Here in this ever-divided nation, in our mass mythos 1 called, "America", we make special obeisance to a stone 2 effigy---a certain woman and her rule of law---who says, 3 "No one is above the law!" This is a worthy precept, no 4 doubt, but it begs the question: What manner of law are 5 we under that no one should break its rule? It must be 6 a manner of law that is written in wisdom; and enforced 7 in self-discipline; and interpreted in justice executed 8 Anything less than this and we have, so to selflessly. 9 speak, a problem. America has a problem with authority. 10 Even from the times she first appeared on the coastline 11 12 of this rich and fertile earth that lies between oceans of water, she's searched for a place of authority where 13 she can enjoy security. A woman will follow every path 14 of authority. Just like the waters seek out every path 15 of gravity, so people will seek secure places to gather. 16 Gravity's power is in numbers; but the power of a woman 17 18 is in her place of authority. Authority commands power. A mother is to her people what a husband is to his wife. 19 A leader is to the masses what a virgin woman is to men. 20 A ruler is to a courtroom what a father is to his house. 21 Harsh fathers produce brutish judges. Children without 22 fathers are one consequence of promiscuities; and their 23 leaders will forever be children from among their ranks. 2.4 The mother of an abusive husband will question his wife 25 accusingly; and that son will lay the blame at the feet 2.6 of his own mother. 27

Such wives left the lands of their own mothers to be 28 free of the tyranny of their own households. And their 29 virgin daughters searched out a safe place among masses 30 of fatherless men. And they found men who said to them, 31 "God will be our father in this place. And his teaching 32 will mother us all. And we will follow his instruction 33 as we husband our houses." But the daughter of America 34 said, "God I can trust. But what kind of a father will 35 If you will be my children's judge then I must 36 you be? be justice; and if you will be their leader then I must 37 be liberty; and if you will discipline them then I must 38 be the law. Only in this way will I consent to be your 39 betrothed." And then they answered her as one man with 40 one voice, saying, "Well said. Be wisdom then. Be law; 41 and liberty; and justice: for all who live in our house." 42

43 Then the great deceiver came before the G-d of Torah from his work among the sons of men, saying, "Is it not 44 true that these people pay mere lip-service to You? 45 Is 46 it not true that she who was betrothed to Your W-rd has said in her heart, 'When will I marry my Prince? Where 47 is the promise of His coming? I can wait no longer. I 48 will sit as the queen in His absence.'? Is it not true 49 that she has consented to become a queen in my kingdoms?" 50 Then HaShem answered him, saying, "Those who have My 51 Torah are faithful to Me. This woman of yours is yours." 52

Who was the spiritual progenitor of this behavior we 1 call, "Self-government"? What act did he perform; what 2 lie did he not tell? That lad with a king's name never 3 4 cut down a cherry tree; and if he said he did he told a lie. But the deist left the wife of his youth for lust 5 of a woman who calls herself, "sophia". She said, "Let 6 me be your mistress; you can keep your wife; and no one 7 will ever know but us." And so he kept his wife and he 8 slept with his mistress; and he couldn't look at either 9 one for long---he couldn't bear the gaze of a beauty he 10 had undone; and he couldn't bear the gaze of the beauty 11 12 that undid him. They both knew him well; they both saw his nakedness; but he couldn't look at them long enough 13 to see that sophia only pretended to love him while his 14 wife only pretended not to. Sophia had a lover and she 15 was always waiting for his secret summons saying, "Meet 16 me tonight;" and when the darkness came she would go to 17 18 his estate. One night he said to her, "I will be going abroad for a time; and when I return I will make you my 19 wife. But until then, remember: he must not know about 20 us." 21

The deist's wife grew wearied in her unrequited love; 22 and she said in her heart, "Well then, I'll love myself;" 23 and she said to him, "I want a bigger mansion than this." 2.4 And sophia was his mistress as she waited for her lover 25 to return. And she said to him, "I'm pregnant with our 2.6 child." And in the fullness of her time she gave birth 27 to a boy and she named him, "res publica". Now the man 28 said to his mistress, "I'll pay for the support of this 29 child; but he cannot take my name; and my wife must not 30 find out about him." So sophia answered, saying, "Very 31 well. He won't take your surname. But you'll give him 32 everything except the household which is called by your 33 name; and he will manage the affairs of this land where 34 you have built your hopes. But as always, your wife is 35 yours to keep as you see fit. I have you. What have I 36 to do with her?" But she kept waiting for her lover to 37 return. 38

When word of his arrival reached her waiting ear she was so sure of her position that she rushed to meet him in the middle of the day. "You must only come at night," he said, "I should think you would find it self-evident that you must always be his mistress and my whore. But where is my son, res publica? It's time to have a look at our little secret."

To this very day our self-wise deist thinks he knows great secrets; but in those rare moments when he doubts himself, the best that he can do is mutter darkly about his foreign entanglements. And for the price of a loaf of bread, his wife visits the monument to his greatness. And what sophia still refuses to believe is that, after she kills her son to please her lover, he will kill her.