

亚伯和该隐

“...亚伯是牧羊的，该隐是种地的。”创世记

4:2

“...Abel, was a keeper of sheep but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” Genesis 4:2

创世记 4:2

把两兄弟的名字同时陈列出来，且是在同一个地方。这两位兄弟，出自人类的第一个家庭，其实是代表了整个人类群体当中的两组人。有一些人是牧羊的，而另一些人是种地的，正如今天的情形一样。当然，这里面所强调的其实并不是人们的职业。这里所强调的，乃是从普遍意义上来看，人们对于生活的总的态度是什么。

我们可以从创世记1:29那里知道，上帝起初给当时的人们食物乃是“遍地上一切结种子的菜蔬和一切树上所结有核的果子。”

该隐知道，如果他耕种田地，培育菜蔬，就能够有足够的食物可以吃了，于是他就把自己的注意力摆放在这些事物上面了。我们不难想象得到，他一定是在自己的职业生涯当中相当的成功，他可能也是因此大大地创收了，赢利了。

因为我们在稍后的创世记4:17那里读到，他建立了一座城，并且是以自己儿子的名字来为之命名的。该隐其实是人类历史当中的第一位精明能干和满有成就的创业者，企业家！虽然，他同时也是人类当中第一位被上帝所咒诅的个体（创世记4:11）。几乎没有人能够想到事情的结果居然会是这样的。大家都知道该隐是我们当中那位最成功的人士！然而他从上帝所得到的不是夸奖，反而是咒诅。这真的是一个令人费解的、有点儿自相矛盾的现象。但是我们从诗篇17:14那里知道，公义的上帝诚然是按照世人所行的，在今生就来报应他们！

现在，让我们再来看看亚伯。他选择了以牧放羊群为自己的职业。我们知道，在洪水之前，人们是不允许吃肉的。只有在大洪水之后，人类才得着允许，可以享用肉食（创世记9:3）。既然如此，为什么亚伯要来养羊呢？因为显然他不是用来给自己吃的。当然我们也知道，他或许会用羊毛来做衣裳。但是呢，仔细分析就会发现，其实亚伯牧羊的目的是与我们通常所想象的完全不同的。这两位兄弟，以及他们其它的弟兄姐妹们，都曾经从他们的父母

亲亚当和夏娃那里听说过，当亚当和夏娃犯罪之后，上帝乃是牺牲了一个动物，为要给他们提供皮子来遮身。于是所有的这些孩子们，从他们的父母就知道了，如果他们当中有人要来亲近那位又真又活的上帝，就必须且只能够借助于流血的祭牲。上帝在他后来启示给人类的圣经当中也是明明的指出来这个道理（希伯来书9:22）。毫无疑问的，亚当和夏娃肯定是把这个真理告诉了他们的孩子了的。于是，亚伯就脱颖而出了，他在其生命当中的唯一的愿望就是要给上帝献上蒙神悦纳的祭物。

他对于自己吃什么喝什么这些事情则是不太在意的。他似乎什么都可以将就着吃。他的人生之座右铭并非如何吃得最好；而是如何最好地来取悦上帝。正是这个缘故，亚伯后来从上帝那里得着一个印证，见证他是一位义人（希伯来书11:4）。

你呢？你是一个种地的人，还是一位牧羊的人呢？耶稣，我们的主，在约翰福音6:27如此说道：“不要为那必坏的食物劳力，要为那存到永生的食物劳力，就是人子要赐给你们的，因为人子是父神所印证的。”让我们在每一天里面，都把我们生活当中的优先次序摆放得正确！选择那些在永恒当中最有价值的事情来做。愿上帝的名在你我的身上得着荣耀！—MP敬献。

Abel and Cain

“...Abel, was a keeper of sheep but Cain was a tiller of the ground.” Genesis 4:2

Gen 4:2 has the names of these two brothers listed for us in one place. These two brothers in the first family represent two groups of people in humanity in general. Some are keepers of the sheep, while others are tillers of the ground, even today. It does not merely talk about what they did for a profession. It talks about their attitude towards life in general.

We know from Gen.1:29 that the Lord gave herbs yielding seeds and fruits as their food for men in those days. **Cain** knew that if he tilled the land and cultivated the herbs he would have plenty to eat and so he turned his attention towards that. We can imagine that he would have been quite successful in his career and that he made huge profits out of it as well. Because we read in Gen.4:17 that he built a city and called it by the name of his son. **Cain was the first ever brilliant and successful**

entrepreneur in the history of humanity! Though **he was the first ever man to be cursed by the Lord (Gen.4:11)**, no one could ever imagine that that indeed was the case. Every one knew him as the most successful man around! What a paradox?!! But we know from Ps.17:14 that God gives to the people of the world their portion in THIS life!!

But look at **Abel** now. He chose keeping the sheep as his career. We know that meat was allowed to be eaten only after the flood (Gen.9:3). But why was Abel keeping sheep if it was not for his food? Of course we know that he could make clothing out of the skin of the sheep. But Abel had a completely different reason to become a keeper of the sheep. Both these brothers and other siblings knew from Adam and Eve that when they had committed sin, God had made a sacrifice of an animal to clothe them. From their parents all these children knew that if they had to approach the living God, it was only possible through a blood sacrifice. God had made it very clear to humanity later on in His Word (Heb.9:22). But Adam and Eve had told the same truth to their children without a doubt. And so here was **Abel, his only desire in life was to present to God an acceptable sacrifice**. He did not bother much about what he ate or drank. He ate whatever was available to him. **His motto in life was not how best to eat; but how best to please God. Thus he obtained a certificate later from God that he was righteous (Heb.11:4).**

Are you a tiller of the ground or a keeper of the sheep? **Jesus, our Lord, said in John 6:27 "Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto eternal life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for on him the Father, even God, has set His seal"**. Let us have our priorities set right on a daily basis! To His Name be all glory!
Sincerely, MP