Christianity (Langdon paraphrase): Don't worry about whether you feel love towards your neighbor, practice love of your neighbor anyway, and over time you will find that you do love them.

2. It involves our MIND (our insights and reason) and our HABITS (practicing Godly character)

(Romans 12:1-18 NIV) "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind... We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. "

(Hebrews 12:2-13 NIV) "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. 4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but

painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed."

3. It must be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit

(2 Timothy 1:7 NIV) "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

4. It's goal is Christ's character, i.e. the character of Charity, i.e. the Fruit of the Spirit

(Galatians 5:22 NIV) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,"

5. As we practice a life of charity (active love of God and neighbor), the Holy Spirit uses it to make even more space in our character for Charity - we grow in a spiral, sometimes revisiting old struggles, but always from a different point in the journey

The Great Divorce Scripts
GATHERING #8 - Chapter 11 – The Red Lizard
CONDENSED READING for two readers

Decide ahead of time who will be the main reader and who will be the second reader. The main reader (does Narrator and Ghost) reads all the non-bold words, the second reader (the Angel) reads the words in bold which are also indented. <parentheses> signify a side comment to be read by the main reader. {bracketed} words signify an action or attitude and should not be read.

WHATS MY MOTIVATION ☺

The Lizard represents lustful thoughts and is whispering fantasies into the man's ears. The man has come with the Lizard from hell to take a look around heaven. He has a love hate-relationship with the Lizard. He enjoys the moment of lust but hates what it is doing to him. He has listened so long to the Lizard he thinks it is part of him and that he will die without it. The angel is all-powerful. He wants more than anything to kill the Lizard, but he will not do it without the man's permission. The narrator is in awe and confused by the situation. George Macdonald is a Scottish man who is teaching the narrator the ways of heaven.

I saw coming towards us a Ghost who carried something on his shoulder. Like all the Ghosts, he was unsubstantial, but they differed from one another as smokes differ. Some had been whitish; this one was dark and oily. What sat on his shoulder was a little red lizard, and it was twitching its tail like a whip and whispering things in his ear. As we caught sight of him he turned his head to the reptile with a snarl of impatience.

'Shut up, I tell you!'

It wagged its tail and continued to whisper to him, He ceased snarling, and presently began to smile. Then he turned and started to limp westward, away from the mountains.

'Off so soon?'

The speaker was more or less human in shape but larger than a man, and so bright that I could hardly look at him, His presence smote on my eyes and on my body too (for there was heat coming from him as well as light) like the morning sun at the beginning of a tyrannous summer day.

'Yes. I'm off... Thanks for all your hospitality. But it's no good, you see. I told this little chap <he points to the Lizard> that he'd have to be quiet if he came—which he

insisted on doing. Of course his stuff won't do here: I realize that. But he won't stop. I shall just have to go home.

'Would you like me to make him quiet?'

'Of course I would.'

< the Angel, takes a step forward towards the man >

'Then I will kill him...'

<the ghost retreats away a step>

'Oh—ah—look out! You're burning me. Keep away...'

'Don't you want him killed?'

'You didn't say anything about killing him at first. I hardly meant to bother you with anything so drastic as that...'

'It's the only way... 'Shall I kill it?'

'Well, that's a further question. I'm quite open to consider it, but it's a new point, isn't it? I mean, for the moment I was only thinking about silencing it because up here well, it's so damned embarrassing.'

'May I kill it?'

'Well, there's time to discuss that later.'

'There is no time. May I kill it?'

'Please... I never meant to be such a nuisance. Please I ... really...don't bother. Look! It's gone to sleep of its own accord. I'm sure it'll be all right now. Thanks ever so much.'

'May I kill it?'

'Honestly, I don't think there's the slightest necessity for that. I'm sure I shall be able to keep it in order now. I think the gradual process would be far better than killing it.'

'The gradual process is of no use at all...'

'Don't you think so? Well, I'll think over what you've said very carefully. I honestly will. In fact I'd let you kill it now, but as a matter of fact I'm not feeling frightfully

well today. It would be most silly to do it now. I'd need to be in good health for the operation.... Some other day perhaps.'

'There is no other day. All days are present now.'

'Get back! You're burning me. How can I tell you to kill it? You'd kill me if you did.'

'It is not so...'

'Why, you're hurting me now.'

'I never said it wouldn't hurt you. I said it wouldn't kill you.'

'Oh, I know. You think I'm a coward. But it isn't that. Really it isn't. I say! Let me run back by tonight's bus and get an opinion from my own doctor. I'll come again the first moment I can.'

'This moment contains all moments.'

'Why are you torturing me? You are jeering at me. How can I let you tear me in pieces? If you wanted to help me, why didn't you kill the damned thing without asking me...before I knew? It would be all over by now if you had.'

'I cannot kill it against your will. It is impossible. Have I your permission?'

The Angel's hands were almost closed on the Lizard, but not quite. Then the Lizard began chattering to the Ghost so loud that even I could hear what it was saying.

'Be careful...He can do what he says. He can kill me. One fatal word from you and he will! Then you'll be without me for ever and ever. It's not natural. How could you live? You'd be only a sort of ghost, not a real man as you are now. He doesn't understand. He's only a cold, bloodless abstract thing. It may be natural for him, but it isn't for us. Yes, yes. I know there are no real pleasures now, only dreams. But aren't they better than nothing? And I'll be so good. I admit I've sometimes gone too far in the past, but I promise I won't do it again. I'll give you nothing but really nice dreams—all sweet and fresh and almost innocent. You might say, quite innocent...

'Have I your permission?'

'I know it will kill me.'

'It won't. But supposing it did?'

'You're right. It would be better to be dead than to live with this creature.'

'Then I may?'

<the ghost says in a loud voice:>

'Damn and blast you! Go on, can't you? Get it over. Do what you like,'

<the ghost says in a wimpering voice:>

'God help me... God help me...'

Next moment the Ghost gave a scream of agony such as I never heard on earth. The Burning One closed his crimson grip on the reptile: twisted it, while it bit and writhed, and then flung it, broken-backed, on the turf. For a moment I could make out nothing distinctly. Then I saw, between me and the nearest bush, unmistakably solid but growing every moment solidier, the upper arm and the shoulder of a man. Then, brighter still and stronger, the legs and hands. The neck and golden head materialized while I watched, and if my attention had not wavered I should have seen the actual completing of a man—an immense man, naked, not much smaller than the Angel. What distracted me was the fact that at the same moment something seemed to be happening to the Lizard. At first I thought the operation had failed. So far from dying, the creature was still struggling and even growing bigger as it struggled. As I watched the lizard it continued to change and as it grew it changed. Its hinder parts grew rounder. The tail, still flickering, became a tail of hair that flickered between huge and glossy buttocks. Suddenly I started back, rubbing my eyes; What stood before me was the greatest stallion I have ever seen, silvery white but with mane and tail of gold. It was smooth and shining, rippled with swells of flesh and muscle, whinnying and stamping with its hoofs. At each stamp the land shook and the trees shimmered.

The new-made man turned and clapped the new horse's neck. It nosed his bright body. Horse and master breathed each into the other's nostrils. The man turned from it, flung himself at the feet of the Burning One, and embraced them. When he rose I thought his face shone with tears, but it may have been only the liquid love and brightness (one cannot distinguish them in that country) which flowed from him. I had not long to think about it. In joyous haste the young man leaped upon the horse's back. Turning in his seat he waved a farewell, then nudged the stallion with his heels. They were off before I knew _ what was happening. _ I came out as quickly as I could from among the bushes to follow them with my eyes; but already they were only like a shooting star far off on the green plain, and soon among the foothills of the mountains. Then, still like a star, I saw them winding up, scaling what seemed impossible steeps, and quicker every moment, till near the dim brow of the landscape, so high that I must strain my neck to see them, they vanished, bright themselves, into the rose-brightness of that everlasting morning.

'Do ye understand all this, my Son?'

'I don't know ... Sir, ... Am I right in thinking the Lizard really turned into the Horse?'

'Aye. But it was killed first. Ye'll not forget that part of the story...'

'I'll try not to, Sir But does it mean that everything— everything—that is in us can go on to the Mountains?'

'Nothing; not even the best and noblest, can go on as it now is. Nothing, not even what is lowest and most bestial, will not be raised again if it submits to death. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. Flesh and blood cannot come to the Mountains. Not because they are too rank, but because they are too weak. What is a lizard compared with a stallion? Lust is a poor, weak, whimpering, whispering thing compared with that richness and energy of desire which will arise when lust has been killed.'