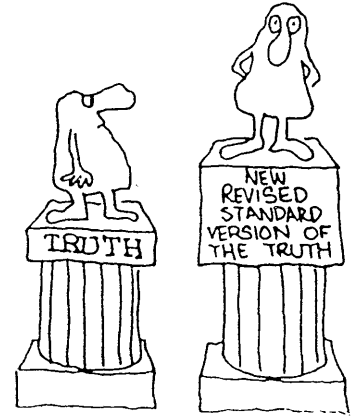


# Truth: Honesty -- the Best Policy or Only Policy?



## 1A. The Origin of Truth:

### 1b. In God the Father,--the manifestation of truth:

John 17:3 - "the only true God"

1 John 1:5 - "God is light and in Him dwelleth no darkness at all"

### 2b. In Christ the Son,--the incarnation of truth:

John 1:14 - "Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"

John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth and the life"

### 3b. In the Holy Spirit,--the revelation of truth:

John 14:17 - "Even the Spirit of truth"

John 16:13 - "the Spirit of truth. . .he will guide you into all truth"

### 4b. In God's Word,--the inscripturation of truth:

John 17:17 - "Thy word is truth"

Psalm 18:8,9

## 2A. The Offense of Falsehood:

### 1b. The emanation of falsehood:

1c. In eternity past: John 8:44

2c. On earth: Gen. 3:1-5

### 2b. The illustrations of falsehood:

1c. Joseph's brothers: Gen. 37:31-35

2c. Potiphar's wife: Gen. 39:13-18

3c. Pharaoh: Ex. 9:28

4c. Judas: Luke 22:3; John 13:27

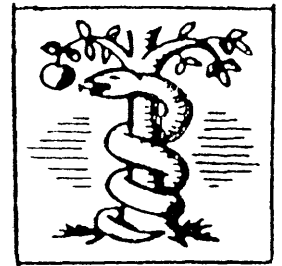
5c. Ananias and Sapphira: Acts 5:4,8

### 3b. The denunciation of falsehood:

1c. Falsehood is one of the most heinous sins:

1d. It is listed among the sins that God especially hates:

Proverbs 6:16-19 - "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."



*Prof. Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.*

2d. It is contrary to God's character: 1 John 2:21

3d. It issues in eternal damnation: Rev. 21:8,27; 22:15

The reason why liars cannot enter into heaven is not because the sin of lying cannot be forgiven but this is the type of sin that keeps men from coming to the Savior. As Christ said in John 3:19ff, the condemnation is that light is come into this dark world and men love their wicked deeds rather than come to the light. Lying thus is one of the sins preventing individuals from coming to the Savior.

2c. Falsehood is a characteristic of the old life:

Col. 3:9-10 "Lie not one to another"

Eph. 4:25 "Speak every man truth to his neighbor"

Prov. 13:5 "A righteous man hateth lying"

3c. Falsehood must be consciously and continuously avoided:

Col. 3:9-10

Eph. 4:25

Ex. 20:16; 23:1,7

4c. Falsehood perpetuated by speech or utterance is especially denounced:

Col. 3:9-10

Eph. 4:25

4b. The operation of falsehood:

1c. Every deviation from the truth is the result of sin.

2c. A point can be reached where a person actually believes the lies which he invents.

3c. A liar is a person who asserts something which is contrary to fact.

4c. A person is a liar when he passes on misinformation, no matter what his motives or designs may be.

1d. All falsehood, as deviation from truth, is per se wrong.

2d. Prejudices, false judgments and convictions are deviation from the truth.

3d. Any deviation from the truth is sin because falsehood is contrary to the character of God.



5c. A person may misrepresent truth overtly in several ways:

1d. Design of deceiving or injuring someone.

2d. Design of benefiting someone:

1e. Out of necessity: e.g. Rahab hiding the two spies.

2e. Out of expediency: e.g. Taking children to the doctor and telling them it won't hurt.

3e. Out of custom: e.g. Santa Claus, "Boogy Man"

3d. Design to amuse or to instruct

1e. Parables: 2 Sam. 12:1-6, David and Nathan

2e. Fables: Judges 9:8-15

3e. Irony: 1 Kings 18:27; Job 12:2; Ex. 14:11

4e. Novels:

5e. Compliments:

6e. Exaggeration:

The above five methods of conveying information are not really wrong but caution needs to be used. Exaggeration is a form of lying and therefore needs to be avoided.

3A. The Obligation of Truth:

1b. The divine basis for truth.

1c. The absolute character of truth.

1d. God is truth: John 14:6

2d. God is light: 1 John 1:5

3d. God is love: 1 John 4:8,16

4d. God is spirit: John 4:24

There are only four "God is" statements in the Bible and two deal with truth. Two of the seven sins which God hates, it will be recalled, deal with lying.

2c. The absolute requirement of truthfulness.

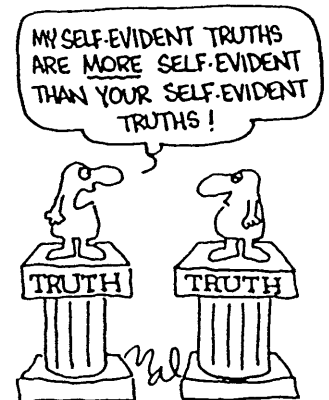
1d. The ultimate question:

IS IT EVER RIGHT TO DEPART FROM STRICT, LITERAL TRUTH? (or, Must we tell the truth at all costs, at all times, to everyone?)

1e. An affirmative answer:

It is right to lie at times under certain conditions, most ethicists believe:

Eavey thinks so (Practical Christian Ethics, p. 17):



"There are rigid moralists, e.g. Augustine and Kant, who maintain that no circumstances can justify departure from strict and literal truth--not even to deal with children, save life, to restrain madmen, to prevent criminal acts, or to deter an enemy in time of war. Most students of ethics, however, are in accord with sound human understanding and general practice which allow for exceptions."

Smyth, in Christian Ethics, asserts that we are never justified in telling an untruth unless "you can tell the necessary falsehood deliberately and positively, from principle, with a good conscience void of offense toward men, and sincere in the sight of God" (Pp. 399f).

2e. A negative answer:

It is never right, under any circumstances, to deviate from the truth.

1f. Theologians and philosophers agree: Augustine, Kant, Fichte

Fichte uses the illustration of a woman on her death-bed having just given birth to a dead infant. She asks if he is alive. The truth might kill her. Should she be lied to in order that the mother's life might be saved? Fichte replies: *Stirbt sie, so stirbt sie der Wahrheit.*" ("If she dies, she dies for the sake of truth.")

2f. John Murray, Principles of Conduct, p. 47:

"No claim is more basic or ultimate than that of truth. We cannot regard any other sanction as higher on the altar of which truth may be sacrificed. By what warrant may we plead, as many have done, that love is a higher end out of consideration for which untruth is sometimes justifiable and dutiful? Is life itself more sacred than truth? God is love. . . But God is truth also. Love and truth do not conflict in Him and His truth is never curtailed or prejudiced in maintaining and promoting the interests of His love."

One is inclined to agree with Murray that there is never a good reason to deviate from God's truth.

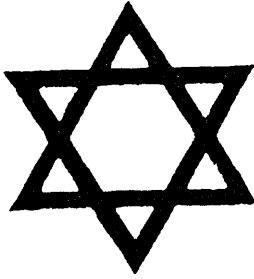
2d. An unequivocal answer:

Truthfulness may never be sacrificed for anything else.

1e. It cannot be sacrificed for love because love and truth do not conflict. They do not conflict in the nature of God. Love and truth are not antithetical in the actions of Christ.

2e. It cannot be sacrificed for life because God is the sovereign over life and no person can die one moment before God permits Him to leave this world.





For example, as we were hiding Jewish people in our home during World War II, it would not have been right for us to lie to the authorities about our knowledge of their whereabouts. Certainly, even if the truth had been told to the Gestapo, God would not have permitted these Jewish people to have been exterminated without His express permission. Lying in order to save a life or to bring about a beneficial situation for someone is not an ethical choice we should make, because it infers that God is impotent or because it implies that God is without power and not in sovereign control over the events of the universe.

- 3e. It cannot be sacrificed for any higher end, because untruth is the contradiction of God's nature, and that is wrong. Furthermore, it is never right to do evil that good may come. Rom. 3:8

2b. The personal knowledge of truth.

- 1c. The believer must know the truth if he is to live the truth.
- 2c. Truth comes through revelation rather than reason: Ps. 58:3; 2 Cor. 4:4
- 3c. The life of truth is effected through a transformation by the God of truth.
- 1d. The salvation experience may be considered as a change from living a lie to obeying the truth: 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Jn. 2:22; Gal. 2:5
- 2d. The believer's life is characterized by truth:
  - 1e. Carnal Christians do not obey the truth: Gal. 5:7
  - 2e. False teachers err from the truth: 2 Tim. 2:18
  - 3e. Apostates are unable to come to the knowledge of the truth: 2 Tim. 3:7-8; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; cf. Rom. 2:8
  - 4e. Believers are immersed in truth:
    - 1f. The Christian rejoices in the truth: 1 Cor. 13:6
    - 2f. The Christian walks in truth: 3 John 3-4; 2 John 4
    - 3f. The Christian delights to see others walk in truth: 3 John 4

3b. The biblical problems concerning truth.

The Bible contains various problems in relation to truth. The following are classic illustrations:

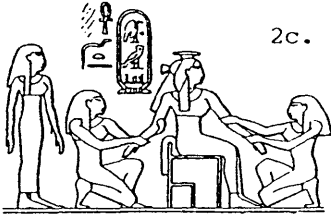
- (1) An example of untruth: Rahab and the men of Jericho, Josh. 2
- (2) An example of a half-truth: The midwives of Egypt and Pharaoh, Ex. 1
- (3) An example of concealment of truth: Samuel and the men of Bethlehem, 1 Sam. 16
- (4) An example of strategems of war: Joshua and the men of Ai, Josh. 9

1c. Rahab's lie: Josh. 2:1-14

1d. The problem considered:

2d. The principles analyzed:

2c. The half-truths of the midwives of Egypt: Ex. 1:15-22



1d. The problem considered:

1e. The midwives revealed part of the truth: Ex. 1:19-20

2e. The midwives concealed part of the truth: Ex. 1:17, 20

2d. The principles analyzed:

1e. It is not the untruth of the midwives which is endorsed but their fear of God: v. 17, 21

2e. The case of the midwives demonstrates that the fear of God frequently co-exists with moral infirmity.



an Egyptian scene of birth

3c. Concealment of truth: 1 Sam. 16:1-15

1d. The problems of the passage:

1e. Samuel was commanded to do one thing and told to say another: 1 Sam. 16:1-2

Samuel was commanded to anoint a new king over Israel and yet said that he had come to offer sacrifice.

2e. God authorized concealment and evasion of the truth.

3e. Samuel was permitted to suppress the most important facts of his mission, that is, the anointing of a new king.

2d. The principles from the passage:

1e. Samuel did what he said he would do: 1 Sam. 16:4-5  
He did offer the sacrifice.

2e. It is proper that under certain circumstances part of the truth may be withheld or concealed.

3e. Concealment is not the same as deception or lying.

4e. We are not warranted to maintain that in concealing the truth we may affirm untruth.

4c. The stratagems of war: Josh. 8:3-29

1d. The strategy intended at Ai:

1e. There was an ambush or a concealment: Josh. 8:4-13

2e. There was a feigned retreat: Josh. 8:15

3e. The Lord Himself was party to the stratagem: Josh. 8:8-18

2d. The principles inferred from the incident:

- 1e. There was no action on Israel's part contrary to fact or intent.
- 2e. Truth does not mean that the other person understands everything perfectly that we are saying or doing.
- 3e. Deception arises at times when the other party fails to interpret correctly our true purpose.

John Murray concludes concerning these and other difficult biblical illustrations:

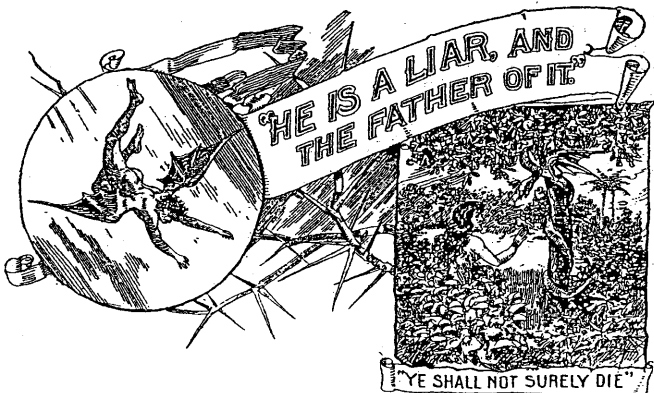
"The upshot of our examination has been that no instance demonstrates the propriety of untruthfulness under any exigency. We would require far more than the Scripture provides to be able to take the position that under certain exigencies we may speak untruth with our neighbour. In other words, the evidence is not available whereby we may justify deviation from the sustained requirement of the biblical witness that we put away falsehood and speak truth. We would need the most explicit evidence to warrant such deviation and it is that evidence that is wanting. How then could we justify it?" (p. 146)



Furse, Margaret Lewis. Nothing But the Truth? What It Takes to Be Honest. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1981, pp.127.

Murray, John. Principles of Conduct. Chapter VI, "The Sanctity of Truth," pp. 123-148. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1957, pp. 272.

<b>GOD HATES AND DETESTS</b>	<b>GOD LOVES AND DESIRES</b>
<b>PROVERBS 6:16-19</b>	
There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him:	
1. Haughty Eyes	1. Humility
2. A Lying Tongue	2. Truthful Speech
3. Hands that shed innocent blood	3. Preservation of Life
4. A heart that devises wicked schemes	4. Pure Thoughts
5. Feet that are quick to rush into evil	5. Eagerness to Do Good
6. A false witness who pours out lies	6. Honest Witness
7. A man who stirs up dissension among brothers.	7. Peaceful Harmony



### THE SERPENT AND THE SAVIOR

5 "I will"s of Isaiah 14:13-14 2 Kings 9:22; Rev. 2:20	<b>"A Proud Look"</b>	Philippians 2:5ff; Matthew 11:29
John 8:44	<b>"A Lying Tongue"</b>	John 14:6; Matthew 26:62-66
John 8:44	<b>"Hands that shed innocent blood"</b>	John 11:25; John 14:6
Genesis 6:5	<b>"An heart that devises wicked imaginations"</b>	Hebrews 7:26; 2 Corinthians 5:21
Job 1:7	<b>"Feet that be swift in running to mischief"</b>	John 4:4-5
Matthew 26:60, Rev. 12:10	<b>"A false witness that speaketh lies"</b>	Rev. 1:5
	<b>"he that soweth discord among brethren"</b>	Matthew 11:28





Fig. 286. Ananias und Saphira. Elfenbeintafel zu Brescia.

## ACTS 5

**§** BUT a certain man named Ān-ā-nī'-ās, with Sāpph-i'-rā his wife, sold a possession,

2 And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Pē'-tēr said, Ān-ā-nī'-ās, why hath Sā'-tān filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ān-ā-nī'-ās hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Pē'-tēr answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Pē'-tēr said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

12 ¶ And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Sōl'-ō-mon's porch.

13 And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.

51. Achab rettet die israelitischen Sündschaffer.

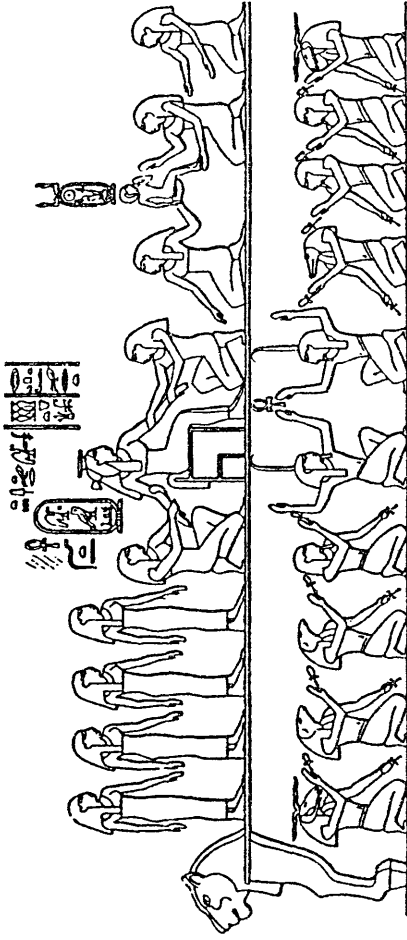


Buch Josua Kap. 2, Vers 3—15.

76. Davids erste Salbung zum Könige.



I. Samuells Kap. 16, Vers 1, 4, 5, 10—13.

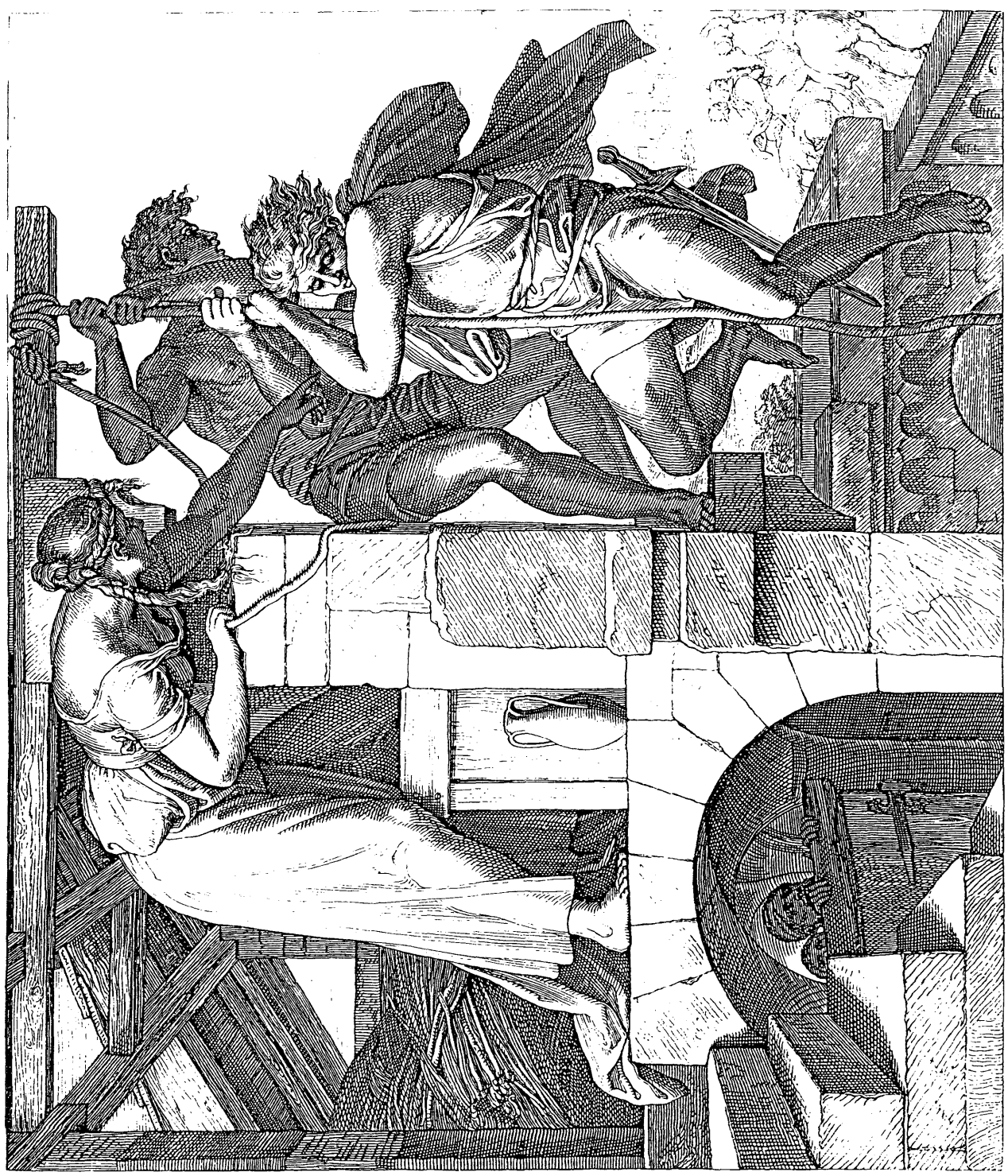


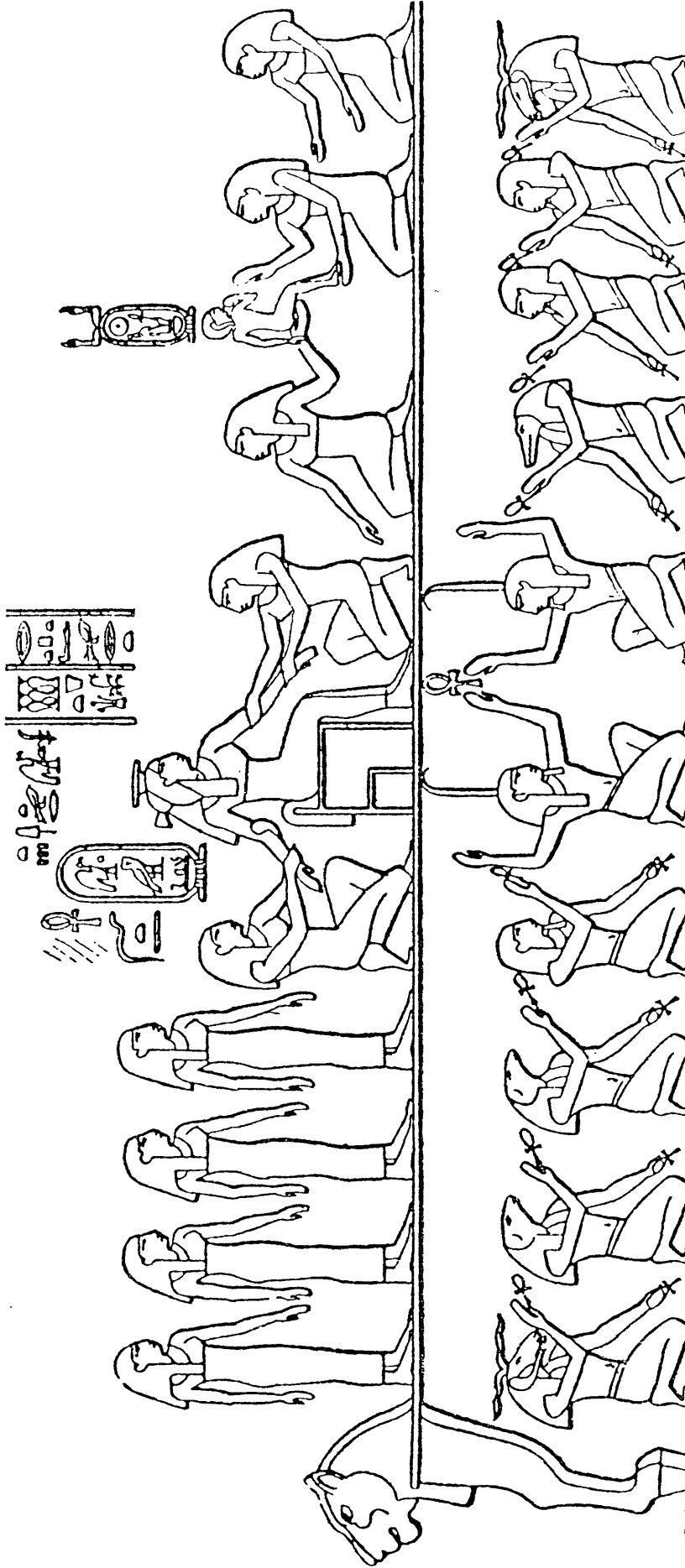
55. Eroberung der Stadt Mif.



Buch Josua Kap. 8, Vers 18—20.

Dasob rettet zwei israelitische Gundschafter.





WHEN you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, she shall live.

(Ex. 1 : 16)

David's erste Salbung zum König.







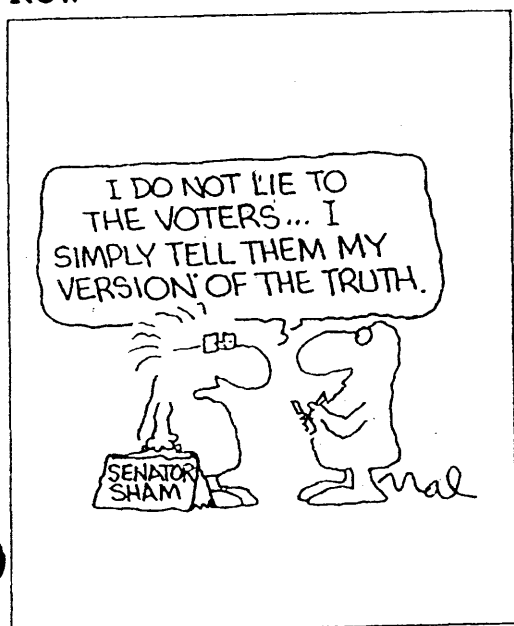
## Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

15

*Blizzard of Lies*

Now



Americans of all political persuasions are coming to the sad realization that our First Lady — a woman of undoubted talents who was a role model for many in her generation — is a congenital liar.

Drip by drip, like Whitewater torture, the case is being made that she is compelled to mislead, and to ensnare her subordinates and friends in a web of deceit.

1. Remember the story she told about studying *The Wall Street Journal* to explain her 10,000 percent profit in 1979 commodity trading? We now know that was a lie told to turn aside accusations that as the Governor's wife she profited corruptly, her account being run by a lawyer for state poultry interests through a disreputable broker.

She lied for good reason: To admit

## Protecting Bill from Hillary.

otherwise would be to confess taking, and paying taxes on, what some think amounted to a \$100,000 bribe.

2. The abuse of Presidential power known as Travelgate elicited another series of lies. She induced a White House lawyer to assert flatly to investigators that Mrs. Clinton did not order the firing of White House travel aides, who were then harassed by the F.B.I. and Justice Department to justify patronage replacement by Mrs. Clinton's cronies.

Now we know, from a memo long concealed from investigators, that there would be "hell to pay" if the furious First Lady's desires were scorned. The career of the lawyer who transmitted Hillary's lie to authorities is now in jeopardy. Again, she lied with good reason: to avoid being identified as a vindictive political power player who used the F.B.I. to ruin the lives of people standing in the way of juicy patronage.

3. In the aftermath of the apparent suicide of her former partner and closest confidant, White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster, she ordered the overturn of an agreement to allow the Justice Department to examine the files in the dead man's office. Her closest friends and aides, under oath, have been blatantly disremembering this likely obstruction

of justice, and may have to pay for supporting Hillary's lie with jail terms.

Again, the lying was not irrational. Investigators believe that damning records from the Rose Law Firm, wrongfully kept in Vincent Foster's White House office, were spirited out in the dead of night and hidden from the law for two years — in Hillary's closet, in Web Hubbell's basement before his felony conviction, in the President's secretary's personal files — before some were forced out last week.

Why the White House concealment? For good reason: The records show Hillary Clinton was lying when she denied actively representing a criminal enterprise known as the Madison S. & L., and indicate she may have conspired with Web Hubbell's father-in-law to make a sham land deal that cost taxpayers \$3 million.

Why the belated release of some of the incriminating evidence? Not because it mysteriously turned up in offices previously searched. Certainly not because Hillary Clinton and her new hang-tough White House counsel want to respond fully to lawful subpoenas.

One reason for the Friday-night dribble of evidence from the White House is the discovery by the F.B.I. of copies of some of those records elsewhere. When Clinton witnesses are asked about specific items in "lost" records — which investigators have — the White House "finds" its copy and releases it. By concealing the Madison billing records two days beyond the statute of limitations, Hillary evaded a civil suit by bamboozled bank regulators.

Another reason for recent revelations is the imminent turning of former aides and partners of Hillary against her; they were willing to cover her lying when it advanced their careers, but are inclined to listen to their own lawyers when faced with perjury indictments.

Therefore, ask not "Why didn't she just come clean at the beginning?" She had good reasons to lie; she is in the longtime habit of lying; and she has never been called to account for lying herself or in suborning lying in her aides and friends.

No wonder the President is fearful of holding a prime-time press conference. Having been separately deposed by the independent counsel at least twice, the President and First Lady would be well advised to retain separate defense counsel.