

Spear of the Holy Tent-Peg of Saint Deborah

Well, strictly speaking it should be the Spear of the Holy Tent-Peg of Jael, but from the Roman Catholic Church's point of view St. Deborah was the ranking Biblical figure. Quick summary: Deborah was a prophet and a Judge among the Israelites in the time of the Judges (obviously), she and her military adviser went out to smite the Canaanites, the Canaanites were duly smote, and the fleeing general of the Canaanites (one Sisera) ended up getting a tent peg pounded into his head by, yes, Jael. The tent peg then effectively disappeared for a few thousand years, and only resurfaced in the 12th century AD as part of a steel spearhead that is reputed to be remarkably strong and rustproof.

It is said (by those that study theurgical items) of the Spear that, if wielded by a woman, any head wound that it gave to a man would be ultimately and swiftly fatal. It is also said (by the somewhat larger group of people who study **dangerous** magical and esoteric items) that a woman who carries the Spear for any length of time will start developing a perhaps overly-broad view of exactly which sort of men out there deserve to have spears

shoved through their heads. Note ‘perhaps:’ the inevitable victims generally and arguably deserved it. However, left unchecked, the entire situation will soon take on an ‘Old Testament angelic’ feel to it, which is rather alarming to anybody who is familiar with the behavior patterns of Old Testament angels.

The Church has been quietly trying to keep this artifact under control for centuries, of course. Aside from everything else, some of its own secret theurgic artisans are suspicious that this is a particularly *Heavenly* artifact, despite the name (wouldn’t be the first time the Other Side snuck in a dubious relic). But every few centuries somebody makes a mistake and temporarily misplaces the Spear. And some people believe that there should be scare quotes around ‘mistake’ and ‘misplaces’ in the previous sentence...

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