

## Samson and Delilah

Cf. Judges Chapter 16

**16** One day Samson went to Gaza (since he was playing in a demonstration match in Israel), where he saw a prostitute (the tabloids were all trying to imply that this was Gaza's latest girlfriend, but she wasn't). He went to spend the night with her - they went late-night shopping in Harrods, followed by drinks and a dance at Stringfellows, and it cost him over 250 shekels. <sup>2</sup>The people of Gaza (his agents) were told, "Samson is here!" So they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, as they couldn't see the chess board in the dark, saying, "At dawn we will kill him."

<sup>3</sup>But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts (Evans the Post and Jones the Post), and tore them loose, bar and all. He was really macho. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. The Bible doesn't say what he did with them then.

<sup>4</sup>Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek (it was a Dating Agency), whose name was Delilah. <sup>5</sup>The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Look we've got cubits on one side and inches on the other." Then they said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so that we may tie him up and subdue him."

"Ooh, that's a bit kinky isn't it!" exclaimed Delilah.

"Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver (that's £17 4s 3d in old money)."

<sup>6</sup>So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how can be tied up and subdued."

<sup>7</sup>Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me up with seven fresh thongs that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man - except Geoff Capes, because he's really strong all the time."

<sup>8</sup>Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh thongs that had not been dried - or worn - which was lucky because they were a bugger to get hold of at that time of year, dried, desiccated thongs: fine, but fresh thongs? Anyway, she tied him with them. <sup>9</sup>With men hidden in the room, under rugs, behind lampstands and in between books in the bookcase, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the thongs as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered, but everyone clapped at his display and they all regarded him as a jolly manly type of chap.

<sup>10</sup>Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now tell me how you can be tied."

<sup>11</sup>He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become weak as any other man - except Hulk Hogan because he is really strong. Why, are you planning some sordid and kinky sexual fetish?"

<sup>12</sup>So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, disguised as items of furniture, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads - which must have hurt because thread really digs into your skin when you break it, and it's really sore.

<sup>13</sup>Delilah then said to Samson, "Until now, you have been making a fool of me and lying to me."

"Lying," laughed Samson, "I can't do anything but lie since you tied me to the bed!"

"Tell me how you can be tied." finished Delilah.

He replied, "If you promise to dress from head to toe in rubber and whip me with a leather cat-o'-nine-tails then I'll tell you." When she returned looking like a Staedler Elasto-eraser he said, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become weak like any other man, except Hacksaw Jim Dougan and his two by four from WWF because he is really strong. So while he was sleeping, Delilah dragged a Jacquard fast-loom into the bedroom and taking the seven braids (and the seven brothers) of his head, wove them into the fabric <sup>14</sup>and tightened it with the pin.

Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep with a jerk. (The jerk was a sergeant in the Philistine army who was disguised as a pillow.) He pulled up the pin and loom, with the fabric. "Ooh-yah!" he said.

<sup>15</sup>Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me?"

"Oh, emotional blackmail, and how can you say that you love me when you weave my hair into a loom, my dear?" said Samson.

"This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength."

Samson turned to the audience and said, "Is it just me, or am I the last one to notice a pattern forming here?" <sup>16</sup>With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death, and his ribs with jolly sore.

<sup>17</sup>So he told her everything, "When I was little I fell into a cauldron of magic potion that Getafix the Druid had brewed. My real name is Obelix."

"Wow!" exclaimed Delilah.

"No, I'm only joking," teased Samson. "Really, the truth is that no razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite set apart to God since birth, and apart from that I'm a bit of a Metallica fan and a

headbanger! If my head were shaved I'd be bald! And my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any man, except Woody Harrilson in Natural Born Killers, because he is dead hard.

<sup>18</sup>When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines. The word was "donkey". They didn't understand her message so they phoned up and got an answerphone. It said, "Hello, you've reached Samson and Delilah on Gaza 662 0228, I'm sorry neither of us can come to the phone right now, we're a bit tied up - but if that's the Philistines could you come back once more; he has told me everything, and bring a reporter and photographer from the Gaza Telegraph." So, the rulers and protractors of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands, for they had just finished a house-breaking job. <sup>19</sup>Having put him to sleep in her lap - he often thought that he was a cat and would curl up on her knees and go to sleep - she called a man to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him. He was knackered.

<sup>20</sup>Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," he said, recalling the story of the boy who cried wolf.

"No, really they are!"

He awoke from his sleep and thought, "Well blow me if she isn't right! Never mind I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him, and filed for divorce.

<sup>21</sup>Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes with a rusty spoon and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in prison. He managed to produce five bags of coffee a day. <sup>22</sup>But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. After a week he looked like a skinhead.

## The Death of Samson

<sup>23</sup>Now the rulers, and hole-punches, of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands. We'll be using Recorded Delivery again." One old and slightly deaf Philistine elder, called Mr. Spooner, asked the rulers of the Philistines, "Who has got a sacrifice today on yon lofty mountain top?"

"Dagon has!" came the reply.

"Oh, that's a bit unusual," said the old man and promptly burned a small carton of posh ice-cream.

<sup>24</sup>When the people saw Samson, they praised their god, saying,

"Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, and other musical publications, the one who laid waste our land (when the dustmen were on strike) and multiplied our slain by the number he first thought of."

<sup>25</sup>While they were in high spirits, which is near High Wycombe, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So, they called Samson out of prison, and he performed for them with juggling, dancing and singing. But it was for his thirty minute impromptu stand-up comedy routine that he was forever remembered on the Philistine cabaret circuit.

When they stood him among the pillars,

<sup>26</sup>Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "I love you." Then he said, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I can lean against them." <sup>27</sup>Now the temple was crowded with men and women, all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and there was a large desk-tidy at the door for everyone to leave them in until after the sacrifice. On the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. And it was being broadcast on the SKY Sacrifice channel. <sup>28</sup>Then Samson prayed to the

Lord, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me, I used to have long hair so might not recognise me straight away. Oh God please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes."

The LORD replied, "Why do you want to blow? This isn't the story of the 'Three Little Pigs' you know. Take it from me, you'd be better off pushing."

<sup>29</sup>Then Samson reached towards the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one, and his left hand on the twelve - it was twelve o'clock - <sup>30</sup>Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" the Philistines got kind of suspicious about all that he was doing at this point, but it was too late. then he pushed with all his might, and all his shall, and all his did, and down came the temple (which is a good direction for temples to come) on the pencils, rubbers and rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

<sup>31</sup>Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back, bit by bit, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol (it wasn't an alphabetically arranged cemetery) in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.