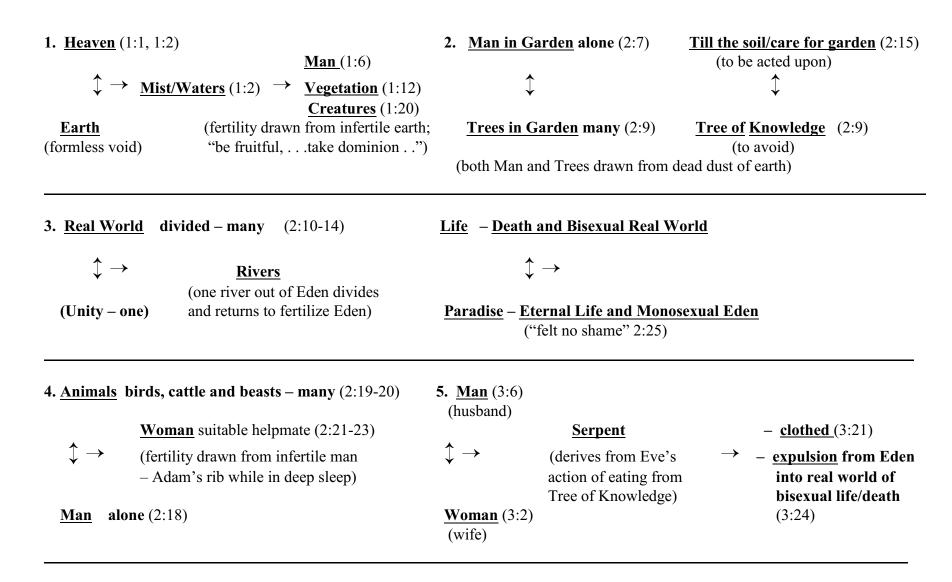
Garden of Eden - Genesis chapters 1 - 4

"Eye Juggling" for the embedded Symbols and Values within the text Modified from Edmund Leach's "Levi-Strauss in the Garden of Eden," *Discovery* May 1962



6. Eve (4:1)

(mother of all those who live 3:20)

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Adam (4:1)

An Eye Juggling Interpretation of the Garden of Eden text

- 1. While not the only mechanism, *key symbols* are often reflected/identified in binary and dialectical structures embedded within a text, i.e., meaningful symbols are often derived in the juxtaposition of opposites and/or the results of a mediated conflict. In the Garden of Eden text, there are examples of at least 5 sets of binary and/or dialectical structures.
- 2. In turn, key symbols often reveal the primary *messages* of a text to an intended audience. In the Garden of Eden text, there are two primary message sets.
 - a. A "Theme of Reproduction" is expressed in all mediational transformations, e.g., mist, water, creatures, seeds, vegetation, man, women, serpent (carnal knowledge), and intercourse all to help order and given meaning to the world
 - b. As expressed in chapters/verses 2:21, 3:1, 4, there is an attempt to mediate and lessen the psychological conflict of "Original Sin" (given a Christian worldview context, not applicable for a Judaic or Islamic context given lack of "original sin")

Given the incest rule, i.e., one is not to marry women/men of one's own group Eve is from Adam = own group

Alternatives: 1. confirm incest rule don't populate the world

2. break the incest rule populate world

But given theme of reproduction and need to explain a populated world, only the second alternative works

Thus in the telling the story of Genesis the trauma/conflict of original incest rendered less traumatic