

of us frogs eternal life. Such language would be less monstrous from the frogs than from those who now use it. What are the Jews that they claim so lofty privileges? They were a colony of revolted Egyptian slaves who settled in a corner of Palestine. In their account of themselves they pretend that at the beginning God made a man with his hands, and breathed life into him. He then put him to sleep, took out one of his ribs, and of the rib made a woman. Having thus created these two, He gave them certain orders, which the serpent tempted them to disobey, and thus crossed God's purpose and got the better of Him. God having thus failed to make his creatures loyal to Himself, after a time proposed to destroy them. There was a Deluge, and a marvellous ark, in which all kinds of living things were enclosed, with a dove and a raven to act as messengers.<sup>1</sup> The history of the Patriarchs follows—children singularly born; brothers quarrelling; mothers plotting; a youth cheating his father-in-law; a story of Lot and his daughters worse than the banquet of Thyestes. One of the lads goes to

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<sup>1</sup> The difficulty of conceiving that such a multitude of creatures could have been preserved in a vessel of the dimensions usually assigned to the Ark, was a very old one. Origen gets over it by saying that the figures were wrongly given. The Ark, he says, was 90,000 cubits long, and 2,500 cubits wide.