

The Sin We Love to Hate

Create in me a pure heart, O God... (Psalm 51:10)

In *The Great Divorce* C. S. Lewis describes a man's struggle and ultimate victory over the sin of lust. A citizen from "the grey town" has the chance to take a bus tour of heaven. Described as a "Ghost," he carries on his shoulder a red lizard, the symbol of his unrestrained passions. Arriving at a bus stop in heaven, an angelic being approaches the man and offers to set him free from the tyrannical control of this horrid lizard.

*"Would you like me to make him quiet?" said the flaming Spirit – an angel, as I now understood. "Of course I would," said the Ghost. "Then I will kill him," said the Angel, taking a step forward. "Oh – ah – look out! You're burning me. Keep away," said the Ghost, retreating. "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," said the Angel, whose burning hands were now very close to the lizard. "Shall I kill it?"....*

"Well, there's time to discuss that later." "There is no time. May I kill it?"... "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."....

*"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."....*

"...Blast you! Go on can't you? Get it over. Do what you like," bellowed the Ghost: but ended, whimpering, "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... (pp. 96ff.).

Amazingly, once the lizard was killed, a transformation began to occur... no, two transformations! The Ghost became a glorious and radiant angelic being and the lizard became a silvery white stallion. Now freed from his bondage to lust, the new-made man leaped on the horse's back, took the reins and rode off toward the Kingdom of God.

Friend, if you find yourself living with out-of-control lusts this morning (sex, food, drugs, cutting, porn, video games, etc.), Jesus Christ can destroy the "lizard" and set you free. He can enable you to take control of your passions and walk in purity and holiness. *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed* (John 8:36).