

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: In order to do good, some people need the encouragement of a promised reward. Others do not need this.

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, or side to side?

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?