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# The Mail-order Brides.

## From Western Lilith to Balkan Eva:

### Looking For The Lost Paradise Of “Old Testament” Patriarchy

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*I'm looking for a traditional submissive Christian wife, preferably from Balkans, to take care of the house and my 3 children. She should be young but mature enough to realize the REAL values in life: family, devotion and love. (...) She will be provided with everything she needs, in addition to my full protection and understanding, for which I'll demand obedience and modesty, like the Holy Bible puts it".*

**"Jason47", Alt.com<sup>1</sup>**

*"It is easier to teach a foreign woman English than to teach an American woman how to be a good wife."*

**Seen in an online mailing list on mail-order brides**

*"Tired of 'liberated' career women so wrapped up in their own agendas they haven't got time for yours? Many men who want a more traditional, supportive wife are finding their perfect mates in foreign countries. (...) "Today, millions of men are tied to exactly the kind of woman they don't want: Feminist and "liberated" with no loyalty or sense of a woman's natural role. If you are a man exasperated with today's feminist women, a man who still wants romance and marriage, there is now a proven way for you to meet and marry exactly the kind of woman you want. Actually, right now, her grandest dream is to meet, marry and make you the happiest man on earth. No surprise; she was brought up to do just that. She's from a culture free of the feminist thinking that has so tragically tangled up American women. She believes a woman's highest calling is to be a wife, homemaker and lover without compromise. She's in Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe. She's educated yet uncomplicated. She's young and she's ready to be nothing more than just the wife you want".*

-from "Your Bride Is in the Mail!", by Gary Clark\*

## From Lilith to Eve



"I am your Lord and Master," spoke Adam, "and it is your duty to obey me." But Lilith replied: "We are both equal, for we are both issued from dust and I will not be submissive to you." And thus they quarreled and none would give in.<sup>2</sup>

This is not just a citation from the first family scandal but the beginning of the story of the eternal war for domination between sexes. Lilith, supposed to be the first wife of Adam and just like him - created from the dust of the Earth, is a subject of the most vivid (after the one with the Messiah) Jewish myths and of thousands of endless feminist and anti-feminist discussions.

The power struggle between Adam and Lilith is a reflection of the power struggle between the sexes, a man's patriarchal attitude versus a woman's demands for independence and equality.

Vogelsang<sup>3</sup> asserts that Adam bears the guilt for the disagreement. "From the beginning [he] was trying to assert his superiority and to dominate her, a power play on the part of the masculine. He also says "it should be emphasized that she was not trying to subjugate him. She was trying to maintain her rights. Essentially this means that Adam represents the average aggressive male, whereas Lilith should actually be considered a model female who stands up for her rights.



Maren Bradley Anderson<sup>4</sup> talks about Lilith as "the first woman, the first witch and the first feminist. She probably began life as a pre-Sumerian fertility goddess in a pre-literate culture. Since then, she has been a goddess, the first wife of Adam, a witch, a temptress, a femme fatale and a feminist."

According to Moffat<sup>5</sup> "Men's fear of women has caused them to portray women in two specific archetypes and continued to compare women in such a fashion because the majority of their writing was written by men for other men. Thus was born an unspoken tradition amongst men to portray women as weak submissives and/or seductive, evil succubi/monsters such as Lilith, and is the result of men's fear of being controlled".

She is disobedient (...), she is perceived as posing a constant threat to the divinely ordered state of affairs defined by men<sup>6</sup>.



An order and full control over women should be established.

Here comes a new passive, subjugated and "CORRECTLY FEMININE" female: Eve.

But for how long?



## **The "mail-order bride warehouse" - "from post feminism to past femininity"**<sup>7</sup>

The patriarchal constructions of femininity oppose the feminist images. The "feminine' Eve (presenting the submissive traditional woman) is essentially positive and productive within society as opposed to the destructive Lilith (seen as aggressive, immoral, unattractive feminist).

Nowadays millions of mid-aged man from the developed countries - USA, Canada, Australia, the UK, New Zealand, EU and Japan are trying to escape from the "nightmare of the feminist struggle against patriarchy". Angry, disappointed and unsatisfied by the "rather liberated", feministic and independent Liliths in their countries, they are looking for a chance to find their "real feminine Eve" in the so-called "mail-order bride clubs".

The "mail-order bride" industry<sup>8</sup> (which representatives prefer to call "*international singles ads*", "international correspondence service", "pen pal" relationships, or "international matchmaking") flourishes in two main types of services.

In one type, the women's names, photos, biographical sketches, and addresses are presented in hard copy brochures or on the Internet. In these services, the agency provides the photos and descriptions of the women, who are not charged for this listing. Men who wish to obtain the mailing address of any of the women they would like to contact are charged a fee of from \$2 to \$7 for each of the mailing addresses.

The other way to contact potential spouses is through e-mail "pen-pal" clubs. These services are generally free of charge. In them, men and women provide biographical data, an e-mail address, and an indication of what type of relationship they seek. Some of the larger, more established of these pen-pal clubs are "Cherry Blossoms" - Blossoms.com, Friendfinder.com<sup>9</sup>, One-And-Only.com, Match.com, Kiss.com, Goodwife.com, AmericanSingles.com, BalkanSingles.com, Date.com. In these clubs, one can find nearly 100,000 women seeking marriage or long-term relationships. Since these services require access to computers, the women tend to be older and better educated than those listed in the catalogues and reside not only in poorest countries. The women are obtained through advertisements<sup>10</sup> in local newspapers and popular women's magazines and, most commonly, through word of mouth.

Most of them are from two major areas: Southeast Asia, including the Philippines (despite the fact that "mail-order bride" activities have been illegal there since 1990, after it was found that many women who had married through these channels had been forced into slavery or servitude), and Eastern Europe, including Russia, the other countries of the former Soviet Union and Balkans. Due to the recent influx of services focused on women of Eastern Europe, nearly half of the companies feature such women.

## The profile of the Balkan “Mail-Order Bride”

Name: Veronika S.  
Age: 27  
Weight: 119 lbs (but i'm on a diet)  
Height: 5'9  
Occupation: won't matter  
Hobbies: Cooking, Cleaning, Sex  
What I'm looking for:  
My ideal man is over forty, preferably overweight, losing his hair would be great, hopefully he has little or no experience with women or else has one or two very nasty divorces that have left him bitter and resentful of American women. I want him to be domineering and full of himself, and convinced that he deserves a beautiful domestic servant. I want him to consider himself a "catch" even though no one else does. I want a man who expects me to cook and clean for him and never offer an opinion or argue with him about anything because he's the man and he knows best. And i'm not just saying this to get out of this hellish third world cesspool I live in. Really I'm not.

“You may have seen the catalogues. Photos of smiling Asian or East European women, all reasonably attractive, few over the age of thirty five, promising to be a good, quiet, submissive wife to any Western man wealthy enough to pay for her plane ticket and desperate enough to marry her. Interspersed with the requests for "kind, gentle husbands" and the declarations that the quiet life of a homemaker is all they need to be happy, you'll find statements that remind the male readers how selfish and career minded Western women are, and that these impoverished third world girls make much better wives than the arrogant and uppity Western women who have the nerve to have standards and to expect equality in their relationships” .

“Some women, of course, are merely con artists who try every trick imaginable to lure a rich American into visiting or sending money. Some women post pictures of a model instead of themselves, some women claim they have a foreign currency collection and ask each "pen pal" - some girls have three hundred or more - to send her a twenty dollar bill, thereby collecting thousands of dollars without ever having to leave their writing desk. Some women are actually men, so cleverly disguised as a woman that the unsuspecting husband doesn't find out until the wedding night - when the "bride" is safely on American soil”

Leanne Bell, **Mail Order Brides**<sup>11</sup>

This is usually the way the American (and in general - Western) feminists see the “mail-order brides” their men rush for. But it doesn't say the “entire story” either...

### The Reality

Up to now no serious researches has been made on the real number of the Balkan women listed in the most popular “mail-order brides” catalogues, neither a cultural or cyber-ethnological analyses on their profiles exists yet. Most probably there wouldn't be dramatic statistical differences in the social characteristics of the “brides” from the ex-Soviet Union (about whom a lot has been said during the last 10 years) and the Balkan women, coming from the post-socialistic states like Albania, Bulgaria, ex-Yugoslavia and Romania.

An analysis of the listings in recent issues of the world five most popular catalogues featuring 14 000 women between 16 and 58 found that 64 percent were East European (post-Soviet, Balkan, Central-East European). Among them only 18 percent were under 25 compared with the 61 percent of the Asian (Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, Malaysian, Chinese and Korean) ones. 67 percent of the East European “mail-order brides” were holding Bachelors degree or above and 58 percent spoke more than one foreign language. This proportion with the Asian women was presented respectfully as 31 and 18 percent.

Since there isn't a big Balkan "mail-order brides" study for now, I'll use my small cyber-ethnological survey<sup>8</sup> in order to support with facts my statements in this text. Made between 1999 and 2002 and including 84 women aged 19 - 43 from Bulgaria, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia, Romania, it elucidates different aspects of stereotypization and communication strategies used within the "matchmaking process" with men from the USA, the UK, Canada, Australia, EU, Japan.

Here is what some of the real Balkan "mail order brides" are:

*"Divorced since 4 years and workless since 2 and a half, I was really getting tired of all this loneliness and impasse. I was trying to come out of the deadlock, to find a supportive partner that would take care of me and my 6 years old daughter... to establish a new life somewhere else... not here anymore... here there is no chance for us."*

**"Zorica", 28, divorced, workless math teacher, Nish, Serbia**

*"I was changing jobs for about 30-40 times during the last ten years. I'm an engineer myself but since they closed most of the factories in the early 90s, it's impossible to find a job as such. So I was making souvenirs, distributing cosmetics, selling female magazines, giving private lessons in math, baby-sitting... The struggle to survive was really hard since I had to raise my 2 children and my to take care of my ill dad. Busy with all this I just couldn't find a new partner during the years. Now my dad is gone, the children grew up and I feel a little bit freer to search for a mate. Because of that I made the profile in the "Apollon" agency. I would like to find a partner from a "normal" country, where I can find a proper job finally and live a secure and more pleasant life."*

**"Mariana", 39, widowed, engineer, working as saleswoman, Plovdiv, Bulgaria**

*"My mother is very ill since 1996. The medicines are horribly expensive for us but we can't stop buying them because that would kill her. We sold the apartment and the car, the land in my father's village and rented a 45 sq. m. flat: me, my sister, my father, my mother and my 87 years old grandma... A year ago daddy died by hard attack. He couldn't stand this life, poor him. Grandma is not very well either... she needs medicines herself and her pension can't cover even 30% of them. I always wanted to study medicine, but I had to go to work. I had 3-4 different jobs after I finished school. Now I'm waitress. The money I get are barely enough to pay the electricity, the water, to buy some basic food and that's all... I think I should leave the country. Well, it's impossible to go to study abroad, to find a job...? I don't know... I met these people with the marriage agency and there were many girls like me there - young, nice... but no future here. They told me that it's not a problem to find a financially secured Western husband that would take care of me and my family... that all I need to do is to follow their advises and present myself "properly".*

**"Sofia", 20, high-school education, single, Timisoara, Romania**

It's clear that some of the women themselves are not merely star struck girls longing for a fancy wedding. They expect the marriage to a foreigner to offer them better opportunities to life, to find an adequate to their education job, to establish a secured life with a "normal" relationship, without the stress of the existential struggle. The more desperate ones see such marriage as the only way out of poverty and deadlock in their home countries. They are even willing to sell themselves in order to find a better life for themselves or to have money to send back home, or to make sure their children are raised in a better country...

But it's important to note that there are other women, involved in "the game" as well:

*"A friend of mine made a profile for me in [www.Kiss.com](http://www.Kiss.com). She was trying to provoke me to meet new people via Internet since I was not going out a lot after the break up with my ex-boyfriend. But of course nothing interesting came out of it. Just hundreds of silly old Western guys dreaming to meet a nice young girly for long term relationship or marriage."*

**"Sonica", 21, single, BA student in the University of Zagreb, Croatia**

*“All I wanted to find was a new challenging relationship with somebody that would motivate me strong enough. So I did a couple of profiles in some international dating sites (...) I had no idea about what is waiting me out there...”*

**“Tanija”, 34, single, PhD student, Podgorica, Montenegro**

*“I graduated in Business Administration in 1997. Since then I work in a bank and up to now I could make a pretty successful career reaching the senior staff level. It’s an interesting and well paid position but unfortunately it’s pretty busy and that makes it difficult to meet people. I travel a lot on business trips abroad and I decided to make a posting in the Internet that I’m interested to meet people from the countries I travel in. But it seemed that almost nobody believed I’m looking exactly for this. Rather some mid-aged western businessmen were offering a stabile relationship to “clever and REAL FEMININE non-Western woman”. (...) Sometimes I think they just can’t imagine a Balkan woman can be professional, financially secured and independent. It just does not entry the stereotype they have about us...”*

**“Milena”, 29, single, Manager, Sofia, Bulgaria**

The expectations of these women have nothing to do with the ones of “Zorica”, “Mariana” and “Sofia”. They don’t look for a wealthy Western husband to secure their lives and “take care of them” because they are capable of doing it themselves. They are successful professional women that look for adventure, challenge, romance... and taking care for somebody’s house and children is the last think they really dream about.

Their only problem is that they were born in Balkans and because of that Western man expect them to be DIFFERENT than their own women: kind, family orientated, “feminine” and traditional - just like the Evas from the lost patriarchal paradise they are still looking for.

## I. MYTH FACTORY

### Producing a well-sellable image: “feminine” and “not poisoned by feminism” traditional wives, housewives and mothers to be

“Dear Gentlemen! Monseur! Meinen Heren!

The solution of your problems with your rather liberated and career-orientated Western Liliths is already here: THE MAIL ORDER BRIDES INDUSTRY IS THINKING ABOUT YOU.

We are proud to present our newest product: a traditional Eastern “EVA”: tender and feminine, kind and educated, modest and submissive, a hard working housewife and a skillful lover possessing all secrets of sexual magic...

ORDER NOW!:

*“East European women appreciate and live by traditional family values. They enjoy serving and sacrificing, their devotion to traditional family values is the most important factor pushing Western men to look for a East European wife. Generally, the meaning of “traditional family values” means accepting and thriving in a situation where the husband is busy making a living, and a wife is staying at home taking care of children, making food for the family and so on.”*

**In: [MailOrderBride.net](http://MailOrderBride.net)**

The “Apollon” agency, announcing itself as “Bulgaria's Greatest and most Successful Marriage Agency” offers catalogues and online galleries of “thousands of amazing & sexy Bulgarian women 15-60 years old”. The office of this well developed Greek owned mail order brides company is situated in the inner city of Plovdiv and the website is on <http://apollon.net>.

The client services are provided in English, German and Greek. Sensitive to the specific demands of the mail order brides` warehouse, the agency creates the image of the dream traditional wife:

*“You may say that women all over the world are the same. However, let me have a different opinion. Some of the most beautiful, educated and intelligent women in the world are Bulgarian women. They are very serious and reliable. **As wives they are tender, romantic, sensual, loving, mindful and good housekeepers. As mothers they are caring and devoted towards their children. Bulgarian women had proved themselves as strong persons worthy of admiration. In the present days of difficult changes they are very inventive and always find a way to satisfy the necessities of their family.**”*

Of course it is very important to note how DIFFERENT then the Western Liliths these Balkan Eves are:

*“**Unlike Americans or Europeans, these women understand the realities of life very well. They are unpretentious, down-to-earth, and their views of relationship have not been ruined by unreasonable expectations.** They are not yet subverted by the media and remain highly educated, cultured and conversational”.*

And since the social profile of the most common client is clear: men between 35 and 65, there are even more exciting news:

*“**Age difference is much less a factor.** They are very mature for their age, view older men as more reliable, stable, and secure. **To marry a foreigner she will expect to have a stable family and safe***

*life.”*

The agencies are aware of the fact that most of the mail-order brides` hunters have children from their previous marriages or relationships. Therefore it`s important for them to be told that:

***“Bulgarian women love children. They are thoughtful mothers and do not make difference if the children she is taking care of are her own or she is their stepmother.”***

But are these poor “unpretentious creatures” from the “good old patriarchal heaven” affordable? Sure:

*“All that she wants in return is home and financial stability - she wants to know that it won't be necessary to worry how to pay the bills for the phone, gas and electricity, or how to buy food for her family. It might sound exaggerated, unusual or even funny, but in the former socialist countries the financial situation is so difficult, that for many people it sounds like a dream come true not to think constantly about such problems, and for the women it has become a question of survival, because they are the house-wives and mothers. It is in woman's nature to desire to give birth to a new life. But how she could take such important step, how to create a family, without knowing if the next month (never mention the next year) she will have sufficient revenues even for the food.*

*If you become a friend of a Bulgarian woman, she will do her best to help you if she can. **She will never betray you or cheat you. You can rely on her at any time when you need. Moreover, the only thing she wants for all that is a human attitude and understanding on your side. Can you imagine? Nothing more in return!** That sounds unbelievable but it is true. Isn't this the most moving challenge you have ever received? It is not easy to resist it, is it?”*

In: <http://apollon.net>

## Why would a Balkan woman want a Western husband?

✦ *What do the nostalgic dreamers of “the lost patriarchal paradise” believe?*

It's natural for the candidate mail order husbands to try to understand the drive of the candidate mail order brides to them. Or to the Western man in general. And - as usual - the convenient explanations arise from the “MAGIC DIFFERENCE”. When different from the Western women, the nonwestern ones are different in a positive way - they carry all the traditional values that were lost in the West during the last 50 years:

*“Gary Clark, two-time mail order husband, has written the magnum opus of the penpal bride movement, titled appropriately enough, **Your Bride Is in the Mail!** In the excerpt titled **“Why Foreign Women Seek American Husbands,”** Clark explains that foreign women have different expectations: “They're socialized to be the kind of supportive, nurturing wife and homemaker that your great-grandmother probably was for your great-grandfather. You know, traditional! What women were like in this country before it all went to hell; before we lost Vietnam and Rock Hudson went soft on us.”*

*In: **“The Fat And The Skinny”** by Brian Mahoney<sup>10</sup>*

But Balkan men are different from the Western ones in a negative way:

*“In 1999 one of my pen-pals, he was from Austria (...), wrote me: “I'm aware of how unreliable your man are. I've been traveling a lot and I had the chance to meet the Balkan macho - rude, irresponsible and not capable of taking care of a family. They just don't deserve these intelligent, beautiful and feminine women and in addition to that are accusing them that they look for foreigners”.*

***“Romina”, 26, primary school teacher, Brasov, Romania***

And here comes the Western “knight in shiny amour” to save the enslaved in “this unjust society princess”, offering her the paradise of being “happy traditional housewife”:

*“Western man know how to make women happy. They provide their wives with everything they need in order to be happy housekeepers, mothers and wives. Isn't it what all women need?”*

***Extract of an email from a 47 years old British pen pal of “Lidija”, 29, workless, Sarajevo, BIH***

### How do the women themselves explain it?

The majority of the women are searching for a "better life" in terms of socio-economic factors - they do, for the most part, experience difficulties to find jobs and - when lucky enough to work - they get very low wages.

Some of them, not very aware of the expectations of most of the mail order husbands, dream of a nice safe life with and understanding open-minded partner:

*“I don't like the life here any longer. I can't practice my job, can't do my favorite trips, can't socialize with people as I was used to(...) and all this because of the financial crisis that came upon us about 10 years ago and it doesn't seem to leave soon. I hope the agency will help me to find an intelligent, kind, financially stabile man that would be able to lead a normal and safe from existential stress relationship. I want to start a new life on all levels: professional, personal, geographic. (...)*

***“ Bilijana”, 39, holding an MA in Russian Philology, Beograd, Serbia***

For others the desperation is so severe that they are practically deciding to sell themselves:

*"I am really tired and desperate. (...)Changing tens of jobs, living in miserable conditions... I just want to get rid of all this. Even if I have to marry somebody 25-30 years older than me."*

**"Olimbia", 26, technical college education, tailor, Tirana, Albania**

*"EU, American, Canadian or whatever residency... Just anything that would give my child a better chance. I will go for it - and nothing can stop me. Finally, what can be worse than here? Men are the same everywhere, it's just that some of them are lucky enough to live in better places."*

**"Ruzica", 42, hairdresser, college education, Bitolja, FYROM**

However, some of the women do not go for Western men (mainly) for financial reasons.

They cite plenty of different motives, the most popular of which are:

❖ **"Western men are soooooooo romantic!":**

*"Our men have no idea how to treat a woman. They are so rude and insensitive that I really feel aversion to them. No cavaliers, no nice manners... I want to meet a gentlemen that will know how to make me feel nice - just like in the films."*

**"Katia", 19, high school education, workless, Bania Luka, BiH**

❖ **"Western men are responsible and caring husbands"**

*"I'm sick of lazy drunks that don't bring a single coin in their houses and in addition to that require respect, behave like assholes, sometimes even attack their wives physically... Americans, they say, make good husbands - they don't drink and take care of their families. I hope to be happy enough to find one for myself."*

**"Margo", 28, BA, piano teacher, a village in the region of Brasov, Romania**

❖ **"Western man have the faith and the moral that our men lost years ago".**

Does it sound familiar?

*"Western men respect family. They are religious and their faith makes them resist the temptations (... ) that keeps their family undamaged by occasional relationships. Unfortunately the socialism destroyed the family here. Now all the men run around with other women and to be faithful to your wife is considered to be a sign of idiocy."*

**"Maria", 46, Primary School Teacher, Divorced, Asenovgrad, Bulgaria**

## The “mail-order brides” hunter

### ✦ *Social profile*

The catalogues and books written for men who want mail order brides try, vehemently, to deny that women are marrying old, fat, balding Western men. Davor Jedlicka from the University of Texas in 1985 surveyed 607 American men seeking mail-order brides and received 206 responses. He found that the men were generally white (94 percent); highly educated (50 percent with two or more years of college, 6 percent with M.D.'s or Ph.D.'s, only five did not complete high school); politically and ideologically conservative; and generally economically and professionally successful (64 percent earned more than \$20,000 a year; 42 were in professional or managerial positions). Their median age was 37. 84 percent lived in metropolitan areas. Fifty-seven percent had been married at least once; most had been divorced after an average of seven years of marriage, 35 percent had at least one child, and 75 percent wished to father additional children. When asked about their religious affiliations, 48 percent of the men identified themselves as Protestant, 23 percent as Catholic, 15 percent as belonging to other religions, and 14 percent as having no religious affiliation<sup>11</sup>

Of the 30 mail-order bride couples Mila Glodava<sup>12</sup> encountered between 1986 and 1993, only two were close in age (4 -6 years difference). In the other 28 there was a 20 to 50 year difference in age. Older men, says Glodava, often want women "they can mold" and therefore do not want those who are too educated. "They would just become like any other American woman," they said. She concludes that, "It is apparent that power and control are critical for the men."

It is interesting to note that the views above on native and foreign men and women are not limited to the Western world - a similar attitude exists in Taiwan. According to "Taiwan Moves to Boost Women's Marriage Prospects"<sup>13</sup>, many Taiwanese men prefer brides from other Asian countries because they feel Taiwanese women--who tend to be better educated and more affluent--expect too much from their husbands. Due to this attitude, Taiwan has imposed a limit on the number of brides from certain countries that can enter Taiwan each year--360 from Indonesia, 420 from Burma, and 1,080 from China. On the women's side, many of them are seeking Western men since, they say, Taiwanese men want to marry only hard-working obedient drudges while Taiwanese women have discarded this traditional role and are seeking equality.

## **Looser - not a loser?**

*“Man that go for mail-order brides are losers” - The reason you keep hearing this is because the lying feminists and their supporters in the liberal media keep repeating it. It's one of the craziest of the feminist-inspired misconceptions (...) Let me tell you what a **real "loser"** is. A **real loser** is any man who gets hoodwinked by the liberal pro-feminist hogwash that the ideal family should be headed by a husband and wife who share power as equals. Equal sharing of power between two people can never work when the two disagree. If each has an equal vote, and one votes "yes" while the other votes "no." Nothing gets done. A family is a group and all groups need a leader who has more authority than any single other member. For thousands of years, in every civilized society, the male has been the head of the family and the one with authority over the others in the family including the wife. **A loser is any man who doesn't believe in this concept or who marries a woman who won't accept it.** A loser is a man who falls for some babe over her sexual allure or becomes infatuated with her "achievements," marries her and then discovers, after the kids are born, that she's not only suddenly and unexpectedly filed for divorce, but has also filed false sex abuse charges against him to force him out of his own home and family. This has already happened to many thousands of American men and is increasing.”*

**Clark, Gary (1995)**

***An Introduction to the "Penpal Bride" or so-called "Mail-Order Bride" Movement.***<sup>14</sup>

*“The men who seek out these women seem to belong to a kind of club for emasculated men, since all of them place submission - in and out of the bedroom - above all else and require a woman who doesn't talk too much, or think too much, or do much of anything. While they used to be mostly older men with no social skills, the clientele is now branching out into younger, angrier men who can't handle today's more intellectually self-possessed woman and who want women that were raised to be subservient and docile. Some of these men may be legitimately looking for love and have found no other way to secure it. Perhaps mail order brides for these men are simply an extension of the classified personal ads or dating clubs. But most of the testimonials from men who use these services reveal an almost seething resentment of modern American women and their baffling unwillingness to drop everything and prostrate themselves before these bastions of masculinity.*

***The solution, for these men, is not to live up to higher standards, but to search the globe for a place where the standards are still low enough to make these men appear exceptional”***

***From: Leanne Bell, Mail Order Brides***

## Why would a Western man look for a Balkan wife?

### 1. Balkan=Non-Western - taking a woman for "what she is not"

For most of the mail-order husbands "Balkan" means one among the many non-Western (well, here is not the place to comment the recent processes of Western stereotypization of Balkans) traditional, patriarchal and family orientated potential brides.

According to Gary Clark, the reason so many men seek foreign "mail-order brides" is dissatisfaction with the local women. What they want is a woman who will be a more "traditional" kind of wife, who is probably more oriented toward being a wife than being a career woman.

*Why can't I find the wife I want in this country? I thought I couldn't find my perfect mate because I was too ornery; because I was too picky, too needy; because I was a borderline nutcase. But no! It's because all the women I know, American women, are too assertive, outspoken, and downright unpleasable! There's no way to meet their outrageous demands for love, and respect and equality. No wonder I can't find my perfect mate-I've been looking in the wrong country."*

Gary Clark, **Your bride is in the mail**

So for the main group of potential mail order husbands, a Balkan mail order bride would be just a non-Western, different than the local women - and all the drives to her would be drives to everything she is (or at least - supposed to be) not.

*"...marrying an East European wife under these circumstances is marrying a woman for who she is not, as opposed to marrying her for who she is - an individual with her own philosophy, values, perfections and flaws."*

*"Imagine a romantic dinner with your beautiful fiancé. She leans across the table and asks, mischievously, "How did you know I was the right girl for you?" In response, you lean over, until your lips are within a couple of inches of hers, and say, softly, "Well, basically, you were a woman, and you weren't American."*

Leanne Bell, **Mail Order Brides**

### 2. Balkan=East European - "heavenly old-patriarchal creatures"

The suggestion - very well fed by hundreds of advertisements in the mail order brides warehouse - is that East European women are raised in a culture that still promotes the traditional values and patriarchal femininity of women.

While the Western women are thought not content to be wives and mothers but seek personal satisfaction through their own careers and interests, the East European women are happy to be the homemakers and ask for nothing more than husband, home, and family. They are more traditional, family oriented. In addition to that - just like coming from the old testament books - they are less demanding partners, more beautiful, charismatic, or feminine and age differences are not really important to them.

The so-called "Christian" mail order husbands have many "proofs" about how right they are in the search of a charming little submissive thing:

*"All major religions teach **the same** family value concepts. In every one of them, a "family" is defined as a social unit consisting of a man, his wife and their children which is **headed by the male**, and to whom the wife and children are all **subordinate**. Christianity is pretty strict and specific about this. Consider the following quotes from the Bible:*

Genesis 3:16:

*"Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shall bring forth children; and **thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.**"*

Ephesians 5:23:

*For **the husband is the head of the wife**, even as Christ is the head of the church.*

Ephesians 5:24:

***Wives must submit themselves completely to their husbands** just as the church submits itself to Christ*

1 Corinthian 7:10:

***Let not the wife depart from her husband;** but and if she depart, **let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband;** and let not the husband put away his wife*

1 Corinthians 11:3:

***The husband is supreme over his wife, and God is supreme over Christ***

1 Corinthians 11:9:

***Nor was man created for woman's sake, but woman was created for man's sake***

1 Corinthians 14:35:

*As in all the churches of God's people, the **women should keep quiet in church meetings. They are not allowed to speak;** as the Jewish law says, **they must not be in charge.** If they want to find out about something, **they should ask their husbands at home.** It is a disgraceful thing for a woman to speak in a church meeting,*

Colossians 3:18:

***Wives, submit yourself to your husbands,** for that is what you should do as Christians. Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them*

Romans 7:2:

***A married woman ... is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives...***

1 Peter 3:

***... you wives should be obedient to your husbands"***

*My point here isn't that each and every one of these biblical admonishments should always be strictly adhered to. My point is that these are specific things the Bible has to say about how male-female relationships **are supposed to work.** Furthermore, there is no countervailing thread of Biblical teaching. The Bible is very specific and very one-sided on this issue. Taken in the aggregate, it's pretty obvious that **the Christian philosophy requires males to be dominant and females to be submissive. It requires husbands and not wives to clearly be the heads of families and to wield power and authority over both their wives and children.** There is nothing at all in Biblical teaching to the contrary. There is nothing at all about "equality" or husbands and wives sharing power and responsibility equally in marriage."*

### **3. Balkan=Oriental: veiled, modest and submissive.**

*"I adore the magic beauty of the Balkan women: all this mysterious atmosphere, enigmatic smiles, (...), combined with untouched femininity and veiled pure beauty..."*

***Extract of an email from a 37 years old Austrian penpal of "Tanija", 34, single, PhD student, Podgorica, Montenegro***

*"The term Balkanism derived from the term Orientalism introduced by Edward W. Said (Said 1978). His book deals with the construction of an image of the Orient by the West, an image that has little to do with reality. In analyzing the reasons, Said argues that the Orient was one of the West's deepest images of the "Other". The Orient helped Europe to define itself as its contrasting image and idea. Orientalism is a mode of ideological discourse to express and represent cultural Otherness; it functions as a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient. It is a means of establishing a hegemony of Western Europeans over the Orient."*

***Zala Volcic<sup>15</sup>; Meyda Yegenoglu<sup>16</sup>***

It's most probably the smallest part of the mail order husbands that are having in mind a clear image of "Balkan(- ic, -ism)" as something more specific than just "foreign", "European" or "East European". But when they do, the specific idea about "Balkanism" refers mainly to "Orientalism" and all the sexual implications of the Orientalism. While examining the concept of Orientalism as the real where unconscious desires, fantasies, dreams about Orient reside, it's important to point out the importance of the ways in which representations of the Orient are interwoven by sexual images, desires and fantasies. The metaphor of the veil - that well exploited by Yeegenoglu - may be a good metaphor to deal with the issue of sexual fantasies of the West - the veil as a metaphor in the construction of the reality of Orient, because the veil becomes a curtain, which simultaneously conceals and reveals.

There is no doubt that these cultural perception of "the Balkan woman" is presented mostly by the potential husbands with above then average intelligence and mentality of colonialists, obsessed by the desire to unmask and undress the veiled surface of "Balkan=Oriental Otherness".

"The veil as a metaphor serves as the basis for the construction of femininity in a very patriarchal social order and that the Western European strange obsession with the Oriental veiled woman also has to do with a more general analysis of patriarchy. Yeegenoglu argues that the West is masculine and that to the Orient, the Other sex./gender is attributed. In this incredibly strong position of the West to unmask/unveil the Oriental woman lies this wish /fantasy of the West to subject the Other, to find out all the secrets, "dangerous" thoughts, actions of the Orient. This desire of the Western subject to unmask the veiled woman is connected to the constitution of the very identity of the Western subject. "The colonial's subjects' desire to control and dominate the foreign land is not independent from his scopic desire, from his desire to penetrate through his surveillance eye, what is behind the veil. The invisibility the veil secures for the Colonial other is simultaneously the point at which desire is articulated and the ground upon which the scopic drive of the subject is displaced, for there is always the threat of the return of the look of the Other. The veil can be seen as a kind of a border in this context - between the colonizer and the colonized"<sup>18</sup>

*"I always hated him calling my way of doing things "Oriental" or "just" "soooooo very Balkan" - like it was the magic explanation applying to anything I do - good or bad. And the problem was not that much in the stereotype itself - but mostly the excitement he was obviously getting from telling it again and again."*

***"Tanija", 34, single, PhD student, Podgorica, Montenegro***

## **Success Rates for International “Mail order bride” Services**

When these cross-cultural interchanges do result in marriage, unrealistic expectations on both sides often mean severe incompatibility at best, and outright abuse at worst when a foreign woman--who is stereotyped as meek--stands up for herself, the trouble begins was not the picture bride her husband believed he had ordered.

In a survey from 1999 in the USA turned out that only a very few agencies kept any records of engagements or marriages; some because they are too new for their clients to have had time to marry, some because they have no interest in following up on their listings. Of those that provided estimates of marriages, the ones listing predominately women from Eastern European countries provided the highest figures--10 percent to 40 percent. Those whose women were largely from the Philippines and Asian countries gave lower estimates--none to 5 percent. In most cases, these estimates were for marriages to men from any country, not specifically the United States.

The only agency that provided firm statistics was Encounters International. This agency has been in business since 1993 and presents 450 Russian women in its current listing. They report 102 marriages to date between Russian women and U.S. men and, in addition, keep records of births, divorces, and locations of the couples. If it is assumed that the agency's listings have remained relatively constant at about 500 women each of the five years of its existence, then 102 of the 2,500 women, or approximately 4 percent, have found and married American men.

According to the women themselves (in written replies to a 1996 questionnaire from the author), approximately 10 percent of these women are successful--they find and marry a man through the service. There are, then, around 10,000 marriages a year between women listed by these agencies and men who use the services. Of these 10,000, around 4,000 involve US men. The remainder is distributed among Canadian, Australian, European, and, increasingly, Japanese clients.

## **Taking a (Balkan) mail order bride - a question of control above all.**

Many Western men believe that women in Western nations are, due to a feminist agenda, raised in a culture that is decidedly anti-male. Pointedly, the more emotional proponents of this philosophy often replace the term "feminist" with "femi-nazi" to indicate just how evil they believe the feminist agenda to be. For believers, feminism seeks to psychologically emasculate men, to reverse traditional male-female roles in the family, or to create a gender-blind society.

In my mind, two questions should be addressed when discussing this phenomenon: one, is aversion to a feminist agenda (whether real or imagined) justifiable impetus for marriage to a woman from another culture, and two, do men who marry for this reason achieve what they hope to achieve? In other words, how removed are East European women from feminist influences<sup>18</sup>?

Although Jedlicka states in his conclusions that his research shows the men who choose the mail-order methods for mate selection appear ". . . above average . . . certainly in their communication skills," and "exceptional in the sense that they are trying cross-cultural marriage to improve their chances for loving and enduring relationships," he cautions that such conclusions are thin at best and such interpretations from these data are not warranted. His experience and the observations of others show that, contrary to responses in questionnaires, those who have used the mail-order bride route to find a mate have control in mind more than a loving, enduring relationship.

Mike Krosky, the president of Cherry Blossoms — a company which claims to be the oldest in this industry — and Philip Ovalsen, owner of ActionPersonals.com are careful to warn that their relationships are seldom about control. Many men who had a bad experience have "done stupid things in their quest for a nice submissive bride and consequently been ripped off or at least disappointed that foreign women have as many brains as Western women," Ovalsen said. "I know plenty of Filipinos, Chinese, that if they're not happy they won't stay," Krosky said. Supporters of the industry are keen to point out that the divorce rate among mail-order brides is significantly less than for the general population of the developed world. But critics say this is only a sign of other problems. Women are often afraid to leave such relationships because the men have all the power, they say. In many cases, the women "don't have any support systems in this country and may have both language and cultural barriers," said Vivian Itchon Gupta, of the Philippine women's group GABRIELA. Gupta said while the women might initiate these relationships, there are times they are still victims, lured by recruiters with false promises of a better life.

There's no doubt that most men are driven to seek a foreign wife because of the negative perception they hold of the women at home. For most men these negative perceptions come from the direct personal experiences they have had in dating or in former marriages. notions of what constitutes "feminized" rely on static and essentialist definitions of male and female, e.g. female constituted as passive and masochistic?

A recent U.S. Department of Justice report that covered everything from immigration concerns to spousal abuse to the psychological profiles of people who engage in this business. The report was cautious in its appraisal of mail order marriages, but ultimately leaned towards the conclusion that many of these brides face abusive and controlling behaviour from their husbands, and are particularly vulnerable because of financial dependence, language barriers, and even physical violence from the men who would keep them subservient. A high number of these marriages end in divorce as soon as the woman has been in the country long enough to apply for permanent residency, and the report cautions that even in the apparently successful relationships, there is no way of knowing whether the couple is truly happy or whether, as is suspected, the husband merely exerts such a controlling influence over his friendless and isolated new wife that she has little choice but to stay with him.

Support and advocacy groups for mail order brides have sprung up on a national level, with the hopes

of calling attention to what they call "the slave trade" and to the people who keep it going. Calling attention to it is really all they can do; there is no law preventing an American citizen from marrying a foreign national and bringing her home with him, even if he picked her out of a catalogue the way he'd order a new fridge from Sears. New laws were enacted in 1994 that provided legal protection for immigrant wives if they could prove domestic abuse, but as yet there is no law requiring potential husbands to disclose criminal or marital history, including restraining orders, convictions for spousal abuse or previous unsuccessful mail order marriages. The best their new wives can hope for is adequate information about what their rights are when they arrive in the United States, and the courage to exercise them if and when their marriages fall apart.

### **Disappointed Expectations and Abuse**

According to "The Health Care Response to Domestic Violence"<sup>18</sup> "Within the last year 7 percent of American women (3.9 million) who are married or are living with someone as a couple were physically abused, and 37 percent (20.7 million) were verbally or emotionally abused by their spouse or partner."

While no national figures exist on abuse of alien wives<sup>19</sup>, there is every reason to believe that the incidence is higher in this population than for the nation as a whole. Authorities agree that abuse in these marriages can be expected based on the men's desire for a submissive wife and the women's desire for a better life. At some point, after the alien bride has had time to adjust to the new environment, to make new friends, and to become comfortable with the language, her new independence and his domination are bound to conflict.

The problem, according to Mila Glodava and Richard Onizuka<sup>20</sup>, is largely due to the men's unrealistic expectations. While many state a desire for a submissive wife, they find that such dependence becomes a burden. To provide some relief, the husband seeks ways (friends, activities) that will get the wife "out of the house" on occasion. The resulting independence then angers the husband who manifests the anger on the wife, who may have only been guilty of trying to please her husband.

The men who seek out these women seem to belong to a kind of club for emasculated men, since all of them place submission - in and out of the bedroom - above all else and require a woman who doesn't talk too much, or think too much, or do much of anything. While they used to be mostly older men with no social skills, the clientele is now branching out into younger, angrier men who can't handle today's more intellectually self-possessed woman and who want women that were raised to be subservient and docile.

Some of these men may be legitimately looking for love and have found no other way to secure it. Perhaps mail order brides for these men are simply an extension of the classified personal ads or dating clubs. But most of the testimonials from men who use these services reveal an almost seething resentment of modern Western women and their baffling unwillingness to drop everything and prostrate themselves before these bastions of masculinity.

The solution, for these men, is not to live up to higher standards, but to search the globe for a place where the standards are still low enough to make these men appear exceptional.

So if there's nothing illegal about mail order brides, and if there's nothing we can do about people with money being able to buy people without it, why does the idea of mail order marriage leave such a bad taste in people's mouths? Surely there are much more questionable marriages taking place every day in the United States, and far more unequal or abusive relationships in which one person wields the power while the other cowers. Why, then, do we regard mail order marriages with such disdain?

"They subscribe to the "I want it now" theory, ignoring that in life, almost everything worth having has to be worked for. But these men have no desire to work for anything. They resist the idea of bettering

themselves or striving to earn the love of a truly remarkable woman. Neither do they understand their own limits and accept that supermodels will never drop hotel room keys in their laps, that perhaps they ought to at least consider dating women their own age, or women whose attractiveness more or less equals their own. These men take moral shortcuts, instead, convincing themselves that they don't have to do anything special or be anyone special to win the love of a gorgeous and talented woman, they simply have to want her, and she'll appear.

Once they're married, their faulty premises become even clearer. They violate their wives' basic humanity by cutting them off from their minds. These women are expected to fulfill "traditional roles" and stay firmly in the kitchen where they belong, and should never think about having a career of their own, unless of course, their husbands give permission for them to work outside the home. Even then, they can't show too much interest in it - their first priority is to be a supportive wife and mother, always. Even if they were doctors and engineers in Siberia before coming to America, they are supposed to scrub floors and bake cookies all day, and to know that a woman's place is decidedly beneath her husband, in more ways than one.

In Glodava's study of thirty mail order bride couples, twenty-eight of the men averaged between twenty to fifty years older than the women. This is another problematic situation as it may be that many of these men are merely not looking for a wife, but a nursemaid to take care of them as well.

The women who marry these men are also in for a surprise. According to a NNAPW study of 1988, the women "see Western men as white knights carrying them off to a fantasy land of affluence and plenty." But these mail-order brides are then in for a rude awakening. Many women have reported, "being held in isolation, beaten, forced into slave labor or tricked into prostitution."<sup>21</sup>

## **Turned into victims of trafficking**

The most dangerous trend for Balkan mail-order brides comes with the organized crime that exploits the spousal immigration system to bring in women for illicit purposes. This does happen in all the countries of Northern (and sometimes – Southern - notably Israel) Mediterranean, Western Europe and USA<sup>22</sup>. There foreign brides are sold into prostitution and – in case of disobedience - even killed. There is no clear statistical survey on the number of Balkan women, trafficked as mail-order brides but according to unconfirmed data it varies between 150 000 and half a million for the last 10 years.

## **Why does “the Western social system” allow this?**

The mail-order bride industry is free of any government regulation.

According to Gregory Kelson and Debra DeLaet, the authors of *Gender and Immigration*, "immigration law is presently the only source of national control over the mail-order bride industry." To qualify that statement, they go on to state that this "control" is inconsistent, partial, and ultimately ineffective. The regulation of this industry via visas and the existing immigration laws puts the mail-order brides in a subordinate and vulnerable position thereby perpetrating the well-advertised stereotypes of the old patriarchal Eves from the East.

## **In conclusion**

The Eastward oriented mail-order bride industry does in fact reveal that the West never overcame its passion to “colonial fantasies”, where veiled beautiful, sensual and obedient Eastern (Balkan, Russian or Asian) women live waiting for their Western “knight in shiny armour” to save them together with the old patriarchal paradise they symbolise.

Tired by their liberated Liliths, many Western men rush into the mail-order brides` warehouse, where all production, representation and identity making are serving the consumption of old (when it concerns Asian) and newly made (when concerning Eastern Europe and Balkans) stereotypes about the women for sale. “Sweet, sexy and feminine (=passive, always obedient and controllable)”, these Eastern Eves are expected to be happy with their 30 to 50 years older Western husbands, to take care of their houses, children from previous marriages and all the problems arousing of the misogynic attitudes they have. The Eastern Eves are bought to be beautiful domestic servants, sexually submissive magicians, mature and understanding wives and traditional mothers (bare feed and pregnant next to the stove). All this at the same time – even when exported to the West of the Bad Liliths.

But as every fairy tale this one also appears very deformed when applied to reality. The "Lotus Blossom Babies", "The Charry Blossims", "Russian Blossoms" and all other "Eastern blossoms", planted in Western soil (or much earlier before that) – blossom into "normal" Western Liliths, just like the ones their husbands were trying to escape from. Disappointed and bitter, the "knight in shiny armour" turns into the selfish misogynic bastard he has always been, doing his best to turn his blossoming into Lilith Eve into what he has paid for.

Destroyed dreams, domestic violence, sometimes forced prostitution, even murders...

This is how many of the Eastern Eve-Liliths end their travel to the West. The society knows little or nothing about their drama and there are no adequate laws to protect them and help them survive emotionally or physically once they step into the trap. Women advocacy groups and human rights organizations already start the campaign to raise awareness, educate and lobby. But fighting one of the most successful trade industries of the century is not a joke and perhaps a long time has to pass before the first significant results appear. Until then, we should struggle for every lost Lilith, forced to wear the mask of controllable, submissive and colorless Eve.

For the lost patriarchal paradise cannot be conserved and preserved with violence and Eve should be free to come back to her Lilith-nature at any time she is ready for it.

## Endnotes

1. [www.alt.com](http://www.alt.com) is an international dating service, emerging from the group of online dating services [www.friendfinder.com](http://www.friendfinder.com). Since 2002 the profiles are accessible only through paid membership.
2. The Story Of Lilith from *Ancient Israel: Myths and Legends* by Angelo S. Rappoport, <http://www.lilitu.com/lilith/rappoport.html>
3. The expression was inspired by Sam Vaknin, From Post-Feminism to Past Femininity: An examination of women in transition, Central Europe Review, Vol 3, No 2, 15 January 2001, [www.ce-review.org/01/3/vaknin3.html](http://www.ce-review.org/01/3/vaknin3.html)
4. Maren Bradley Anderson, Lilith: Ancient Myth, Modern Woman by, <http://matsone.csuhayward.edu/apmj/anderson.html>
5. Vogelsang
6. Charles Alexander Moffat, The Fear of Lilith There are many other legends (mostly Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian) calling Lilith (or creatures like her) by other names such as Shedu, Lamashtu, Marilith, Succubus, Ahhazu, Alu, Gallu, Lamia, Ishtar. The legend of Lilith is so widespread that it reaches even Malaysia where she is called Langsuir (or Langsuyar) and feared as a demon seductress of the night. This enforces the idea that man's fear of seductive/dominating women is universal amongst all men".
7. Jeffrey Smith, Lilit, Malkah ha-Shadim, (originally posted to babalon-l)  
"Lilith, aside from a stray reference comparing her to a "screechowl" (the translation is debatable), does not appear in the Bible itself. It is in Rabbinic midrash (presumably relying on earlier legends) that we find the full delineation of Lilith. As may be surmised, the Rabbinic sources do not present Lilith in a favorable light (although Adam does not come off too well either); they were content to see her as filling out the Biblical picture, and as the archetype of the "bad woman". Later, mostly Gentile, writers connected her with the Harlot/Folly figure of Proverbs (most intelligently, Charles Williams's portrait of Lily Sammile in *Descent into Hell*), and leave it at that. Modern feminists, especially Jewish feminists, have tried to show her as une femme ideal, drawing particularly on her spurning of Adam's attempted dominance, and tried to establish her presence among the planets. But Lilith's Babalonic identity goes further than that; and the full legend can profitably comment on Babalon.

### 8. Christopher L.C.E. Witcombe, Eve and the identity of Women

The patriarchy's treatment of Eva is not much different then the one of Lilith. Both have been demonized - Lilith for her independence and open sexuality, and Eve for her quest for knowledge. Although refusing to recognize her, Christian tradition occasionally produces iconographic compositions presenting Lilith next to Eve, as the serpent in "Genesis 3". Eve and Lilith become inextricably intertwined and blended into one person. Importantly, it is this Eve/Lilith amalgam which is used to identify women as the true source of evil in the world<sup>7</sup>.



### 9. [http://www.dharma6.com/html/the\\_myth.html](http://www.dharma6.com/html/the_myth.html)

The Artist Lilian Broca sees Lilith in another light. She writes: "Lilith was a powerful female, probably the world's first feminist. She radiated strength and assertiveness. She refused to cooperate in her own victimization. The ancient Rabbis who acted as the ultimate decision makers as to what stories were to be set in the canon and what was to be omitted, realized that this Lilith could be easily regarded as a role model by women, a condition which provoked too much anxiety in the men to allow such behavior to be encouraged. Hence, the elimination of the Lilith story from the canon. However, the legend had been altered; in time, Lilith was accused of seducing men with her unimaginable beauty, and men's nightly emissions caused by erotic dreams were attributed to Lilith's nocturnal visitations."

Into the picture now comes Eve, the "mother of all living" (Chavvah, derived from Chai, life, is the name in Hebrew; the connection is lost in the Greek-derived version found in English Bibles.) But at first, she is not this; she merely Ishah, Woman, as he was to her Ish, Man. The Biblical text directly speaks of her being an "extension" of man. The verbal usage in Hebrew portrays this almost directly: Ishah is simply extended Ish, Ish with the female ending tacked on, so that we could render it "female man". The English pairing woman/man mirrors this ("woman" derives from "wife-man"). And then, Scripture

continues with the image of man cleaving to woman as one flesh: recreating, in other words, the original Androgyne. (It may be noted at this point that in some versions of the bisexual creation, Lilith does not appear. In this tradition, Eve is the original female half; the creation from Adam's rib is the separation into two individuals; there is harmony between the sexes, albeit apparently at the cost of the female accepting the dominance of the male.) Ishah is created from Ish's rib, from a part close to the heart (in Biblical terms, the seat of the emotions, will, and soul), and especially personal and intimate; in tactile terms even more intimate than the genitals. (Is not touching someone's else's breast almost always indicative of some emotional bond--the most intimate being the child feeding from his mother). We see here God (reverting to the Midrashic context) giving Adam another Lilith, another half of himself. And, because of the previous history, it must be done on the sly, with Adam in a deep sleep, so he does not consciously realize that Eve is Lilith.

Lilith is most well-known as the demoness/goddess who was the first woman, created by god at the same time as Adam, unlike eve who was created from Adam's rib. Lilith refused to submit to Adam's will and left the garden of Eden and was subsequently cursed by god. according to popular opinion, this tale is "evidence" that she was originally a goddess or at the very least an aspect of the great goddess and was demonized for being an independant female. Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum, in her landmark work Black Madonnas (1993), calls Adam's treatment of Lilith "the first violence done to women". If one reads this as rape, as some writers do (Philips, 1984; Ostriker, 1993), one begins to view the Garden of Eden as more prison than paradise. No wonder, then, that Lilith left Adam and Eden; in so doing--as Aviva Cantor wrote in the first issue of LILITH Magazine (1972)—Lilith chose loneliness over subservience. <http://www.lilithinstitute.com/history.htm>

10. "25 years ago, the market consisted of one agency and its printed catalog of available women. In 1994, there were an estimated 100 agencies, still relying on printed catalogs. As of 1998, there are over 200 e-mail listings for such agencies, some of which also supply printed catalogs. Current technology makes it possible to operate these businesses on the Internet, and agencies relying only on print seem to be a thing of the past. Since 1992 the marketing of women from newly independent states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the number of international matchmaking businesses have grown dramatically". FAIR Research Update. March 19, 1999.
11. Friendfinder proved to be the most successful one, with (as the site claims) 3,334,208 Active Members and over 9 000 000 registered. By now Friendfinder established 17 more additional sites for "special interest groups" among which is Adult Friendfinder (7 000 000 members), Alt.com (2 000 000 members), AisaFriendfinder (8 500 000 members).
12. In this process, women are usually solicited by an agency through a newspaper ad. The agencies play on the fact that these women are mostly in serious states of poverty and lure them with the promise of a better life thereby putting them in the weaker position with Western men. Right from the start of production, there is an inherent imbalance of power with the women in need of a better life and therefore will depend upon the men they marry. IF THE WOMEN IS ACCEPTED by the agency, she then goes through a rigorous screening process, including a very in-depth questionnaire. Aside from biographical data, questionnaires seek information on family background, education, work experience, and character references. Some other information requested in questionnaires may include: a brief description of an ideal man, a personality profile, description of physical appearance including statistics, list of hobbies and interests, and views on marriage, love, and age difference. According to *People Weekly*, these questions in some surveys were asked: What size breasts do you have? Do you believe in women's liberation? Are you sexually active? Which underwear do you like to wear? One questionnaire even warns, "Failure to follow instructions and supplying false information may cause automatic cancellation of visa petition." This statement is not only false in that the Immigration and Naturalization Service will not deny a person a visa for lying on a questionnaire but it tells of the nature of the business - having the Asian women please the Western men. ONCE A WOMAN IS DONE with all the questionnaires and personality evaluations, the agency reviews her answers to make sure she is "suitable" to Western men. If she is, she is included in a paper catalog that goes out to hundreds or thousands of men. She is usually given a number and her photo with her name appears in the catalog. [http://us\\_asians.tripod.com](http://us_asians.tripod.com)
13. Leanne Bell, Mail Order Brides, <http://www.andtheylivedhappilyeverafter.com/>
14. I have been doing a cyber-ethnological survey on mail order brides during the period 2000-2002, interviewing 84 women from Bulgaria, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. All the persons interviewed are older than 18 and gave their consent their words to be published in my studies. For confidentiality, the interviews cited in this study use nicknames chosen by the interviewers.
15. This site was shut down in 2003 and now under the name is posted the page of a pop group with the same name.
16. *Brian Mahoney, The Fat And The Skinny*, [www.chronogram.com/extraweb/oldchrono/1997/05may/fatskin.htm](http://www.chronogram.com/extraweb/oldchrono/1997/05may/fatskin.htm)
17. THE MAIN POINT OF THIS STUDY is that most of these men have been married at least once and are now divorced and probably disillusioned with Western women. For his concluding thoughts, Jedlicka states that the men are mostly "above average." He paints a very attractive picture of these men who buy women to marry. IN OPPOSITION, many sources view these men in a different light. While they admit these men are usually educated and successful, they also claim that these men only want submissive and controllable women due to their past failure with Western women. Dr. Gladys L. Symons of University of Calgary claims that these men most likely grew up before the rise of the feminist movement and, therefore, cannot handle "liberated" American women. "These men want women who will feel totally dependent on them. They want women who are submissive and less intimidating," says Symons. [http://us\\_asians.tripod.com](http://us_asians.tripod.com)

18. Glodava, Mila, and Richard Onizuka,
  - i. 1994 *"Mail-Order Brides: Women for Sale. Fort Collins Colorado: Alaken, Inc. Meng, Eddy*
  - ii. 1994 *"Mail Order Bride: Gilded Prostitution and the Legal Response."* *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform, Fall. Scholes, Robert J.*
  - iii. 1997 "AF ISO WM: How Many Mail-Order Brides?" *Immigration Review, No. 28*
19. Annie Huang, Taiwan Moves to Boost Women's Marriage Prospects", *The Associated Press*, 30. 8. 1996
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