

## *New Testament - Book Five*

*NOW as the years passed even so did the Tournaments, like unto gas through a Buick or Leakin' Incontanental; and as the ranks of the Faithful grew so too did their files grow thick with Win/Loss records and Team/Trophy ratios and Previous Partner Profiles, and their lines became as rails. And thus did it become sore difficult to devine their proper pairings, for the teeming Flock were many of them neophyte pilgrims with little insight into the Way of the Bird, but others of them were dirty faithless heathen ringers, while yet others were as yahoos bumbling upon the court. And always did the Elders grow ever more wily amidst their deterioration, and they gathered unto them the brunt of the trophies.*

*BUT alas! the revered traditional rituals didst no longer yield fruit, for the sacred Hat wouldst oft proffer bizzare and ungainly pairings: such unholy unions as could not be allowed lest they be blasphemies in the Eyes of the Bird, though perhaps giving Him a hoot. Thus did the Elders Stuck With Making Teams come to be sore distressed and confounded, and did make the little gurgling noises from deep in their throats, for the ancient and sacred Traditions and Rituals had forsaken them; and they had some idea of the difficulties inherent in locating new Traditions and Rituals. And so they were many of them seen to wander about dazedly, like unto Bobby Winters during the Finals Match, and some attained Stupor; while year after year the Flock bade them Get off the Pot.*

*AND so the Elders didst make sacrifice; and they made to burn the expensive malodorous herbs which doth bring revelation, and a decrease in the reuptake of seratonin and dopamine at synaptic receptor sites. And they cried out as one to the Holy Bird, calling upon Him for insight, and wisdom, and a cessation of gurgling, until the lady in the apartment next door yelled at them to knock it off.*

*AND, LO! the Spirit of the Bird did come upon them, making gummy the hair which was on their heads, and staining their clothing in spots; and they were sore amazed and stricken with awe, which they quickly wiped off. And with the Spirit of the Bird came the revelation that they were The Commitee, and therefor incapable of error; for they were guided in their every decision by the ancient Wisdom of the Bird. And with this revelation was given unto them a sacred Chant to be entoned in the face of doubt and disbelief, even unto the present day: That's our story and we're sticking to it. AND across the land was heard the sounds of dubiousity and chanting, and the gnashing of teeth.*