

The Other Interview With God

Man: Do you exist?

God: If I did not, you would invent me.

Man: Nietzsche says you're dead.

God: And I say Nietzsche is dead. Which one of us are you going to believe?

Man: What surprises you about humans?

God: Your readiness to kill people because they wipe their bottoms differently.

Man: When did you create the universe?

God: It was a Monday.

Man: And on the seventh day you rested. Why? Were you tired?

God: I took stock.

Man: Do only Christians go to heaven?

God: I'm in heaven and I'm not a Christian.

Man: I meant, do Jews and Muslims go to heaven?

God: I knew perfectly well what you meant.

Man: Are you omniscient?

God: Certainly.

Man: So how does this interview end?

God: I have the last word.

Man: You are by all accounts an angry, jealous God. Shouldn't you be above that sort of thing?

God: You would try the patience of a saint.

Man: The Pope says there is no sex in heaven. Is he right?

God: He will be.

Man: Would you elaborate?

God: Verily, verily, I say unto you, the Pope shan't be getting any, in heaven, as it is on earth.

Man: Did you die on the cross?

God: In a manner of speaking.

Man: So Nietzsche was right—you are dead.

God: I made a comeback. He didn't.

Man: Speaking of a comeback, when is the Second Coming due?

God: You already had it.

Man: I beg your pardon.

God: "And after eight days again the disciples were within, and Thomas with them; ... then saith I to Thomas, reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my wounds: and be not faithless, but believing."

Man: *That* was the Second Coming?

God: You were expecting something else?

Man: Well, something rather more spectacular: earthquakes, graves opening, dead saints walking about, the skies filled with angelic choirs

God: Transcendence of death wasn't spectacular enough?

Man: We thought there would be another Second Coming about 2,000 years later.

God: A *Third* Coming, you mean. Wasn't one resurrection convincing enough? I *died* for you, man, I won't live through that again.

Man: On the cross, you reportedly cried 'My God, why hast thou forsaken me?' Can God forsake himself?

God: Reports of my death were exaggerated.

Man: Muslims say it wasn't you who died on the cross but another. Who is right, Muslims or Christians?

God: I see no Muslims or Christians, only souls.

Man: Buddhists say there is no soul, only pure phenomenalism. Are they right?

God: In a manner of speaking.

Man: Would you elaborate?

God: Buddhists need no souls, therefore they have none.

Man: Do Buddhists go to heaven?
 God: Buddhists need no heaven, therefore they have none.
 Man: Would you elaborate?
 God: Some people need the encouragement of a promised reward. Some don't. It's no skin off my nose either way.
 Man: So who's right, Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, or Christians?
 God: It's not about being right, you poor deluded fool. It's about something else.
 Man: What happens after a man dies?
 God: Everything continues.
 Man: I meant, what happens to **him** after he dies?
 God: I knew perfectly well what you meant.
 Man: Must you speak in riddles?
 God: Must you **think** in riddles?
 Man: Why was there forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden?
 God: So you would eat it.
 Man: Why did you put it there so we would eat it, and forbid us to eat it?
 God: So you would eat it.
 Man: Just so you could bannish us from the Garden? Where is the sense in that?
 God: You left voluntarily.
 Man: The Bible says we were bannished.
 God: You were bannished **and** you left voluntarily.
 Man: Would you elaborate?
 God: It was time for you to grow up and leave home. I could have charged you rent on your bedroom, but you hadn't invented rent yet, so I picked the apple instead.
 Man: Are you saying you didn't force us to leave the Garden?
 God: I have no power to force you to do anything. I told you to leave; if you hadn't, I would have. Would that have suited you better?
 Man: Why is there evil in the world?
 God: For the same reason there was an apple in the Garden.
 Man: So we would eat it??
 God: So you would grow up by learning to deal with it.
 Man: We **are** grown up.
 God: Then **deal** with it.
 Man: Be patient with us. We're only human.
 God: I can wait all day.
 Man: Do you have any words of wisdom for man?
 God: Wipe your bottoms and don't kill each other.
 Man: How, Lord, shall we wipe our bottoms? Front to back, side to side, or rotary?
 God: You poor deluded fool. "Wipe your bottoms" is a metaphor; it means be tidy. Be tidy in your personal habits, in your social arrangements, and with the world. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." How you go about it is your business.
 Man: You don't trouble yourself about details then, do you?
 God: You can see me in a grain of sand, if you know how to look.
 Man: How, Lord, shall we look?
 God: You poor deluded fool....
 Man: If you could ask God only one question, what would it be?
 God: Is this interview over?
 Man: If you could ask man only one question, what would it be?
 God: Do you still imagine we can share a garden? I'm leaving.
 Man: Is this interview over?
 Man: God?
 Man: God? Are you there?