

Stories to Believe

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Preface

I have to admit that I have no personal connection whatsoever with the concept of religion. All my life I have stood by, watching friends, family, acquaintances and millions of others in this world worrying, fighting and discussing religion. I don't get it, religion remains a remote and strange world to me.

But I am fascinated by the concept, by the idea of the existence of a set of rules or ideas that influence the lives of so many people. There is apparently something in religion that is so important to people that they want to die for it or ban themselves from certain acts, foods or objects that are forbidden because of a specific old book or text.

Although most of these stories are parodies on religious stories, they are not intended to hurt people who are religious. Personally, I am convinced that because all religious ideas are passed on through years of history, they are prone to contain mistakes, to have suffered (mis)interpretations and to have blended into different variations that have changed the original ideas during all the intermediate years. What we now know and believe, are just random versions of the original story, if there has been one original story at all to begin with. Also, I think the original story might not be so relevant anymore as times change.

From this point of view, you can just look at these stories as one of the possible versions of a religious story or perhaps as one of the possible original ones. In any case, these stories are meant to amuse you, maybe give you some perspective on religious ideas.

If you are amused or laughing after reading these stories, then you are the person I wrote them for. If you are shocked, appalled or angry after reading, please remind yourself that they are only stories and that life and religion should never be taken that seriously.

The author, August 2020

Genesis

In the beginning, God was playing chess with the Devil. They were sitting in the game room of his heavenly castle, surrounded by walls made of clouds. Evenly spaced on three walls, there were paintings of his favourite angels, while the fourth wall was one big cabinet filled with all kinds of games. In the middle of the room, between God and the Devil, a small table with a chess board was placed. Of course, God played with the white pieces and the Devil with the black pieces.

They often had these meetings, sometimes in Heaven, sometimes in Hell and it was always very enjoyable to pass time like this. They played all sorts of games. Sometimes they played Go or Monopoly or Cluedo (one of the Devils' favourite games), or any other game they fancied at that moment, because God's game room contained all games that were, are and will be.

But this time they played chess and the game was taking forever. At some point God said: "We could play on for an eternity, let's do something else."

"Like what?" The Devil yawned. He felt he could use some exercise as well.

God sat up and said happily: "Let's build something! That should be fun. We'll do a world!"

"Not another world," the Devil moaned, "that would be like... what, the sixth or something?"

"No, the fifth, if I am right. And I am always right, you know that."

God got to his feet. "We need a name for it, starting with an E, the fifth letter. Let's call it Earth."

"Earth?! What kind of name is that?" the Devil sneered.

"It just came to me, and I think it is a lovely name, thank you very much," God said a bit piqued.

The Devil shrugged. "Whatever, I don't really care." He followed God reluctantly to the Universal Creation Area, a large room that was filled with hundreds of hovering doors spaced out in a neat grid across the room, leading to prior and future creation projects.

In the creation room, God passed numerous doors with white plates on them with the word "Finished", but also a lot with red crosses on them and with signs that said, "Do not enter (ever)". There were also doors with heavy padlocks and even a few doors