

# **The Book of Macaroni According to Lancia**

by Robert Zend

*I like to read the Bible because I find it fascinating. All those legends and miracles and prayers and psalms. I also like to read the Apocrypha, that is those pieces of religious literature which were NOT included officially in the Bible, or those which WERE included officially at one time, but were excluded at another time. During the research I conducted in the Vatican Library, I discovered an ancient scroll that describes the origin and the history of Macaroni. I find this piece of Italian religious literature quite remarkable because it clearly shows that the Italian people look back with great pride at their glorious pasta.*

1) And these are the generations of Macaroni: Capellini d'Angelo, the thin, and henceforth he was nameth Angel's Hair. And Capellini d'Angelo begot Spaghettini, who begot Spaghetti. And in the beginning, they were without hole.

2) But they became evil and they began sinning and they were punished. For their sins, a long hole was driven through their offspring, the great nation of Macaroni. And their sons, and the sons of their sons were marked by this hole. And lo, these are the generations of Macaroni:

3) Bucatini (the size of Spaghetti, but with a hole) who begot Perciatelli, who begot Mezzani. And Mezzani was kind in the eyes of Man who cooked it in two ways: either with meatballs and tomato sauce, or with just butter and cheese, and called it Pasta al Burro con Parmigiano. And, in the beginning, Mezzani was good and lungo, that is long, and therefore he was nameth Non-tagliati, that is un-cut. But later on, because he had sinned, he was cut up into small pieces and was re-nameth Mazzani Tagliati and he was floating in the hot turbulence of soups.

4) And Mezzani begot Macaroncelli, who begot Ziti, who begot Rigatoni the Great. And that's how the small nation became bigger and bigger in every generation.

5) But Rigatoni had sinned and henceforth he was punished in his offspring. And his offspring were cut into little pieces and dispersed in the world as ditali, ditalini, penne rigati and shells.

6) Therefore I am saying unto you: Thou shall not confuse the small tribe of Spaghetti (without a hole for being

innocent) with the great nation of Macaroni (with a hole for being sinful). For it is harder for a rich man to enter Heaven than for a camel to go through the hole of a Macaroni.

7) Yet still, I am saying unto you that whereas a tiny, tiny little camel can still go through the hole of an enormously huge Macaroni, there is no camel whatsoever which could go through a Spaghetti, for the Spaghetti is without hole because he has not sinned and he who has not sinned must not endure camels going through him, henceforth.

8) Those who have eyes shall see it; those who have ears shall hear it; and those who have mouths shall eat it. AMEN

Published in *The Three Roberts: Premiere Performance*  
(Scarborough: HMS Press, 1984), p. 28.  
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