

Unintentional Comedy in the Bible and Quran

An eBooklet from the World Union of Deists

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World Union of Deists, Box 4052, Clearwater, FL 33758

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Humor as a Tool For Progress

The World Union of Deists works, and has worked for the last 25 years, to enlighten people about ungodly parts of the Bible, the Quran and the Book of Mormon which are not known by many people because the clergy choose not to focus on them or to outright completely ignore them. Teachings such as Leviticus 25:44-46 which claims God told the Jews not to own their fellow Jews as slaves, but to only own Gentile people and their children as slaves. Or the Bible story at Mark 7:1-13 which shows Jesus being angry with the Pharisees for not following the command in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament to kill children who curse their parents. The teaching in the Quran at 4:34 which teaches that men are superior to women and that men should scourge/beat women who they fear may become rebellious towards them is another example of religious teachings that are not, but need to be, common knowledge among the general population and among the faithful. The list of ungodly and damaging religious teachings goes on and on. (The WUD offers Deist Reality Cards that address many of these horrific teachings from the Bible here, and from the Quran here.)

The World Union of Deists will always work to enlighten people about the natural and rational beauty of Deism and the horrors of the various "revealed" religions. One way of accomplishing this is through the use of humor. Mark Twain wrote, "Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand." With this in mind, I hope you enjoy this Deism eBooklet. It offers several examples from the religions themselves, along with their chapter and verse citations, that all Deists and other freethinkers can keep in mind to use to enlighten people about the nonsense in the "holy" books of the man-made "revealed"/hearsay religions. Eventually we will render them harmless, which will make the world a much better and safer place!

Progress! Bob Johnson www deism com

Unintentional Comedy in the Bible and Quran

We don't have far to go to find unintentional humor and comedy in the Bible. In the first chapter of Genesis, which is seen by all of the Abrahamic "revealed"/hearsay religions as being part of the Word of God, we read about God allegedly creating the Universe and our planet Earth. The story goes from day one through six work days until day seven, when, the Bible tells us, God rested.

The 2nd-century CE Greek Eclectic philosopher Celsus wrote in his outstanding work <u>On The True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians</u> how foolish this Bible story is, as well as how demeaning to The Supreme Intelligence/God it is.

Celsus wrote of the Bible's creation story:

Look further at the creation story credited among them, where we have read that God banishes man from the garden made specifically to contain him. Silly as that may be, sillier still is the way the world is supposed to have come about. They allot certain days to creation, before days existed. For when heaven had not been made, or the Earth fixed or the Sun set in the heavens, how could days exist? Isn't it absurd to think that the greatest God pieced out his work like a bricklayer, saying "Today I shall do this, tomorrow that," and so on, so that he did this on the third, that on the fourth, and something else on the fifth and sixth days! We are thus not surprised to find that, like a common workman, this God wears himself down and so needs a holiday after six days. Need I comment that a god who gets tired, works with his hands, and gives orders like a foreman is not acting very much like a god?

The next unintentional comedy we find in the Bible is at Genesis 3. This chapter starts out with the comedic image of a talking snake/serpent! Verses 1 - 5 are of a conversation the talking snake had with Eve, encouraging her to eat the fruit of the tree which God forbid Adam to eat from. (According to this ludicrous story at Genesis 2:16-17, God only told Adam not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God never told Eve not to do so.) As the story goes, Eve, who saw that the fruit was from "a tree to be desired to make one wise" (unlike Adam, Eve was seeking wisdom), ate the forbidden fruit and then Adam ate the forbidden fruit.

Verses 3:8-9 tell of Adam and Eve, who were now ashamed of their bodies and covered parts of their bodies with fig leaves, heard God walking in the garden, and they were afraid of God so they hid themselves. The allegedly all knowing God of the Bible did not know where Adam and Eve were, so God called out asking, "Where art thou?"

After this game of hide and seek the "all knowing" God of the Abrahamic religions asked Adam if he and Eve had eaten of the forbidden tree. Adam passes the blame to Eve, and to God, by saying the woman God gave him is the one who gave him the forbidden fruit to eat.

The all knowing Bible god, still not grasping what happened, then asked Eve what it was that she had done. Eve then passes the blame on to the talking snake/serpent!

The Bible god then talks to the talking snake/serpent and curses the talking snake, saying, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life." This means that prior to God's curse of the snake/serpent, snake did not travel as they now do. They must of either had many legs, or they traveled about hopping on their tails like a pogo-stick!

Even though this Bible story is so stupid it's funny, it does have some real world negative consequences, one of which is the promotion of misogyny. This is brought out by the founder of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament based neoconservative movement, Leo Strauss. In Strauss' essay and speech *Jerusalem and Athens*, Strauss said:

Thus the stage was set for the fall of our first parents. The first move came from the serpent, the most cunning of all the beasts of the field. It seduced the woman into disobedience and then the woman seduced the man. The seduction moves from the lowest to the highest.

Another comical Bible story is found at Exodus 4:24-25. This claims that when Moses was entering Egypt per God's orders, God jumped Moses and attempted to kill him. Moses' wife, Zipporah, quickly grabbed a sharp stone and used it to cut the foreskin off of her son. She then threw the bloody foreskin at God's feet! This caused God to rethink his decision to kill Moses, and God let Moses live. This would make for a great Monty Python skit!

In <u>Exodus 33</u> the comedy continues! This Bible story starts out with God and Moses having a face to face meeting in the tabernacle (33:11), with verse 20 claiming that no man can see God's face, even though it claimed Moses was having a face to face meeting with God. Verses 21-23 strongly indicates that the Bible god showed his ass to Moses! These verses state:

And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

The images this produces are comedic and offer a lot of material to comedians! They are also the antithesis to any meaningful idea of The Supreme Intelligence/God.

The ancient Jews who wrote the Bible knew how to put fear into the faithful in very mundane ways. One mundane fear they played on was the dread people had of hemorrhoids!

In Deuteronomy 28:1 the Jewish clergy wrote that God said to the Jews and their nation of Israel:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth

Of course, the real "voice of the LORD" was the Jewish clergymen and the commandments were not really from God, but were from the Jewish clergymen.

They went on to list the curses God would unleash against the Jews who did not follow God's/the clergy's commandments. <u>Deuteronomy 28:27</u> includes the curse of the dreaded emerods/hemorrhoids (emerods is an archaic <u>term</u> for hemorrhoids)! It states:

The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.

1 Samuel 5 tells the story of the Philistines capturing the ark of God from Israel (this indicates the Bible god is not all powerful) and placing it in the "house of Dagon" and physically setting it by a statue of the Philistine god, Dagon. This, of course, angered the Jewish god of the Bible. In addition to causing the statue of the Philistine god, Dagon, to fall on its face, it caused it to have the palms of its hands and its head to be cut off.

Not content with the attack against the statue of Dagon, the Bible god attacked the people in the city of Ashdod with hemorrhoids! Verse 6 claims:

But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.

The survivors of Ashdod decided to move the ark of the god of Israel to another Philistine city to relieve their own emerods/hemorrhoids! They moved it to the city of Gath. Gath then suffered the same fate as Ashdod and Philistines were inflicted with hemorrhoids in their secret parts!

They then decided to move the ark of the god of Israel from Gath to the Philistine city of Ekron. Verse 12 tells us the people of Ekron suffered death and hemorrhoids, too, and that their cry "went up to heaven."

The Philistines, as the story goes, had the ark of the god of Israel for seven months. They asked their clergy for advice on what to do with the ark. Their clergy said to return the ark to the Jews along with trespass offerings. When they asked the Philistine clergymen what kind of trespass offering they should give, they were told, according to 1 Samuel 6:4, to make five golden hemorrhoids and five golden mice (the Jewish god also afflicted the Philistine people with mice).

The Philistine people did as their clergymen instructed. After they gave the ark and the golden hemorrhoids and golden mice to the Jews, the Jewish god killed 50,070 of the Philistine people for looking into the ark of the god of Israel, according to 1 Samuel 6:17-20.

One of the funniest and most absurd claims, in my opinion, made by Christianity is found in Matthew 27:50-53. This is the zombie story. As this nonsensical story goes, when Jesus died on

a cross on a Friday, the graves around Jerusalem opened up and the dead people inside of them came back to life and hung out by their graves on Friday until Sunday morning when Jesus became a zombie, too! On Sunday they all strolled into Jerusalem and "appeared unto many".

Thomas Paine did an outstanding job of addressing this Christian nonsense in <u>The Age of Reason</u> when he wrote:

It is an easy thing to tell a lie, but it is difficult to support the lie after it is told. The writer of the book of Matthew should have told us who the saints were that came to life again, and went into the city, and what became of them afterward, and who it was that saw them - for he is not hardy enough to say he saw them himself; whether they came out naked, and all in natural buff, he-saints and she-saints; or whether they came full dressed, and where they got their dresses; whether they went to their former habitations, and reclaimed their wives, their husbands, and their property, and how they were received; whether they entered ejectments for the recovery of their possessions, or brought actions of crim. con. against the rival interlopers; whether they remained on earth, and followed their former occupation of preaching or working; or whether they died again, or went back to their graves alive, and buried themselves.

The zombie Bible story is a great opportunity for Deists to use it as a toll to help people who are currently under the influence of Christianity. It is so blatantly foolish it can't help but cause even devout Christians to have doubt about the Bible and to use their gift from God of innate reason to think. Here is a <u>link</u> to our page about it, on the World Union of Deists site.

One of the funniest stories in Islam is only briefly covered in the Quran, but covered in much more detail in <u>Hadith: Isra and Mi'raj</u>. Hadiths are alleged sayings of Mohammed.

This nonsensical and unintentionally funny Islamic story tells of Mohammed flying up to heaven on the back of a Buraq. A Buraq is a horse-like creature that flies.

Mohammed's guide while in heaven, as the story goes, was the angel Gabriel. Gabriel took Mohammed to meet Allah/God. Allah told Mohammed that Muslims should pray 50 times every day and night.

After being told by Allah to require Muslims to pray 50 times every day and night, Mohammed descended to a lower part of heaven where he met Moses. He told Moses that Allah/God had ordered that all Muslims must pray 50 times every day and night. Moses told him that was too much, that Mohammed's followers could not do that. Moses told Mohammed to go back to Allah/God and negotiate to get Allah/God to reduce the number of times Muslims must pray every day and night. Mohammed did as Moses told him. Mohammed went back to Allah/God and told him 50 times was too much for Muslims to pray every day and night. Allah/God changed his mind and reduced the number of required daily prayers to 40. Mohammed went back and told Moses that he was able to get Allah/God to decrease the number of daily required prayers to 40. Moses told Mohammed that 40 was still too many. Mohammed went back and

negotiated with Allah/God until the number was down to five prayers a day. This comical and foolish Islamic story portrays The Supreme Intelligence/God as a vender at a flea market who you can haggle with to get what you want! Islam and all of the "revealed"/hearsay religions have a very ungodly image of The Supreme Intelligence/God!

By pointing out some of the claims and teachings in the "revealed"/hearsay religions that are so foolish they are actually funny, I hope we can reach more people with the knowledge that God gave us all reason and not any of the "revealed" religions. This Deism eBooklet is a way of taking Thomas Paine's advice. Paine wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*:

Nonsense ought to be treated as nonsense, wherever it be found; and had this been done in the rational manner it ought to be done, instead of intimating and mincing the matter, as has been too much the case, the nonsense and false doctrine of the Bible, with all the aid that priestcraft can give, could never have stood their ground against the divine reason that God has given to man.

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