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# INTERVIEW WITH

*Tamar*

**Q** QUESTION: How long have you been doing art? Is it something you were interested in before joining the Family? Or rather something you developed since?

**A** ANSWER: I've been drawing since I was quite young, and recall really getting into it as far back as when I was five years old when I got my first set of super-duper coloring pencils. From there I pursued art all through high school, and was actually doing a graphic design course when I joined the Family. However, I've learned more from other artists in the Family as far as developing my talent than I ever did through taking that course.

**Q** QUESTION: Has art been your main ministry in the Family?

**A** ANSWER: Well, for the most part I would say it hasn't. I joined the Family in '76 when I was 17, happily forsaking my art to be a disciple, and then for quite a few years I was a litnesser, witnesser, FFer and mother to my daughter. It was only when Dad sent out the call for artists to illustrate the *True Comics* that I started doing art in the Family. Then in '84, while on the mission field, I was invited to help the other artists illustrating *Life with Grandpa*, and ended up staying behind the scenes. Since then I've always been involved with the publications side of things, whether it be doing layout or whatever, and also during my 1½ years spent at the GPU I was able to work on the computer colorization of the GP booklets *Trudge and Zippy* and the *Praisin' U* series, which was a lot of fun for me. But I've only recently started to do art again, just a little over a year ago.

**Q** QUESTION: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

**A** ANSWER: Oh my, this is a toughie! You know how it is, you often tend to see yourself so differently from how others see you. So, maybe I should have someone here answer that question for you, one of the SGA girls:

"There's so much to love and like about Tamar, but I'll keep this short by mentioning a couple of the things that stand out the most to me. Physically speaking, I'd say that she's very beautiful—and if you asked the guys they'd probably say she's sexy! She's a new bottle and young at heart. She has many of the qualities of a good friend—she's easy to talk to (also honest and isn't afraid to tell you what she thinks and feels), likes to listen, enjoys having a





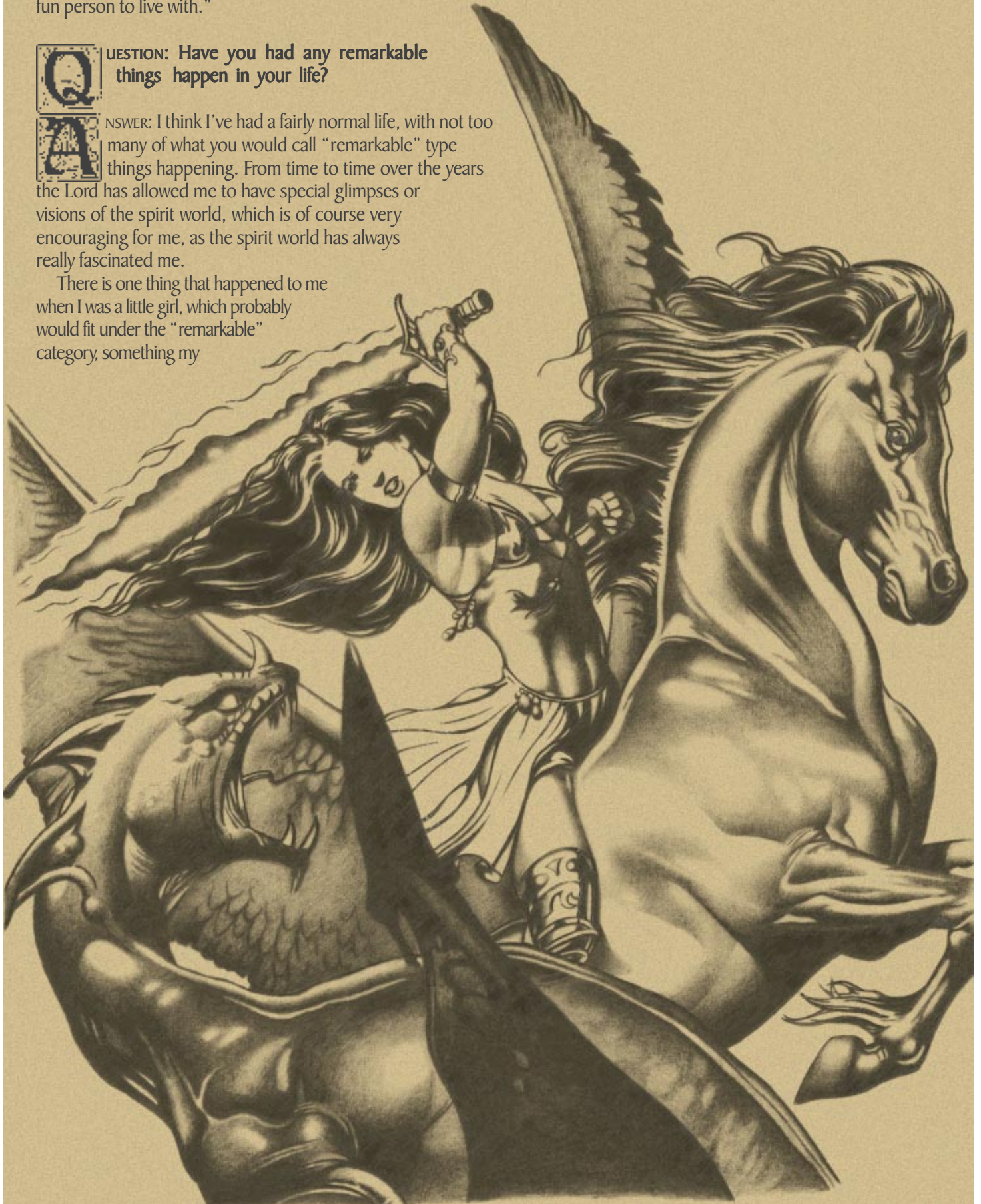
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good time, and knows how to have fun. She works hard and puts in the hours when it's time to work, but she's not afraid to let her hair down and enjoy herself, which makes her a very fun person to live with."

**Q** **UESTION:** Have you had any remarkable things happen in your life?

**A** **NSWER:** I think I've had a fairly normal life, with not too many of what you would call "remarkable" type things happening. From time to time over the years the Lord has allowed me to have special glimpses or visions of the spirit world, which is of course very encouraging for me, as the spirit world has always really fascinated me.

There is one thing that happened to me when I was a little girl, which probably would fit under the "remarkable" category, something my





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relatives have coined “the duck pond episode.” Lord help me as I relay this story, as it is quite “unexplainable,” and it might not make sense in the beginning till you realize what obviously happened in the spirit.

I grew up on a farm, and I was five years old at the time of this incident; my younger sister was about 2½ years old. The sequence of events is that I was down at the back of the farm with my father and younger sister. He left us by the duck pond, while he went up into a nearby paddock to tend to the sheep. He instructed my younger sister not to go near the marshy pond’s edge, but to stay put. The pond had no bank, you could simply walk into its marshy borders, then out into its deep waters.

I remember standing there with my sister and she started moving toward the pond and out into its waters. I remember trying to stop her, but I couldn’t seem to move for some reason, my arms and legs seemed frozen. All I could do was watch in horror as she walked quietly out into the water, till all you could see was her little red hat bobbing above the water! Still to this day I remember how frightened I was, but all of a sudden I managed by some miracle to let out a scream, calling out to my father as loud as I could to get his attention.

Thankfully my father heard me, because he turned around and ran as fast as he could down to the pond. I’d never seen my father run so fast before, leaping over fences till he reached the pond and dived in. Thank God he was able to get her out of the water, but just in the nick of time, as she was nearly gone.

The next thing I remember is that we were gathered in the living room talking to my parents, and my father was telling us all that had happened. He started relaying the events and I piped in as well, filling my mother in on what happened next and so forth. It was then that my mother and father just looked at each other in bewilderment, and my father asked me why I was saying all this when at the time it was happening I was at home fast asleep taking a nap!

I kept insisting, “No, Daddy, I was there!” and he kept telling me to stop telling fibs, that it was impossible. Then, bit by bit I started relaying details that I couldn’t possibly have known otherwise and finally ended by asking him if he remembered me calling out to him for help.

I remember my father’s face slowly turning pale, and he just stared dumbfounded at my mother and said that he *did* hear a child’s voice calling out to him for help, and that’s what made him turn around and see what was happening. I remember everyone was just very quiet after that and no one said anything, as it was one of those “unexplainable” things.

Now of course, I know what happened: The Lord allowed me to take a spirit trip while I was sleeping in order to be there to help my little sister in her time of need. That was pretty remarkable and showed me that really anything is possible in the world of the spirit, even that which seems “impossible” in the natural.

**Q** **UESTION:** Have you ever had anything spiritual happen with your art?

**A** **NSWER:** This is a fun one to answer, because yes, I’ve had some really spiritual experiences happen over the last year with my art!—The sort of things that give you goose bumps all over!

First of all, before I start, I have to give credit where credit is due, and that is that I didn’t really start feeling or becoming aware of my art spirit helpers until I started working with pencil, as opposed to brush and line work. But the only reason I started working with pencil is due to the bleats of one of the SGA girls here. It was due to her (and then others’)



persistent pleas for me to draw some pictures in pencil that finally persuaded me to do so, God bless her!

Prior to this, I was pretty much of the mindset (not a good one): “Well, I know I can’t use pencil, because I’ve never tried it before.” So, lo and behold, I was truly amazed that I could actually use pencil and the pictures were coming out better than my previous line work! I felt that I’d found my “medium” so to speak, at least for the time being, as the Lord leads. And not only did it seem to be my medium in the physical sense, but it seemed to be a spiritual medium in a way also, because it was at that point that my physical senses became more aware of spiritual help in different little ways (which was also confirmed by prophecy) and I felt more of the Lord’s anointing being upon my work.

Also, it was at this particular time in my life that I took some pretty big steps of yieldedness, forsaking things in my heart and life which were holding me back from being and doing all that the Lord wanted me to. I know that yielding and surrendering and forsaking also opened a window within my spirit and heart for more of Jesus and consequently more of His anointing upon my artwork.

Anyway, back to my story: My first “spiritual experience” with my art was when I was doing the cover for the Cathar GN. I was drawing the



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Cathar girl at the top of the picture, and using some reference to help me in the drawing of her hair. I was working away, when very clearly I heard a girl's voice say, "Let go, let go, don't use the reference." I thought to myself, "Mmmm, that's funny," and silly me, I just continued using the reference. Again I heard this same voice, "Let go, Tamar, let go. Don't use the reference." It was at this point I literally got goose bumps all over, it was as if I could feel her leaning over my shoulder directing me. So I proceeded to draw the hair without using the reference, and it was as if someone else was working through my fingers. It's difficult to describe, but it was like I was in a detached sense almost watching my own hand draw, but I wasn't controlling my hand. I was simply "letting go" and watching it draw. (I had the same thing happen recently when drawing the cover for the Feast "Consecration Ceremony" GN. I was shading the boys' jeans, and for about 30 seconds, I had that same amazing experience of losing control of my hand.)

So anyway, the Cathar GN went out to the Family, and it must have been a couple of weeks later that someone here (unbeknownst to me) noticed something peculiar about the girl at the top of the picture: She had six fingers on one of her hands instead of five! When it was first discovered, it wasn't brought to my attention. I think people were wondering *how* to tell me, ha! I was oblivious to this "mistake."

However, during this time, someone who knew about the six fingers

received some amazing messages from the Lord about it early one morning. I'll include excerpts below of these messages:

*(Jesus speaking:)* It may seem at first that the woman with the extra finger was a simple blunder. But I say that I allowed this to happen for a specific purpose. The most important is that this was the characteristic of one of those who delivered the message to you. Of course, there was no physical way to know that and I chose not to reveal this earlier through the initial prophecy of direction about this picture. This was a work of My Spirit.

When I gathered this dear Cathar spirit helper into My arms many years ago, she was given the choice to have a normal five-finger hand or to keep the six fingers, which on Earth was considered a deformity. Her decision was to keep the extra finger, because it was a reminder to her of what I had brought her through while on Earth. This extra finger is not considered a deformity at all in My Heavenly kingdom, because it is part of the beautiful person I made her.

It is My desire to show My dear Tamar that her hands are indeed guided by the spirit world. Sometimes she senses it, but most of the time it happens unbeknownst to her. My spirit helpers not only put ideas and pictures into her mind, but also sometimes actually physically move her hands. She certainly did not put the extra finger there on purpose, and it is unlikely that she would make such a mistake. However, I allowed this peculiar feature to be drawn both to humble her and in order to show her and everyone else that it is not you that speak, write, create, draw, cook, clean, teach, but My Spirit that does all of these things through you.

If she had consciously received in the Spirit that this spirit helper had six fingers, then she may have given credit to her own channel and talent. But I chose to move her hands in the spirit and literally draw for her, causing her to lose control and put that extra finger on. I know that this will be humbling for her, but this humbling process is part of My will for her.

\* \* \*

*(Jesus speaking:)* I haven't failed you, even in this picture, even in this hand with the six





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fingers—this is not the “mistake” that you think it is. I’ve used this to show you something that you didn’t know. Your spirit helpers are working very closely with you, very very closely, so much so that sometimes you’ve felt their presence, their anointing. This is partly what happened at the time of drawing this picture. Your spirit helper was working so closely with you, that you even felt her hand upon your hand, to the point that you even drew part of her hand—thus the sixth finger.

This is one of My Cathar spirit helpers who now helps you from the spirit world. You’ve drawn her spirit, her beauty, and she is truly beautiful, isn’t she?

She was not perfect in body, but she is perfect in spirit, in love and faith. She will help you to portray the weakness that manifests the beauty of My Spirit. I allowed it to encourage you with your new spirit helper, to encourage you that even though this looks like a mistake, it’s going to bear good fruit in your life and in your art work. She will help you and anoint you with the simplicity of My Spirit, the beauty of weakness. (End of excerpts of messages from Jesus.)

So thank You Jesus, because of that experience and the messages received, the Cathar GN has a very special place in my heart. I know the Lord also used it to encourage me and give me an extra boost of faith that He and His helpers are going to do it through me, even though I often feel like I just don’t have the capability or talent myself.

**Q** **UESTION:** Do you have a specific spirit helper who helps you with art?

**A** **NSWER:** Well, I probably have a few I don’t know about yet, but apart from Elena, my Cathar spirit helper mentioned above, I also have another young female spirit helper called “Ink Courage.” As well as being an artist herself, her particular mission with me is as an encourager, hence her name. Also, someone received a message for me a while back from my personal heavenly tutor, Lucidian. He said that in the Heavenlies each gift or talent that is given to man, whether it is music or art or dance or writing, has an angel who is over that particular talent or gift. Lucidian is over the gift of art and beauty and illustrating, and he has been assigned to guide my hand and thoughts as I work. I must say it’s quite awesome to think that I have spirit helpers like Lucidian and Elena, but that’s where faith comes in, and I definitely know and can actually feel at times that I have spirit helpers working through me, because in the natural I know that my talent is small and relatively undeveloped. I think that’s why the Lord has compensated for that by giving me quite a few helpers in the spirit.

**Q** **UESTION:** How does it normally work for you when you get a new GN to do art for? Do you read it first? Pray? Or do you normally get suggestions about what should be drawn?

**A** **NSWER:** When I first started doing GN art about a year ago, I didn’t really need to read the GN first, because someone else would usually pray and hear from the Lord on the art. Then I would simply follow through on the Lord’s instructions. Just illustrating the GN was all very new to me, so I was very thankful that I didn’t have the added responsibility of also praying and hearing from the Lord on exactly what the picture should be and all the details. Of course, Mama is the one who approves the art idea, but still, even to pray and receive the ideas from the Lord is quite an awesome responsibility.

At the time I know I wasn’t quite ready for this responsibility, but the Lord slowly eased me into it, and after awhile I was asked if I’d





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like to try to hear from the Lord on the idea for the art, so I began first reading the GNs, then praying about the art idea. Sometimes someone else will hear from the Lord for the GN art idea, but for the most part nowadays I hear from the Lord regarding the art ideas. I must admit, this new step was pretty daunting for me at first, but our wonderful Husband is always so faithful, and as I stepped out by faith and asked Him for the specifics of the picture, He never failed me.

Of course, praying about the art idea is just the first step. I then send the prophecy and idea around to my co-workers for their approval, in case they have any further questions or clarifications on the picture that they feel we should ask the Lord about. Then it is submitted for Mama's approval, after which I take it from there, continuing to ask the Lord on any details needed as I go. It's been a wonderful learning experience for me, because even though it's been hard on my pride and sensitivity at times, and hard on my

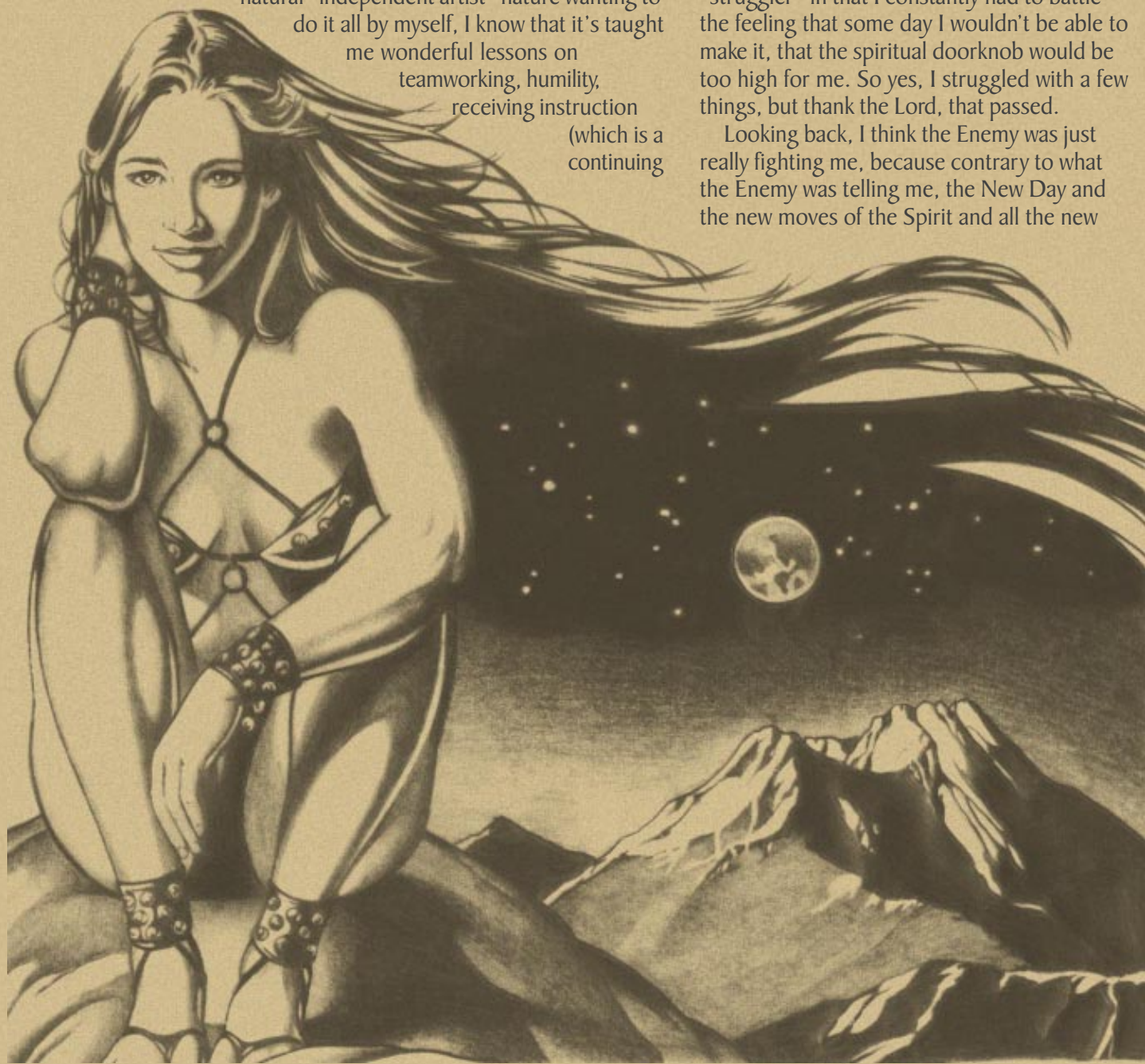
natural "independent artist" nature wanting to do it all by myself, I know that it's taught me wonderful lessons on teamworking, humility, receiving instruction (which is a continuing

process by the Lord's grace!), and great dependence on the Lord and others. I know, and can testify beyond a shadow of a doubt, that all the credit goes to the Lord and my wonderful teammates (here and in the spirit world!) for each and every GN picture.—It's a real teamwork effort.

**Q** **UESTION:** In your personal life do you find it easy to flow with the new moves and all the New Wine that is coming out? How does it affect you?

**A** **NSWER:** At the very beginning of the New Day and new moves of the Spirit, to be honest I was a "struggler" in that I constantly had to battle the feeling that some day I wouldn't be able to make it, that the spiritual doorknob would be too high for me. So yes, I struggled with a few things, but thank the Lord, that passed.

Looking back, I think the Enemy was just really fighting me, because contrary to what the Enemy was telling me, the New Day and the new moves of the Spirit and all the new





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weapons have actually been my salvation spiritually. My relationship with the Lord has skyrocketed as far as intimacy, deepness, and having that solid assurance deep inside of His unconditional and abiding love for me. So apart from that initial struggle and accompanying fears and worries, yes, I've found it easy to flow with the new moves of the Spirit. With each new move, each new weapon Jesus gives us, I've found it has helped me fall more deeply in love with Him, and with it has come a desire to know and love Him more and more. I know that this is just a work of His grace.

On my desk is a little picture I've kept with me for about five years now. I keep it, because Jesus told me a few years ago that this is a picture of Him and me. It's a picture of a mountain stream lined with big rocks on both sides, and Jesus is there alongside a young girl, His hand outstretched to her below Him, holding on to her tightly, pulling her up and over the rocks. I feel very much like that young girl, and that I make it over the hurdles and rocks only by His grace and His outstretched hand, which is always there for me, if only I continue to reach up by faith to receive His unfailing help and don't give up.

**Q** **UESTION: Do you have the gift of prophecy? Do you use it in your work?**

**A** **NSWER:** Yes, I have the gift of prophecy, and it's a very important part of my work on the GN art. The Lord continually reminds me that He wants me to seek Him on each step of the GN art and every detail of the picture. At times my flesh and pride fight against this, and I'd have to be honest and say that it's required a concentrated disciplining of myself to really do this: to ask Him step by step on every detail of the art. I would say by nature I'm quite lazy spiritually, so this was a revolution in my life, but I know the Lord has really blessed this acknowledging and seeking Him for each picture, rather than just going along on my merry way leaning to my own natural artistic leadings, as I have done in the past.

Of course, in the past, I would always pray and ask the Lord to help me before I started my artwork, but it's been a real awakening for me over the past year or so to see just how much the Lord loves, and in fact desires, to get involved with every picture and its details, because then the picture can be all that He wants it to be and portray His wonderful Words and message the way He knows best, and the Lord can get the most mileage possible out of each picture.

I'm reminded of a beautiful birthday prophecy someone received for me last year and the Lord told me that He wanted each GN picture to be like "a visual prophecy, My whispers made manifest, My virtual reality." That is my prayer and deepest heart's desire, that I can capture His Words, His Light, and His Spirit through each picture. But I know that I can only do that through desperately claiming His anointing and help, and continually, step by step seeking Him through prophecy for each picture, whether that be through asking the Lord myself, or having one of my co-workers ask the Lord for the details needed.

**Q** **UESTION: Do you have any tips or pointers you'd give to budding artists? Anything you can think of that might help them in their learning stage?**

**A** **NSWER:** Wow, another toughie. I don't quite know what to say because I have so much to learn myself and don't feel I have very much to offer people in the way of technical advice or tips. Even though I've been around for awhile, I don't consider myself one of the Family "greats" as far as artists go.

I look at the work of Eman, Philippe La Plume, Zeb, Laban, Jeremy, Jacques Elan (and you too, dear David Komic!) and I often get hit with comparing and feeling like I have such a long, long ways to go. These boys are the ones who have a lot to offer others in the way of tips and pointers and real technical know-how and expertise, and their work is a constant testament to that. (Dear Willing [Philippe]: I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you that I love you, and thank God for all the time and patience you invested in me way back in India when we worked together on the DM project. I'm forever indebted to you!)

But I know that aside from the Lord rekindling within me a very deep desire to draw for Him, like Dad said, "it's the Spirit, it's the Spirit, it's the Spirit wild and free! ... Thru' the Spirit, thru' the Spirit I can see the Other Side"; and that, more than anything, is what I really pray each one of our budding Family artists can strive for: to really suck and pull down the Lord's Spirit into their art. That's what makes a picture come to life and move people. Otherwise, even if a picture is technically good, it's just a pretty picture and lines on a page without the Lord's Spirit.

So, dear budding artists and artists-to-be: Love Jesus, our wonderful Husband and Lover with a passion!—With all of your heart, soul, mind and body! Draw close to Him, so that He can draw close to you and His Spirit can flow out through your fingers onto paper!

