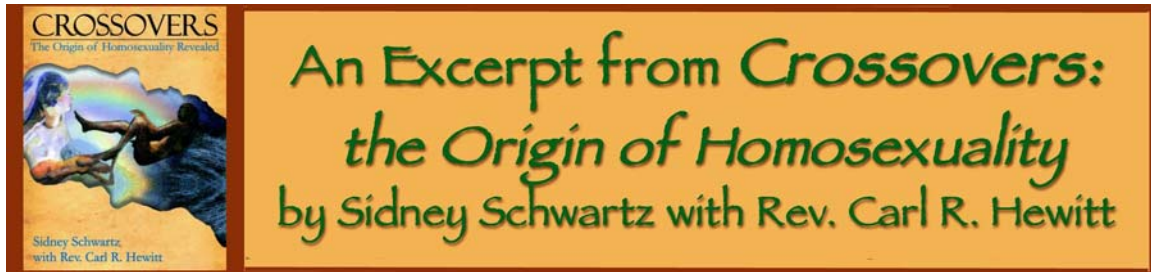


## *The Bolt of Lightning*



Carl was not quite four months old, when the next “strange event” happened. It was the 16th or 17th of June. It was an extremely hot and muggy hazy afternoon, without a cloud in the sky, and not a bit of breeze. Carl’s family was still living at the Hall House. Like all southern houses in those days, there was a large porch in front of the house, and it had a swing on it as well as a few rocking chairs. Goldie was sitting in one of the rocking chairs, and Carl was nursing on her left breast, as she rocked. Maddie was sitting in the swing opposite Goldie. Maddie was only ten years younger than Goldie, and they were very close. Goldie had become very thin, after her pregnancy. She was sitting quietly, deep in thought. Apparently, Goldie was having a difficult time understanding all the strange events that had occurred since she had conceived baby Carl. She was also exhausted from her husband insisting that the family move practically once a month. So as she was rocking in her chair, thinking, she finally broke her silence and asked this question. “I wish to God, I knew why so many strange things have been happening to this family, ever since I conceived this child?”

At that split second that Goldie finished asking this question, there was a thunderous explosion, and a bolt of lightning struck a tree, almost directly in front of Goldie! The lightning split that tree in half! It was a small tree, only 5 or 6 inches in diameter. Immediately after the lightning sliced through the tree, it continued forward and hit Goldie in the middle of her forehead. Actually, it touched the frontal lobe, which is called in psychic terms, “the third eye,”—the screen on which we see our dreams.

Goldie’s body jolted violently, lunging forward, and baby Carl shot from his mother’s arms, like a cannon ball into the air. Fortunately, Maddie reacted quickly and caught the baby, so Carl was unharmed. Goldie lay unconscious on the floor of the porch.

Meanwhile, Alvie was doing some carpentry work behind the house. Carl’s brothers and sisters were having fun on the swings Alvie had made by tying ropes onto a very large tree behind the house. They all came running to discover what had caused this loud explosion.

Alvie yelled to Dewey, one of Carl’s brothers, “Go and fetch the doctor.” Then Alvie lifted Goldie off the porch floor, and took her into the house and laid her on the couch. He discovered that her pulse was extremely weak, so he took a towel, and was massaging her with cold water, attempting to get her heart to beat stronger.

All this time, Maddie was holding baby Carl, who was content as could be, and had not even cried during all this commotion.

## Dewey Begs Forgiveness

When the doctor arrived, he examined Goldie, and said that Alvie had given Goldie the proper medical treatment. Then the doctor continued, "There is no reason to examine the baby—the baby is dead."

Maddie, said, "What is the matter with you, doctor? The baby is not dead. I am holding the baby in my arms."

The doctor responded, "Well, everyone must be confused in all the confusion. That is not the baby."

Maddie got quite angry with the doctor. "This is the baby that Goldie was rocking."

The doctor said to Maddie, "Come over here." He pulled the sheet that was covering Goldie, to reveal her breasts. "Look at this burn on the nipple of the left breast. That can't be the baby, because the baby's mouth would also be burned."

"Well, doctor," Maddie exclaimed, "This is the only baby around here. I cannot explain why Carl does not have a burn mark on his mouth."