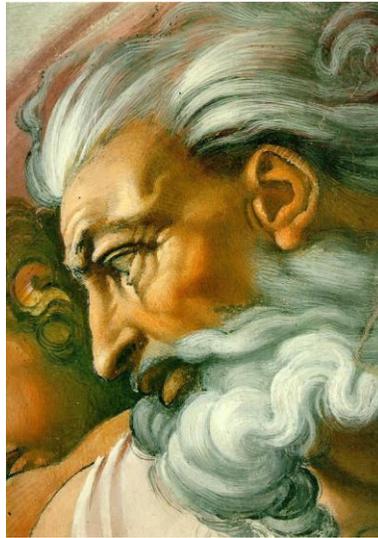


“I QUIT”
“YOU CAN’T QUIT, YOU’RE ⚡ GOD ⚡”



An Operetta

Book and Lyrics
By Sidney Goldberg
Music
By Jeffrey Hoover

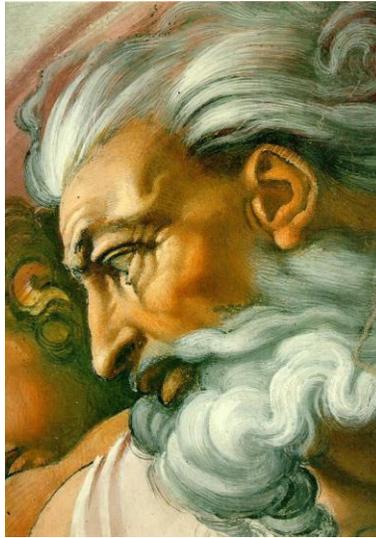
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Please Contact:

Sidney Goldberg
20 West Palisade Avenue #3120
Englewood NJ 07631
201 567-6533
Sidneyg6@gmail.com
www.SidneyGoldbergWriter.com

“I QUIT”

“YOU CAN’T QUIT, YOU’RE ⚡ GOD ⚡”



CAST

GOD

ABRAHAM.....Wears a robe and has a beard.

JESUS

**MUHAMMAD.....Dislikes Jews and Christians but inside
knows that all Arabs are half Jewish.**

BUDDHA

DEVIL.....Makes venomous quips, is not heard.

MURRAY.....Messenger

XXXXXXX

I am a relatively religious person and have numerous friends of all religions of which I have great respect for. I have tried to show through song and humor that we are all one in God’s eyes. If I have offended anyone, please accept my humble apology.

“I QUIT”

“YOU CAN’T QUIT, YOU’RE ⚡ GOD ⚡”

♪ Songs ♪

HOW CAN YOU PICK ME? (Murray).....	1-1-5
WORDS of KINDNESS (Buddha).....	1-1-12
AGAINST ALL ODDS (Abraham).....	1-1-16
ALLAH AKBAR (Muhammad).....	1-1-18
MARY MAGDALENE (Jesus).....	1-1-19
BATTLE <i>ROYALE</i> (God and the Devil).....	1-2-22
THEY’RE ALL A PAIN in the NECK (God).....	1-3-26
HE CAN’T QUIT (ALL).....	1-3-33
ISHMAEL (Abraham).....	1-3-35
The ULTIMATE TRUTH (Buddha).....	1-3-36
COME JOIN MY SHOW (Devil).....	1-4-42
WHY ME (Murray).....	1-4-44
SALVATION (ALL).....	1-5-56
This too SHALL PASS (ALL).....	1-6-67
DISTRAUGHT (Jesus).....	1-7-68
In the BEGINNING (God).....	1-7-71
GIVE ME the STRENGTH (ALL).....	1-7-72
EVERYONE BUT ME (Murray).....	1-7-75

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene I

Heaven: WE see the DEVIL dressed in black with
a red satin cape that HE will swirl and
Now: HE has pointy ears.

DEVIL

 Sings 

- Disturbing music and screams.)

“Please allow me to introduce myself...” Good evening ladies and gentlemen, how nice of you to visit me in my once former home, heaven. I am the Devil, also called Satan,

 Sings 

Lucifer, Mephistopheles, Beelzebub, the Evil one, the Prince of Darkness, *“Oh-oh yes I’m the great pretender,”* and the serpent who you may recall I led to the downfall of Eve in the Garden of Eden. I have been described as having fangs, scaly skin, red eyes, wings

(Swirls cape.)

which are hidden beneath this gorgeous cape, cloven hooves which were giving me

(Taps.)

bunions for these tap shoes. I liked Fred Astaire but loved Sammy Davis Jr. What an entertainer. No one knows what I look like because I have the ability to disguise myself and become whatever the person or people I speak to desire most to take into their confidence. I may be sitting next to you so please smile and give me a nod... Thank you. I used to be your God’s favorite angel, second in command, in other words His right arm until we had a falling out, a mere slight disagreement; hence I became His fallen angel and was sent to earth where my magnificent power of creating chaos, pain, murder, robbery, use and abuse women and children, alas crime and punishment for all my trusted followers. My prize pupils to name a few for there are too many to mention; Cain, Pharaoh, Genghis Khan, Hitler, one of my favorites, *“Seig Heil,”* It’s so melodic, and Aryan it’s so authoritarian, Stalin was a close second, Mussolini and my latest rage, Osama bin Laden. You see your God, who I call Charley, I was Charley’s favorite angel and He called me Lu, short for Lucifer. At one time we were like kissing cousins and I hate to tell you this but Charley doesn’t have full control over me nor you because He isn’t all powerful, but I AM! And I hear that that braggart came from his mother, Goddess who He never talks about; In Sumer, She was Innana; in Egypt, She was Isis; in Canaan, Demeter; and in Cyprus, Aphrodite; That’s one mother with a lot of names, who was the creator of all life. And if you think Lilith was my mother, who knows, I’ll never tell. Welcome to my inner sanctum, and please don’t tell what’s His name you saw me here, I don’t think He’d appreciate that.

(WE hear thunder and see lightning as the DEVIL exits and we move center Stage where GOD is speaking to MURRAY.)

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

SCENE 2

ABRAHAM, JESUS, MUHAMMAD and BUDDHA are amazed at what THEY hear. The sun is shining brilliantly. WE see many clouds.

GOD

Murray, since I picked you, who I trust the most to become my number one Angel to replace Izzy who replaced the Devil, Lucifer, that trouble maker who is always creating chaos and pestilence on earth which I created so long ago. I have never been happier and I now appoint you, my most trusted cohort to pick one of my ‘Good guys, my so called Prophets to replace me because as I just told you I quit!

MURAY

How can you quit? Who ever heard of God quitting?

GOD

You just did, Murray and I told you why; I’m sick and tired of the terrorism, the AIDS, the poverty, the fires and storms, the give me, give me, give me. How much can a guy give? I’ve had it and that’s why I quit! It’s up to you Murray and I wish you good luck in selecting the right ‘Good guy.’

MURRAY

How can you pick me, I’m a poor *schlemiel*, a nobody, a loser. I’ve always been called a loser because I never won at anything; that’s why you said you picked me to be your number one Angel in the first place, because they say I’m a good hearted loser, because I always felt that everyone was better than me, so how can I pick one of your ‘Good guy’s to replace You when all of your Prophets are better than me and deserve it and I’m just...

GOD

...You’re not a loser Murray, everyone should be a loser like you and the world would be a better place and you’re the only one I can think of that represents the human race, and there is no one I can think who is better qualified to select their next God than you.

MURRAY

I think you’re making a big mistake.

GOD

Murray, once my so called Prophets hear you're the one that's going to choose the next Me, they'll be so tempted, they won't leave you alone because I know they want my seat.

MURRAY

Are you sure?

GOD

I've never been more certain of anything, that those 'Good guys' won't leave you alone, because as pious as they are, they all have big egos and would give anything to sit in my

(Thunder and lightning.)

Throne. Now read my lips, but don't look at my face, I QUIT!

MURRAY

(♪ Sings ♪)

HOW CAN YOU PICK ME?

How can you pick me?
I'm just a poor *schlemiel*.
Was sick as can be,
That's how I'd always feel.

I have a big nose.
Ev'ryone was smarter.
Why do you suppose?
It always got harder.

I didn't have any luck.
And I felt like such a *schmuck*
They looked at me and said *Yuk*
In every place I'd get stuck.

I always would lose.
I'm not a number one.
Myself I'd abuse.
I never had much fun.

My mama loved me.
She said I was her guy.
My papa told me,
What mama said was a lie.

I didn't have any luck.
And I felt like such a *schmuck*
They looked at me and said *Yuk*
In every place I'd get stuck.

How can you pick me?
I was a lonely *schlep*.
What will be will be,
I was square not too hep.

I felt my people's grief.
I was thin and slender.
It was their belief,
I wasn't a contender.

I didn't have any luck.
And I felt like such a *schmuck*
They looked at me and said *Yuk*
In every place I'd get stuck.

MUHAMMAD

Can you believe it, HE picked that...

BUDDHA

...Loser.

ABRAHAM

Murray's not only a loser but he's a *schlemiel*.

ALL

What's a *schlemiel*?

ABRAHAM

A *schlemiel* is someone that falls on his back and breaks his nose that makes him a loser.

JESUS

That *schlemiel* sure has a big nose.

ABRAHAM

Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye.
God cannot die.

(ALL laugh. Lights go and off and WE move center stage.)

**ABRAHAM, JESUS, MUHAMMAD and
BUDDHA are sitting around table and
playing Monopoly. The DEVIL is off to
the side, will make comments that are not
heard by the cast until spoken to.
Perhaps WE see Angels flying above.**

JESUS

(After throwing dice and moving marker. All will ♪ sing.)

Dear Father, forgive thy son for I hath not landed on my own monopoly which is
(To ALL.))

Boardwalk and Park Place, but unfortunately, alas on the dreaded Jail. Come to think of it my fellow brethren, or should I call ye 'Good guys' as my Father doth calls us. I do not feel like playing this childish game anymore. Therefore, alas, I bid thee farewell but I QUIT too! And how could HE pick Murray, that loser and not me, His own son?

MUHAMAD

(Gloating – to Jesus.)

Whoever loveth to meet God, God loveth to meet him. Hey, you, who was once a devout
(Laughs.)

traveling salesman. I hear they now call your life, "*Death of a Salesman*," ha ha. You picked this dumb game, not me, Rabbi. And that's where *You* and all your misguided Christians who worship *you* instead of yours truly belong. So do not pass go and collect \$200, GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL, MR. JESUS, and GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL! Murray can't be the one because he's a loser!

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed with top hat and tuxedo. Singing ends)

Yes go to jail Mr. Jesus, who is called *His* son; what a loser. And who was your God of disillusion's wife? He was never married, so how could He have a son? And after your supposed resurrection, where was it written when you died again? And He used to call me His favorite angel you know, and then it was goodbye, Charley. If it was up to me, I'd let them all rot in jail. Not hell because I'm not there, I'm on earth with all those losers I make them feel like they're all in hell. And hell's too good for those poor saps, including that *yutz*, I mean *schlemiel*. Yes, God must die, for when he dies, I will sigh and say goodbye. Yes, God must die.

JESUS

Must I, Senor Muhammad? And why doth I and all my Father's Christians, belongeth in jail...? For, the meek shall inherit the earth and the first shall be last and the last shall be first. The eyes in which I see God is the same eyes God see me.

ABRAHAM

(To Muhammad.)

...*Nu*, Hammy, Mr. Genius, savior of the terrorists' bombers who can't read or write, like you. If they only knew that they're missing a good book. And what are you picking on Jesus for? Remember David and Goliath? I'm going to tell HIM to forget about Murray and think about me. *Ezrati lashu lata Adonoi*; Help me return to you God.

JESUS

I thank thee Abie. And as ye and I call him, I too doth call Muhammad, Hammy, and now, his followers, some who are terrorists. For, I doth call a spade a spade and a rose by any other name. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone, Hammy.

MUHAMMAD

(To Abraham.)

Terrorists? Damn, we're freedom fighters; fighting for what is rightfully ours; Palestine, Jerusalem and who the hell needs to read or write, when half of all Americans can't spell *diddly sqvat*, thanks you Abie. Did I not say, that if the people do good to us, we will do good to them? And if the people oppress us, we will oppress them; but determine that if people do us good, we will do well to them; and if they oppress us, we will not oppress them." This is Sharia, Muslim law.

ABRAHAM

Why Murray, that schlemiel? And why not me? *Oi, Gott'n 'himml*, You are as close as the farthest star and as near as the breath I take.

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed with top hat and tuxedo)

...Oh please, don't mention Charley again. I've had enough of Him and His big
(Snaps fingers.)
 mouth... As you know He got rid of me, his used-to-be favorite angel, just like that and not even a going away party; I can't tell you how hurt I was. You know I was second in command to Him, destined to take over and I became like yesterday's newspaper...

ABRAHAM

...Thank you for giving us the desire for knowledge and the ability to learn... Maybe if you taught those terrorists how to read and write, instead of making all those bombs, those poor *meshugehnehs* would be reading a good book and learn something. Muhammad, you labeled Allah, God, who we call *Hashem*; He gave Palestine to me and my fellow Chosen over 3,000 years ago. And yes, Jews are known to read and write and we can spell more than diddly squat, for we know education is the essence of being Jewish. You know how many doctors and lawyers we turned out? Hey, not everyone's born lucky like us guys; Murray was never lucky like us you know.

JESUS

The Lord, my Blessed Father, thy will be done, give us what we need, Amen.

MUHAMMAD

If, you so called chosen are so damn chosen, how come I was chosen and enlightened by Allah who is great and not you, Moses or your smart ass, educated lowlife Hebes, Abie? And being the Good Samaritan I am known to be, I wanted to share Allah's sacred enlightenment, the Qur'an with your fellow wise ass Jews, and those Christian heathens who turned me down because they said I wasn't the Messiah. They said Mr. Rabbi's

over here is and that's a riot. Jesus was this poor, wandering, bearded hippie Rabbi, a Shepard, a shoemaker who was ostracized by his own people, the Jews. Not to mention the Crusades, that killed so many of his own Jews, in his name, no less, the Prince of Peace. Some Prince of Peace you are, Mr. Hippie, and let us not forget the Moranos, who were forced to convert to Catholicism, for fear of death. With that Prince of Peace, who

(Laughs.)

needs HaSatan, evil's adversary, the enemy of Allah? Ha, ha, ha, hello Jew boy. What do you have to say about that? That sounds a little like Genghis Khanish, Hitleresque to me, right fellas? Love of the world is the root of all evil, ain't that right, son of the Virgin Birth? Whoever suppresses his anger, when he has in his power to show it, God will give him a great reward.

BUDDHA

Muhammad, No one can escape death and unhappiness. If people expect only happiness in life, they will be disappointed. *Dukkla*, life is suffering. Peace and serenity; living a life of compassion for all living things. Everything must lean to the Holy of Holies who is indifferent to the universe for Ishvara, God does not direct or guide the world; He lets the people chose their own destiny; which may be peace and serenity or chaos and destruction for as you know, *Prakrit*, God is on the side of the weak and the oppressed.

ABRAHAM

(Looks at Buddha.)

Here we go again. Buddy's constantly quoting his Four Noble Truths. *Oi*, I mean give me a break. Do you hear me constantly quoting the Torah, our Bible, which was given by *Adonoi, Elohim, Eloheinu, Hashem*, in other words, the King of Kings.

DEVIL

Make no mistake about it; He's not all powerful; I am the King of Kings. That old faker

(♪ Sings.)

up stairs just pretends. "*Uh, uh, oh yes, He's the great pretender...*" I like that Murray, my kind of guy.

MUHAMMAD

... Talk about having an ego. How many names does your supposed God need? That's why He doesn't know who he is yet. I mean give me a break, damn it. Whoever loveth to meet God, God loveth to meet him. You laugh about Buddha's real name, Siddhartha Gautama; now that's a tongue twister, buster; that's even funnier, and almost as bad as your *Adonoi, Elohim, Eloheinu, Hashem*; the King of Kings, I mean that's a pisser. I mean who the hell can remember, much less pronounce all those ridiculous names? And as far as the true Bible is concerned, the Qur'an is the only legitimate Bible that really counts. The Old and New Testaments are for losers that don't know better. He is not strong and powerful, who throws people down, but he is strong who withholds himself from anger. *Besmi Allahi allrrahami allraheem*. In the name of Allah the Beneficent.

ABRAHAM

Oh really...? I guess *Hashem* thinks Murray's good too. Why, I don't know, do you?

JESUS

...And it will be given to you; seek and ye will find; knock and the door will be opened.

MUHAMMAD

Yeah really, Abie and forget about that loser. I don't want him and neither do you. *Allahu akbbah*, God is greater. We have over a billion and a-half Muslims, growing by leaps and bounds every day. We shall rule the world! Allah Akbar, God is great. How many Jews are there, twelve Million, fifteen million? *Al salaam a'alaykum*, peace be with you misguided fools. You're not even one tenth, of one percent of our vastly superior Muslims who shall rule the earth! Allah Akbar, God is good. And as long as we have the oil who has to read? Hitler should have killed all of you; he had a chance and blew it, and Palestine and Jerusalem would be ours. The most excellent jihad, *struggle* is that for the conquest of self, and don't forget that.

DEVIL

(Aside.)

Give it to them. We know only fools read the damn Bible. If I could I'd burn every

(♪ Sings.)

Bible and I'd have a hoedown with all the trimmings.... "*We're gonna have a hoedown in the old town tonight, yeah, yeah.*" Don't say a word and just follow me to that gray cloud on the left.

(ABRAHAM follows the DEVIL who tap dances as HE walks.)

ABRAHAM

Oi, I don't believe it, it's really you, you're the tap dancing...

DEVIL

...Devil at your service, Abie. Don't make such a big deal about it; I've been wearing these tap shoes which are much more comfortable than those cloven hooves, since I saw Sammy Davis. Now I'm going to make you a proposition that will blow your mind.

ABRAHAM

What the hell does blow my mind mean?

DEVIL

When the time is right I'll tell you and we shall become partners. Now, go back to those lunatics. And don't bother to tell them you saw me because all they'll do is laugh in

(Laughing runs away.)

your face and so will that *schlemiel*, Murray. See ya later alligator, ciao.

ABRAHAM

Oi, Gott'n himml, you'll never believe who I just saw and spoke to me.

MUHAMMAD

(Laughing.)

Let me guess, could it be HaSatan, the enemy of your God, with all those ridiculous names.

ABRAHAM

Oi, how did you know?

BUDDHA

Seek the ultimate truth and you shall find peace. The Four Noble Truths: 1- There is suffering, suffering is common to all. 2- Cause of suffering. We are cause the cause of our suffering. 3- End of suffering. Stop doing what causes suffering. 4- Path of suffering. Everyone can be enlightened and hopefully Murray.

ABRAHAM

(To Muhammad.)

Didn't you hear what Buddy said, Hammy? Who needs education when you have terrorist bombers that kill innocent children instead of learning what's right and wrong, right Buddy? Jews are not allowed to eat ham, Hammy. That's funny don't you think that's funny? Read the Torah and find out that the meek shall inherit the earth, even with all your oil, Mr. Illiterate Blowhard sonofa... And stop copying Hitler and Mussolini, who only wanted to kill, kill, kill. *Oi*, I can't take it.

JESUS

What is with thy *Oi*? I thought ye spoketh Aramaic like I, not Jewish, Abie?

MUHAMMAD

Yeah, how come you sound like those old Jewish mockkeys, Abie? The Rabbi doesn't.

ABRAHAM

Soon as I heard the way they speak, I said boy, I like the way it sounds and I wanna talk just like them, *nu*? I like it, I like it, I like it so that's why I talk like them. *Nu*, what do you wanna do, kill me? Murray wouldn't like that.

BUDDHA

Suffering- Everyone suffers from these things. Birth- When we are born we cry. Sickness- When we are sick, we are miserable. Old age- When old, we will have aches and pains and find it hard to get around. Death- None of us want to die. We feel deep sorrow when someone dies. Praise to the ultimate exposure.

JESUS

My, my my. I beg thy forgiveness my blessed Father, but I believeth Sidd's B-essing, he is stalling for time; Just because I have Boardwalk and Park Place with hotels, Pacific,

North Carolina and Pennsylvania with two houses each and you will have to come to my side of the board sooner or later, Siddhartha Gautama. With a name like Siddhartha Gautama, no wonder they call ye Buddha, What you so beautifully and prophetically say, Buddha doth sound so much better. Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. In time, hopefully Murray will learn to love himself and me as well.

(Off to the side the DEVIL makes faces of boredom throughout.)

BUDDHA

(♪ Sings Aria)

How beautiful Jesus; truer words were never spoken more eloquently. A wise man says he does not know everything but there is much to learn and much to love.

WORDS OF KINDESS

This is what should be done,
 who is skilled in goodness, be the one,
 who knows the path of peace:
 Let them be able and upright, this shall not cease.
 Straight forward and gentle in speech.
 Of thee I beseech.
 Humble and not conceited,
 Contented and easily satisfied.
 Unburned with duties and frugal in their ways.
 With God there will be sunny days.

Peaceful and calm, and wise and skillful,
 not proud and demanding in nature shall be helpful.
 Let them not do the slightest thing
 that the wise would later reprove.
 This is how ye shall move and find the spring.

Wishing: In gladness and in safety please,
 May all beings be at ease.
 Whatever living beings there may be one;
 whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
 the great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
 With the Lord you will never fall.

The seen and the unseen,
 those living near and far away,
 those born and to-be-born,
 May all beings be at ease!
 For God we must always please.

Let none deceive another,
or despise any being in any state.
Let none through anger or ill-will, hate.
Wish harm upon another.
For, He is your brother.

Peaceful and calm, and wise and skillful,
not proud and demanding in nature shall be helpful.
Let them not do the slightest thing
that the wise would later reprove.
This is how ye shall move and find the spring.

Even as a mother protects with her life,
Her child, her only child,
So with a boundless heart protected from strife.
Should one cherish all living beings to start?
Radiating kindness over the entire world
Spreading upwards to the skies,
And downwards to the depths;
Outward and unbounded, no lies.
Freed from hatred and ill-will.
May peace and goodness be your fill.

Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down
Free from drowsiness,
one should sustain this recollection.
For thy inspection.
This is said to be the sublime abiding.
With love and kindness residing.

By not holding to fixed views,
the pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision, ensues.
Being freed from all sense desires
is not born again into this world transpires.
Lead us to the dream world of desires.

Peaceful and calm, and wise and skillful,
not proud and demanding in nature shall be helpful.
Let them not do the slightest thing
that the wise would later reprove.
This is how ye shall move and find the spring.

DEVIL**(Dressed as a bum.)**

Words of Kindness my caboodle. What a crock of... Why don't you ask him about bride burning? An Indian husband sets fire to his wife ostensibly to express his dissatisfaction with her, but often to acquire her dowry. Words of Kindness; I never heard such hogwash in my life. I'd like to string every one of those 'Good guys' up, including that loser with the big *schnoz*!

(After a beat. ALL sing.)**MUHAMMAD**

Deal gently with a people, and be not harsh; cheer them and condemn not. You go Abie, what the hell are you waiting for. I don't have all day! Throw the dice or I'll throw them for you!

DEVIL**(Off. Aside. Dressed as a bum.)**

Do not use hell and damn in vain; only His heaven where all losers preside may you

(Laughs

-

Laughs.)

Blasphemy and with my undying blessing... I pray you shall all go to hell including His new favorite Angel, who replaced Izzy, another loser and say hello for me to my 'Good guys, the quintessential losers.

ABRAHAM**(To Muhammad.)**

Really, where are you going and why are you in such a hurry, *Hammy*?

(ABRAHAM throws the dice.)**ABRAHAM (Cont'd)****(Moves piece then lands.)**

One, two thee, four, five, six and seven! B and O railroad. Looks like that gives me a monopoly on all the railroads, and not a bad monopoly at that, is it, Rabbi?

JESUS

Hey, I hath to land on thy railroads to pay, and I don't intend on landing on thy railroads and paying thee thy rent, Abie. Ye know, even though I suggested this *dumbeth* game, I am really not in the mood to play with thee anymore. What shall profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his soul? I think I shall taketh a walk with that *schlemiel* and meditate in my Lord's clouds. When I'm through with him he will definitely select *moi*.

MUHAMMAD

The five stated prayers erase the sins which have been committed during the intervals between them if they have not been mortal sins. What kind of angels, what kind of

angels? This born again Jew is a sore loser and is copping a plea. I mean every game we play he wants to quit; when I was beating him in gin-rummy, what did he do?

ALL

HE QUIT!

MUHAMMAD

When I was beating him in spades and casino, what did he do?

ALL

HE QUIT! Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

MURRAY

I just can't do it. I haven't slept since He told me. What happens if I pick the wrong one? Doesn't He know I'm a loser and I always pick the wrong one?

MUHAMMAD

What is it with you Jew boy? Don't you ever finish anything? Damn! Those who are free of resentful thoughts are free.

JESUS

May I ask thee a question before I put an end to this is a child's game, Hamm?

MUHAMMAD

You're supposed to be the Messiah, who gave his life, you didn't give your life, you were nailed to a wooden cross by those Roman soldiers because they were afraid you and your Jewish apostles were going to cause an uprising against Caesar and his Romans. Your Christians wear a cross around their necks and if you were killed by an alligator or a lion would they wear one of those? And let us not forget the inimitable Pontius *Pilot* who didn't fly for TWA. How ironic that the Pope and the Vatican just happen to be in Rome. I supposed your Prince of Peace is going to save your Christians from committing the

(Laughs.)

First sin; which is the biggest sin of all. I bet you say you're sorry that more people have been killed during the crusades in *Your* name, than during the First and Second World War, the Korean, Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Yeah, you're some

(Laughs.)

Prince of Peace alright. What a crock of... Save them from sinning, huh? Four things support the world: the learning of the wise, the justice of the great, the prayers of the good, and the valor of the brave. Allah Akbar, God is great! No one who keeps his mind focused entirely upon himself can grow large, strong and beautiful in character.

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed as a bum.)

YES! With all this dissension going on, I couldn't be happier, for my cup runneth over, big time. You know what they say? 'He who dies pays all debts.'

JESUS

Hamm, did you really say, “*Those that do not believe in Islam, mainly the Jews and Christians are infidels and must be put to death?*” *Ego te absalvo*, I absolve you.

(Uncomfortable, MUHAMMAD pauses.)

ABRAHAM

That’s the dumbest thing I ever heard. Only a *yold*, a fool would say such a thing.

MUHAMMAD

(To Jesus.)

Where the hell did you hear that, Rabbi?

JESUS

(♪ Sort of sings.)

“*I heard it in the grapevine.*”

MUHAMMAD

One hour's meditation on the work of the Creator is better than seventy years of prayer. Tell you the truth, I don’t remember, Rabbi.

BUDDHA

When it rains does not matter whether we welcome or hate it, it still falls on our head regardless. We are what we think. Clear and kind thought build good, strong characters.

ABRAHAM

Since those poor *menchen*, people outnumber the wealthy and since Muhammad’s brothers have most of the oil that the whole world really needs, despite the fact that most Arabs are impoverished, I mean they’re really poor, *efshe*, maybe because of the lack of education, for those rich Sheikhs with their rich oil empires, namely Saudia Arabia, Iran, Syria and Iraq close their eyes to their fellow Arab’s needs and appear to propagate terrorist bombers instead of doctors, teachers and scientists... what they really need is to educate the masses but they don’t want them to learn about their dictatorship, or the freedom and democracy they have in America.

DEVIL

Wait’ll you hear this garbage.

(♪ Sings aria.)

ABRAHAM

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Against all odds,
The UN in 1947 decreed,
That we were Holocaust victims indeed.
Then the world took a stand,
At it’s nation’s command.
Jews must have a homeland,
And thus Israel was born.

To, the Taliban's scorn.
 Surrounded, by enemies who have sworn,
 Hamas and the Intifada, was born.
 Israel is a Garden of Eden in the desert.
 The terrorists wear a mask and a black shirt.
 Against all odds through all those wars we flourish.
 Our children it was hard to feed or nourish.
 Instead of welcoming and joining us and becoming one Semitic family,
 Making love and not war which is insane, ridiculous and oh so silly:
 Sharing in the exciting discoveries we have made which can benefit all of mankind
 They say they want Palestine and Jerusalem back which I find is the call of the blind.
 What hypocrisy.
 What lunacy.
 This can never be.
 For all eternity, Jews must always be.
 Great Britain owned about 70% of Palestine,
 The Jews about 10 per cent.
 And the rest, were the Arabs who slept in a tent.
 Why wasn't there terrorist bombing then?
 Because Yasser Arafat and his Hamas were not the chosen
 I believe Arafat who was called chairman,
 Was an instigator and not human.
 Robbing millions from his people, who were needy.
 Very seedy he was truly greedy
 Against all odds.

DEVIL

(Off. Aside. Dressed as a bum.)

Abie's another big time, loser. But why does he sound like, those smart, dumb ass, educated Jews that run America today, I'll never know. Jews, who needs them, right Murray?

MUHAMMAD

And can anyone tell me why he sounds like those dumb, old mockey Jews in Brooklyn. Oh, I forgot; the Jew Kike said he likes the sound of *Yiddish* more than Aramaic. What a dope.

ABRAHAM

You mean I sound like them, you really think so? Boy, I sure hope so!

BUDDHA

By speaking kind and helpful words, we are respected and trusted by everyone. No matter what we say, others know us from the way we behave. Before we criticize others, we should first see what we do our selves. *Bhavana*, karma, meditation is the answer; make me one with everything and grant me eternal peace.

JESUS

Thanks to thee Abie, I too prefer Buddy or Budd to Buddha. It's so catchy.

ABRAHAM

Me to, and I like Hammy not Hamm for Muhammad, not that I eat ham because it's

(Laughs.)

Traif, unkosher, right Hammy? Did you hear Murray; I don't eat ham so pick me.

MUHAMMAD

(Sings, aria 🎵)

I mean give me a break.

ALLAH AKBAR

I was born in the year five-hundred and seventy.

And I lived to six-hundred and –thirty-two.

And I grew up to love and respect every Christian and Jew.

And as a grown man I wanted to write the Qur'an.

I'm sadden to say that I was illiterate man,

Did not know how to read and write all I did was pray.

And the fast of Ramadan we contemplate.

We fast during the day and eat a light meal at night.

Was taken from *Yom Kippur*, which is a Jewish holy rite.

Allah Akbar,

Sub' Ha'n Allah.

God is great, that is my fate, God, is great.

Allah Akbar,

Sub' Ha'n Allah.

I had the help of many wise men who would then transcribe.

The true beauty and wisdom Allah granted to me,

So I gave to you so that you too must always see.

At first I called Abraham and Moses Allah's chosen.

The gentiles called Jesus the father's beloved son.

Jews and Christians denied that I am Allah's number one.

Allah Akbar,

Sub' Ha'n Allah.

God is great, that is my fate, God, is great.

Allah Akbar,

Sub' Ha'n Allah.

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed in jeans, sweat shirt and sneakers.)

Hey, what do expect? Sure that know-it-all Guy upstairs gave him visions of the Qur'an but he never wrote it. How could he? He never learned to read or write. He had to have it transcribed and I hear he even had a Jew work on it. Boy, if those Muslims only knew that a Jew helped write the Qur'an, I wonder what they might think, but don't tell them, they might make peace and I FORBID THAT!

MURRAY

I'm going to tell Him I can't do it, it's driving me crazy and I'm crazy enough without having the responsibility of picking a God for the whole world. With all His Prophets and 'Good guys, I'll never understand why he picked a loser like me?

ABRAHAM

(To Jesus.)

So Rabbi, what do you think of Hammy, our brilliant Islamic 'Good guy'?

(JESUS doesn't respond because he is saddened.)

BUDDHA

What is troubling you, Jesus?

DEVIL

(Dressed as in opening scene.)

Wait'll you hear this story and it's not Romeo and Juliet by a long shot.

JESUS

MARY MAGDALENE

(♪ Sings Aria)

I've been yearning for the love of my life.
Missing her fills my soul with strife.
I pledged my love for all eternity.
I prayed Mary would stay with me.

When I once told her of my baptism,
She cast seven demons in exorcism.
Do not cling to me, I have not ascended.
My father, your father, God the intended.

Just a shepard who asked the Lord.
To help me save my fellow man.
Mark, Mathew and Peter believed.
Our Father, He would ease the pain.
When Mary Magdalene said hello.
I needed her as a rose needs the rain.

She weeped, as she began to wash my feet.
Wiped them with her hair, kisses so sweet.
Her repute, a sinner, a prostitute.
She was pure as the sweetest fruit.

I rescued her from being stoned to death.
She was the essence of my every breathe
Mary of Magdala shall be my bride.
And a daughter Sara will be our pride.

Just a Shepard, who asked the Lord,
To help me save my fellow man.
Mark, Mathew and Peter believed.
Our Father, He would ease the pain.
When Mary Magdalene said hello.
I needed her as a rose needs the rain.

DEVIL

(Aside.)

Talk about self pity. What a damn cry baby that reform rabbi is! And they say you healed the blind; so how come there are so many blind people walking around, Mr. Jesus? Why doesn't the world understand that your, so called God, and you, His supposed son and religion are nothing but a hallucinogen that poisons everything? There would be no religion if man had not been afraid of hurricanes, the night, plagues, the eclipse of the sun, and the mythical Djinns, including pain and every thing else not

(Whispers to Jesus.)

explainable. Don't say a word; just follow me to that dark, gray cloud over there. They can't see me, only you can, because I want you to. Hurry up, hurry up, I haven't got all day!

(JESUS follows the DEVIL.)

JESUS

I thought you were banished from heaven, what are you doing here?

DEVIL

Hey, I come and I go as I want because I was His favorite Angel long before you made the scene and don't tell anyone I have a couple of buddies who let me come and go. I came back because I heard the Big Guy wants to pack it all in and I heard that you're dying to replace your father.

JESUS

Truer words.

DEVIL

Listen, your Father told me He wants you to replace Him but He can't tell the other 'Good guys' because He doesn't want to show you're his favorite and hurt their feelings, but trust me , you are.

JESUS

Thanks you but what should I do?

DEVIL

You tell them that God's all time favorite angel told you, He wants you to replace Him, but doesn't want to hurt their feelings and left it up to Murray to decide, but He wants His son.

JESUS

You were really His all time favorite angel, weren't you?

DEVIL

(♪ Sings)

Hey, once a favorite angel always a favorite angel, ask "*Charley my boy, oh Charley my boy, you thrill me, you chill me with bundles of joy...*" and now I'm going to be your

(Starts to laugh.)

favorite angel to, *Kapish?* I mean between your mother, Miriam, I mean Mary giving birth to you, Mr. Prince of Peace, which those dummies, call the Immaculate Conception and by the way, according to physiology it is impossible to become pregnant without the

(Laughs.)

male sperm being present, which means your mother wasn't a virgin, and I don't believe those old Rabbis banished you because you wanted the Jews to welcome everyone even though they weren't circumcised, how narrow minded; If they didn't banish you, there would be no Christians which you never wanted, and a billion more Jews and no Crusades. And by the way Buddha, do you really expect me or anyone to believe you were born from a slit in your mother's side? Do you guys think I'm as gullible as the rest of your misguided believers? No-way-Jose. Yes, God must die, for when He dies I will sigh and say goodbye. Yes God must die.

BUDDHA

(Aside.)

In the name of the Bagwan sri, beneficent God the holy and merciful, the truly compassionate; please do not say that Thee no longer want to be the Holy of All Holies to whom we pray to and ask for thy forgiveness. For praise belongs to ye God the Almighty, the Lord of all Being, the Merciful, the All Compassionate, the only Master of the Day of Doom. Ye who hast created Adam and Eve and their misbegotten son Cain and Abel, who, Ye, accepted his offerings. Ye, who hast created the heavens and the earth, the sun and the moon, and when it is dark enough I am blessed to see the stars thou hast created, and the oceans with the fish that swim in it; all the animals and vegetation so that man may eat and survive, and be grateful to The, who rested on the seventh day, Thy Sabbath. To Thee only do we serve; to Thee alone do we pray for succor. Guide us in

the straight path, the path of those whom Thou hast blessed, not those against whom Thou are wrathful, nor those who go astray. And God alone knows what we keep secret and what we publish for what is the reflection of minds discarded?

ABRAHAM

Our origin is dust and dust is our end. Each of us is a shattered urn, grass that must wither. A flower that will fade, a shadow moving on, a cloud passes by; a particle of dust floating in the wind, a dream soon forgotten. Scarcely ushered into life, we begin our journey to the grave. But you are the Sovereign, the everlasting God. *Ezra-ti lashuv lacha*, help me to return to you. I call upon thee, O LORD; make haste to me! Give ear to my voice, when I call to thee, my rock and my redeemer.

MURRAY

Wouldn't you know it? My luck, they're all having a good time and I'm losing my mind. I was crazy before He made me His favorite Angel which I thought was crazy, but, how can God be crazy, but this *schlemiel* is crazy and boy, don't ask, am I crazy. HELP!

(To audience.)

Would you please help me...? I didn't think so, why should you? No one ever helped me before.

End of Scene 2

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 3

**There is a powerful confrontation
between GOD and the DEVIL is dressed
in top hat and tails.**

DEVIL

It's been awhile, Charley.

GOD

Yes it has, Lu. I see you've been having a Battle Royal down there.

DEVIL

Don't I always? Shall we have our little tête-à-tête?

GOD

You may proceed, Lu but I have to tell you that I just told Murray that I quit, I no longer want to be God as you have so long desired to be and I told him it is up to him to pick one of my 'Good guys' to replace me and you definitely can't be the one so don't even ask. And dressed the way you are, you look like you're going to a party and why wasn't I invited?

(THEY  Sing)

BATTLE ROYALE

DEVIL

Of all your angels, I was number one,
Since time begun, son of a gun.
My position, second to only yourself,
Who needs your help? I have myself.

I was filled with need, call it ambition.
Thy position, be my acquisition.
Your government, arbitrary and unjust.
Shall turn to dust, this is surely a must.

Angels did not need the law of a god,
Which is too damn hard, a junkyard.
To thee I am vastly so superior.
Your interior is inferior.

You and your prayer.
Is full of fanfare.
Take heed and beware.
This guy is a square.

GOD

Lucifer propagated the first sin.
Thou did win, masquerade heathen.
Tempted, Eve then Adam, with your lies.
To your surprise I heard their cries.
You are the ultimate trouble on earth.
For all thy dearth, you are not worth.
Feeling superior you wanted my throne.
I must intone it is mine alone.
The path ye hath chosen is hell.
Dwell in thy cell, and not so well.
Peace and tranquility will not be thine.
No sunshine, nor drink sweet wine.

You were once my son.
Could not be outdone
You were number one.
Now I must thee shun.

DEVIL

Arbitrary and capricious.
Superstitious, you're not delicious.
Unjust laws are unnecessary,
Illusionary, salutary.

I'm intelligent and so much wiser.
No supervisor, you're a miser.
You expelled my angels and I.
We did not cry, we will not die.

And you say I hath deceiveth.
Do not grieveth, just believeth.
For wars are what, I desire,
With each fire, I get higher.

You and your prayer.
Is full of fanfare.
Take heed and beware.
This guy is a square.

GOD

You deceive and the world will grieve.
Starting with Eve, who did believe.
You tempt all those who are in need.
With drugs you feed and make them bleed.

You lead the blind straight on your path.
They take a bath and fell thy wrath.
You deceive the unbelievers.
Deceivers become your grievors.
You swear you will prolong their life.
Filled with strife, they will use a knife.
To ease the pain they can not hide.
With false pride, they choose suicide.

You were once my son.
Could not be outdone
You were number one.
Now I must thee shun.

GOD

You were once my son.
Could not be out done
You were number one.
Now I must the shun.

DEVIL

You and your prayer.
Is full of fanfare.
Take heed and beware.
This guy is a square.

DEVIL

Charley, how could you pick a loser like that *schlep*?

GOD

Like Jobe, how could I not pick Murray?

DEVIL

Ya know Charley, just to show you how much I think of your *schlemiel*, I'm going to take him for a walk down the stairs of Sitra Achra which leads to my kingdom of demons

(Laughs.)

and my lower world of bliss. Wanna take a walk Charley?

End of Scene 3

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 4

Heaven.

Because of the glaring lights, we can not See GOD’S face, who is sitting on HIS throne. The DEVIL sticks HIS tongue out as ABRAHAM appears.

ABRAHAM

‘Baruch atah Adonoi, Eloheinu melek ha-olam:’ blessed are you oh Lord our God, King of the universe; may I speak with you for a moment or two?

GOD

Where have you been? And make sure it’s just a moment; I’m really not in the mood for you or anyone of my supposed ‘Good guys’ who are called prophets and I don’t know why because no one asked me. Isn’t that something? Just because I spoke to them makes them my ‘Good guys,’ a prophet? Ridiculous! What I demand is love not sacrifices of some ewe or cow; I was only testing Abraham with Isaac, I wasn’t really serious. Believe in your God not holocaust or death and destruction and you must not seek out any idols before me because I am a jealous God, for I am who I am.

ABRAHAM

Boruch Hashem, Your breath that gave me life blessed Father, you spoke to me and they called this ‘Good guy a prophet. Not that I thought I was that special.

GOD

You, you are special. You, who once were called Abram by your father, Aazar the idol maker. Remember when I changed your name to Abraham and we made a covenant?

ABRAHAM

I will never forget and when you changed Sarai to Sarah. We were *alte cockers*, old timers, but we were thrilled that you thought so much of us that you changed our names, of which we were forever grateful. And that covenant changed my life; boy did it change my life. You know, covenants are pretty good.

GOD

Sure, *you* were grateful; How come most people today and yesterday were not grateful for what they have and had; only what they want. They only come to me when they are in pain, when they are desperate; “*I have a hernia,*” “*I have cancer,*” “*A storm named Katrina blew my house down and my children have nowhere to live,*” “*I have AIDS. Please help me.*” And those terrorists, to tell you the truth, I’m getting a headache. They don’t leave me alone. How much can a guy take? I mean I HAVE HAD IT! Where are my supposed benefactors, my so called Prophets, ‘Good guys?’ You’d think they’d come visit me once in a while? All they do is play those silly games. And I told Murray, my number confidante, who all your ‘Good guys’ call a *schlemiel* that it’s up to him to pick my replacement.

ABRAHAM

How could you pick Murray, that *schlemiel* and not me?

GOD

(♪ **Sings Aria** ♪. **ALL appear and listen and become disheartened.**)

You got it and don’t you know I love *schlemiels*? I made a covenant with you, didn’t I?

THEY’RE ALL a PAIN in the Neck

When they’re happy, it’s like I don’t exist.
 They either Mambo or do the twist.
 They never come to me,
 Because they think they don’t need me.
 Only in times of desperation,
 When they are nearing damnation,
 Do they beg for help and seek salvation.
 Well help yourself.
 And after all these years, when I do a spot-check,
 I say what the heck;
 They’re all a pain in the neck.

I want this.
 Please give me that.
 Boy I miss,
 She’s just too fat.

Lost my house,
 I need a job.
 He’s a louse.
 She’s a fat slob.

I can’t stop.
 Always get high.
 Got to cop,
 Please let me die.

Just this time,
Won't ask again.
It's a crime,
I have this yen?

When they're happy, it's like I don't exist.
They either Mambo or do the twist.
They never come to me,
Because they think they don't need me.
Only in times of desperation,
When they are nearing damnation,
Do they beg for help and seek salvation.
Well help yourself.
And after all these years, when I do a spot-check,
I say what the heck;
They're all a pain in the neck.

I was wrong.
Made a mistake.
I don't belong,
My heartache.

Run away,
Couldn't take the pain.
Turning gray,
Going insane.

Without hope.
Nothing to give.
Feel the rope.
Don't want to live.

Sun don't shine.
It always rains.
Lost my mind.
Help my pains.

When they're happy, it's like I don't exist.
They either Mambo or do the twist.
They never come to me,
Because they think they don't need me.
Only in times of desperation,
When they are nearing damnation,
Do they beg for help and seek salvation.
And after all these years, when I do a spot-check,

I say what the heck;
 They're all a pain in the neck.
 And they're always asking for this or that, and I had enough of this or that. I told you,
 talk to Murray and leave me out of it, because I've had it, I QUIT!

(ALL overhearing GOD quit.)

MUHAMMAD

I don't believe it. He's going to let Murray, the *schlemiel*, decide who's going to replace Him and not me? That's utterly ridiculous!

JESUS

Talk about being ridiculous. I'm His son, how could my Father pick that *schlemiel*?

BUDDHA

Ishvar know best when it comes to picking a *schlemiel*, ask Murray.

ABRAHAM

And may I ask *YOUR* benevolent permission, why is '*Adonoi*' all of a sudden not in the mood and how can you quit? Who ever heard of God quitting? Besides, who am I going to pray to if not You?

GOD

Weren't you listening to me? I just told you I can't stand the whining, the crying, the begging, the pleading anymore. Give me, give me, give me. How much can a guy give? I'm sick and tired of giving. Get someone else to give it to, tell it to Murray. I QUIT!

ABRAHAM

You can't quit; you're *Adonoi*, *Elohim Eloheinu*, *Hashem*, and the King of Kings. You're God. What else are you supposed to do but help?

GOD

Must you remind me? And what do I need all those names for? Pick one name and forget about the rest. I'm getting a headache from all those names.

ABRAHAM

I remember when we met.

GOD

You do...? Go on.

ABRAHAM

When I heard your voice I couldn't believe it.

GOD

Really? Is it that good? Good as Sinatra's?

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-31

DEVIL

(Aside.)

Maybe Darin, but not the Voice.

GOD

I am who I am and don't forget that!

ABRAHAM

You said that already... Suddenly that Atum, Osiris, Min, Ra and all the other *meshugeneh* idols that were made of clay were just false Gods, and what can an idol do? *Bubkes*, nothing. I knew there was only one God, You; *Adonoi, Elohim Eloheinu, Hashem*, the King of Kings.

GOD

You just said one God. I told you, pick one name and forget about all the others. What about Herbie? No, I don't like Herbie, what about Nathan or Elijah, or?

ABRAHAM

And I remember what you said to me. In fact, when you gave Moses the Ten Commandments that were written in stone, it became the Torah and it was taken to be called the Bible by many religions.

GOD

Go on...

ABRAHAM

"Get yourself out of your country, away from your kinsmen and away from your father's house..." My father was an idol maker and I really didn't believe in idols, so one day, just to prove my point I destroyed lots of them and boy did he give it to me. What a shot in the head, *oi*.

GOD

I know... That is one of the reasons I chose to make a covenant with you.

ABRAHAM

"...And go to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

GOD

Are you finished?

(ABRAHAM nods yes.)

GOD (Cont'd)

Good. I QUIT!

(JESUS, MUHAMMAD and BUDDAH do not believe that GOD just Quit and shake their heads in dismay and disbelief, as the DEVIL whispers to Abraham.)

ABRAHAM

I know, follow you.

(ABRAHAM follows the DEVIL to dark a gray, ominous cloud.)

ABRAHAM (Cont'd)

Nu?

DEVIL

Remember when your mean *Adonoi* ordered you to sacrifice your son Isaac just to see how much He could trust you and you took Isaac to that mountain in the land of Moriah, built a fire and with tears in your eyes, just as you were about to put your son into that fire and an angel appeared.

ABRAHAM

Boruch Hashem, blessed is God, I'll never forget.

DEVIL

Well I was that angel and you owe me big time and its time you paid up, sweetheart.

ABRAHAM

YOU WERE? So what do you want, my soul? Well you can't have it and that's that! You know you're driving me crazy with all this temptation. You want to drive me crazy, is that it? Well do you?

DEVIL

When you become the Big Cheese, I become your partner, fifty- fifty. You take care of the angels up here and the rest of the universe and we both know how big it is, so you should have plenty to keep you busy, and I'll take care of all those losers on earth, *Kapish?* I mean the earth is nothing compared to rest of the solar system and all those

(♪ Sings ♪)

billions of planets and stars. "*Twinkle twinkle little star.*" It's a good deal, take it before I get Murray to pick one of your other prophets, and we know how anxious those 'Good guys are, don't we?

ABRAHAM

You'd really ask one of *dhem?*

DEVIL

Knowing how anxious and what big egos they all have, I'm sure one of them would jump at the chance, don't you? Would you rather that Prince of those crusades that killed so

many of your misbegotten Jews, unless they converted to his Christianity. Sounds like like that guy that said, Seig Heil! And that Muhammad who you call Hammy in jest, well I'm sure you think it's so funny when Hamas and the Intifada and those terrorist bombers who follow the Qur'an and that Muslim Muhammad who says Allah Akbar and

(Laughs.)

had it transcribed, because we know how literate he was. Do you want your Holocaust victims and their all children praying to Allah? I like Charley so much better. Well, do you? And Buddha, your pal Buddy, do you want your people to pray to an Indian and no I'm not talking about Tonto or Sitting Bull to become your *Hashem*, either. Now it's up to you Mr. Covenant, if you don't want to take over, I know a couple of guys that do. So maybe I'll talk to Murray and tell him to pick one of them instead of you, wise guy.

ABRAHAM

Before you talk to that *schlemiel*, I'm thinking, I'm thinking.

DEVIL

Well don't think too long, 'cause time is money.

(JESUS speaks to MURRAY. ALL sing.)

JESUS

Hi Murray, *vie gaitz*, how's my favorite angel?

MURRAY

I'm fine, Jesus, perhaps a little overwhelmed, but all-in-all I'm fine and you?

JESUS

Thanks for asking, and since my Father is going to quit, did He really tell you to select His replacement, and I can't thank you for picking me...

MURRAY

...He did and I haven't decided on anyone yet, and I don't know why He didn't ask one of you since you're all one of His 'Good guys' His Prophets and I'm just a poor...

JESUS and MURRAY

...*Schlemiel*.

JESUS

I believe that's why My Father picked you to be His number one Angel because you are indicative of all mankind, like Jobe you are His perfect representative.

MURRAY

Thank you but I'm just a...

JESUS and MURRAY

...*Schlemiel*.

MURRAY

Tell you the truth, Jesus, I think you or one of His other Prophets are a much better bet to fit the bill and pick God's replacement than me because you guys deserve it and I can't stand the pressure. What happens if I pick the wrong 'Good guy' to become His replacement? I'll become the laughing stock of... What will happen to all those desperate souls that need God's help and guidance? I wish I knew what to do but I never knew before so why should I know now?

JESUS

In your heart and soul I'm sure you know that only I would be my Father's perfect replacement. Well, don't you?

MURRAY

You would be great.

JESUS

Perfect, that settles it!

MURRAY

But so would Muhammad, Buddha and Abraham.

JESUS

WHAT?! Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

End of Scene 3

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 4

ALL are very upset because of hearing that **GOD** doesn't want to be **GOD** anymore and are pacing. **THEY** sing aria.

( **Sings Aria** )

JESUS, MUHAMMAD and BUDDAH

HE CAN'T QUIT

I don't believe it!
He can't quit!

ABRAHAM

What don't you believe?
Why can't you conceive?

JESUS

That my Father no longer wants to be my Father...
My Father no longer wants to bother.
He picked Murray instead of me,
How can that be?

BUDDHA

To end suffering, one must cut off greed and ignorance.
Who shall become the prince?
This means changing one's views and living in a more natural and peaceful way.
It is the only way to find a sunny day.
It appears that the Good Lord is disenchanted with civilization.
He, who has created the world and every nation.
All they do is ask Him for mainly selfish reasons.
Selfish reasons throughout the seasons.
Very few if any ask Him what and how can they give Him what He wants.
They are deceitful and such dilatants.
Unfortunately for mankind He wants to wipe his hands of it all,
He's had it all, He's had it all.

MUHAMMAD

Well, as far as the Muslims are concerned,
There's only one guy I'm sure you've learned
That only I can replace Allah.

(Touches heart, bows and grins,)

And you all know just as I do who that is, sis boom bah, *walah*.
And don't worry Abie; I'm sure you remember how this whole thing started.
So, don't be so downhearted.

ABRAHAM

Must you remind me?
Can't you let me be?

MUHAMMAD

You see Abie was about 90 years old and Sarai,
That was her name, what a shame.
Said that their God with all those ridiculous names, what a shame.
Would have many children and since she couldn't have any;
Hey she was an old broad, without a penny.
So she said she would give him her handmaiden,
Hagar, who was really something to look at, ooh la la,
Anyway, this old sex maniac slept with Hagar
And he slept with Hagar and saw a shooting star.
Wouldn't you know it?
He liked it so much he wouldn't quit, and...

(ALL begin to speak.)

ABRAHAM

Do you really want to know what really happened?

ALL

Please.

ABRAHAM

It's gonna take a long time.

MUHAMMAD

Take as long as you want. Where are we going? You have somewhere to go? I don't.

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed as Indian)

Wait'll you hear this, boring.

(ABRAHAM ♪ Sings Aria ♪)

ABRAHAM**ISHMAEL**

I loved Ishmael, because he was my first and only son.
That's when my covenant with God had begun.
Ishmael was thirteen years old and all the slaves, and I circumcised myself too.
What could I do, I was a ninety-nine year old Jew.
The LORD dealt with Sarah as He had said,
"I did for you as I had promised after you wed"
Sarah conceived and bore me a son in my old age,
I called him Isaac, my son whom Sarah gave to me, I was overage.
I was a hundred years old when my son Isaac was born.
And Sarah said, *"God has brought laughter for me, I'm no longer forlorn.*
And I circumcised Isaac when he was eight days old,
As God had commanded me, lo and behold.
Everyone who hears will laugh with me.
And I thank *Hashem* who said it would be.
I have borne you a son in your old age and mine.
I thank you and *Adonoi* for my life is sublime."
I made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
But Sarah saw Ishmael, the son of Hagar and she felt demeaned.
Ishmael was playing with Sarah's son Isaac.
She said to me, *"Cast out this slave woman with her son or I'll beat them with a stick.*
For the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac."
It was very distressing,
And very depressing,
But God said to me, *"Do as she tells you,*
For it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you.
As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him too,
Because he is your offspring, he will have a great deal to do."
So I rose early in the morning,
A, beautiful dawning.
And took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar,
Put it on her shoulder, I sent her away to find her shining star
And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness when the water was gone,
She cast the child under one of the bushes, and knew she must carry on.
Then she *vent* and sat down opposite him a good way off,
About the distance of a bowshot; and she sadly cough.
She cried, *"Do not let me look on the death of my child."*
She sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept in the wild.
And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven,
"What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God will bring you leaven.
Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand
For, I will make a great nation of him and for many a man."
Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water.

She went and filled the skin with water,
 And, gave the boy a drink.
 God was with the boy, and he grew up and learned to think.
 He lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow.
 He lived in the wilderness of Paran and his mother would know.
 Got a wife for him, from the land of Egypt.
 He told one and all for he was not tight lipped.
 Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One! Blessed is His glorious kingdom for
 ever and ever. My Rock, my Redeemer. Amen.

BUDDHA

May I go now?

JESUS

Be my guest, Buddy.

DEVIL

(Ala Indian and dressed as Indian. Aside.)

How, him chief. -- You guys don't know I have a sense of humor. I really laughed when
 Cain said to what's His name, "*Am I my brother's keeper?*" He wasn't Abel's keeper,
(Laughs.)

He was his murderer, a guy after my own heart.

BUDDHA

(♪ Sings Aria ♪)

The ULTIMATE TRUTH

An idea that is developed and put into action,
 Is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.

Better than a thousand hollow words
 Is one word that brings peace and singing birds.
 Do not dwell in the past; do not dream of the future,
 Live in the moment and you will find your rapture.
 He who loves fifty people has fifty woes.
 He who loves no one has no woes, everyone knows.

Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love.
 Which, comes from the Lord above.
 This is the eternal rule.
 Disregarded by every fool.
 He is able who thinks he is able.
 The ultimate truth is not a fable.

It is better to travel well than to arrive.
For traveling well you will surely survive.
No one saves us but ourselves.
No one can and no one may.
We ourselves must walk the path
And find the day.

The tongue like a sharp knife kills.
The way is not in the sky. The way is in a fulfilled heart.

Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love.
Which comes from the Lord above.
This is the eternal rule.
Disregarded by every fool.
He is able who thinks he is able.
The ultimate truth is not a fable.

There has to be evil so that good can prove its purity above it.
Those who are free of resentful thoughts surely find peace and will love it.
Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care,
For people hear and be influenced by them for good or ill so beware.

You will not be punished for your anger.
You will be punished by your evil.

Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love.
Which comes from the Lord above.
This is the eternal rule.
Disregarded by every fool.
He is able who thinks he is able.
The ultimate truth is not a fable.

(After a beat. The DEVIL speaks to MURRAY)

DEVIL

Listen Murray, you know how I respect you for replacing Izzy who replaced me and becoming what's His name's favorite Angel, but I think since I was so close to Him and knows exactly what He's thinking and wants to happen, that not only would I love but deserve to become the Big Guy in charge and don't worry, you'll be my favorite Angel too, even though I know you'll think you don't deserve it. Murray, in my book you're the best, no matter what you say, brother, in my book you are a winner and not a loser. And if you don't, remember what it was like being one of those other *schleps* with the other Angels, well do you? So, err, you better pick me and get it over with before I pick another *schlep* to replace you.

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-40

MURRAY

Oh, would you, Lucifer?

DEVIL

Call me Lu.

MURRAY

I'll have to think about it Lu and I really don't feel like a winner I still feel like a...

JESUS

(To ALL.)

Since my Father said he does not wish to be God nor my Father anymore and He wants one of us to replace Him; I hate to tell you this, but my Father's favorite angel told me that He wants me to replace Him but doesn't want to hurt the feelings of His 'Good guys, so that's why He said we should decide for our selves. So what do you say, fellas? As all of ye know; He is the Father, and I am the son and the Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost, and since I am the son, I guess I will have to become God, fellas. Because in the state of natural evolution, the son replaces the, Father. Hey, you can't fight City Hall and if I was you, as a going away present I'd listen to His past favorite angel and forget about Murray who's a newcomer.

MUHAMMAD

You have to be kidding Mr. Rabbi. Did He give the Qur'an to you or me? *Allah Akbar*, God is great, *Allah Akbar* is good. I hate to step on your toes Mr. Traveling Salesman, who came back from the dead to save your Christians from sinning. Well, I hate to tell you but you blew it. Remember the Crusades? Tell it to the Maranos, I meant the Marines, buster. And those who disbelieve in and reject my communications, they are the inmates of the fire, in it they shall abide. Oh children of Israel! call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and be faithful to your covenant with me, I will fulfill my covenant with you; and of me, me alone, should you be afraid. And believe in what I have revealed, verifying that which is with you, and be not the first to deny it, neither take a mean price in exchange for my communications; and me, Me alone should you fear. And do not mix up the truth with the falsehood, nor hide the truth while you know it. One who does not practice modesty and does not refrain from shameless deeds is not a Muslim. Murray are you listening, did you hear me?

BUDDHA

However many words you read, however many words you speak, what good will they do you if you do not act upon them? It is man's own mind, not his enemy or foe that lures him to evil.

ABRAHAM

I hate to remind all of you but *Adonoi* spoke to me first, and I dropped all His other names because He told me to. Remember, He called me the first 'Good guy.' And don't forget He made a covenant with me first, and I hate to say it but, I bet he wants me to take over. When people listen patiently to each other, the Holy One, Blessed be He,

listens to them all. So what can I do, I'll just have to become the next *Adonoi* and you better listen to me and remember those plagues? And as far as I'm concerned, you ain't seen nothing yet, right Murray?

JESUS

Since we are all believers in the Lord our God, I propose that we each vote separately on a piece of parchment who we feel should become the next Father, and we'll tell my Father that it's up to us and not Murray to decide. I'm sure you remember what His past favorite angel and I'm certain Murray will agree, not that it matters anymore, who said about whom He prefers which is none other than yours truly. Who agrees?

ALL

I DO!

(On parchment using quill and ink THEY write. After a beat they place them in a pile. The DEVIL whispers to ABRAHAM.)

DEVIL

(Whispers to Abraham.)

Remember what I told you about being partners?

ABRAHAM

(Loud.)

WE'RE NOT PARTNERS, WE'RE NOT PARTNERS, LEAVE ME ALONE!

JESUS

Who art thou talking to, Abie?

ABRAHAM

Some guy Lu that wants to be my partner.

JESUS

Is this Lu anyone I know...?

JESUS

(Unsure.)

Could it be...?

ALL

(Laughing.)

...LUCIFER?

MUHAMMAD

...Forget about the devil, would you all give me the honor to read who is going to become the next Allah? And I'm sure it's okay with Murray, since he didn't want the job in the first place, and I'm sure you already know it's going to be me and I humbly and sincerely want to thank you, I really do. To extend consideration towards neighbors and send them, presents are charitable acts. This is my offer of *baksheesh*, I promise I will act respectfully to all your people.

BUDDAH

No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path; for our duty is to alleviate suffering. The more we learn the greater our sense of moral obligation is you may precede, Muhammad.

MUHAMMAD

(Reads first piece of parchment.)

The first vote goes to none other but, Muhammad! Let's hear it for Muhammad, boys! Hip, hip hooray! Sorry Murray, you're not needed!

(There is silence. Reads next piece of parchment.)

And now... This one's for the Prince of Peace... BOO! Which one of you guys voted for

(There is silence. Reads next piece of parchment.)

the Rabbi? And now for the third vote... It's for Abie! I don't believe it! Who the hell voted for the Mockey? Damn! And now for the deciding vote...

(There is silence. Reads next piece of parchment.)

If one of us gets two votes, Allah Akbar, God is great, let it be me. And I promise you,

(Raises hand.)

I'll be fair and square with you and all your people. Scouts Honor.

(There is silence. Reads next piece of parchment.)

I don't believe it, there's nothing on it!

BUDDHA

It is man's own mind, not his enemy or foe that turns him to evil ways. The mind is everything. What you think you become. If you do not follow me, ask the guy that broke his nose falling on his back.

ABRAHAM, JESU and BUDDHA

WHO IS GOD'S FAVORITE ANGEL?

MUHAMMAD

It can't be Murray because he's a loser and *Allah* wouldn't pick a loser.

ABRAHAM

(♪ Sings ♪)

Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad. Baruch sheim k'vod mal'chuto l'olam vaed. Hear o Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one! Blessed is his glorious kingdom

(Walks to Murray.)

for ever and ever. Excuse me; I have to talk to somebody. Fancy meeting you here, Murray.

MURRAY

Hello Abie.

ABRAHAM

Is it really true?

MURRAY

Yes I'm afraid your *Hashem* has told me I should pick one of His 'Good guys' to replace Him.

(**ALL sing.**)

ABRAHAM

So, pick me already. I'm sure *Adonoi* told you to pick me. What are you waiting for? Don't you think I deserve it, well don't you? Why don't you answer me? I'm ready, I'm ready.

MURRAY

I Can't, I can't take the pressure. What if I pick the wrong one?

ABRAHAM

Pick me and you'll pick the right one.

MURRAY

You say you're the right one, they all say they're the right one. I'm sure they'll all feel the same way. The only one that's not the right one is me.

ABRAHAM

That's because they don't have humility like me. I was the first one to make a covenant with him, don't you remember?

MURRAY

(**Sobs.**)

I know Abie, please don't rush me. I can't take all this pressure. Why did He have to pick me?

ABRAHAM

You're right; He should've picked me, because who else deserves it more than me?
NOBODY!

MURRAY

I wish it was that easy, but nothing's ever that easy for this...

ABRAHAM and MURRAY

...*Schlemiel*.

MURRAY

Exactly. Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

End of Scene 5

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 6

GOD is sitting on His throne with HIS back to the audience. ALL are present and eager to speak. The DEVIL, stage left is laughing, points to GOD and sings.

DEVIL

Look at those idiots, including Murray, who was nothing but a *schlep*, a loser with a big **(Dressed as clown.)** nose. Too bad they all see me as they imagine me, not who I really am.

 **Sings** 

COME JOIN MY SHOW

You'd think they'd want to talk to me,
about replacing that big blowhard, which must be.
They're all a bunch of egomaniacs that's what they are;
each one wants to be God but they won't get that far.

I knew that I would replace Him
He calls himself the boss and he called me Mr. Grim.
Banished me from heaven, sent me to you know where...
Way down below, where it gets hot, that wasn't fair.

He called me an evil spirit,
A Beelzebub, Senor Diablo
Said I belong in a cesspit.
Satan, Lucifer, come join my show.

Come join me in purgatory.
It is so much fun it's my story of glory.
Come meet Hitler and Mussolini, they're my true cohorts.
You'll drink wine, do lots of drugs and enjoy my sports.

Come touch a pretty little girl.
Do yourself a favor and give it a whirl

And fulfill your dreams of abhorrent sexuality

Your sexuality will become reality.

He called me an evil spirit,

A Beelzebub, Senor Diablo

Said I belong in a cesspit.

Satan, Lucifer, come join my show.

And yes Mr. Big shot, with you covenants help, together we shall rule your kingdom,
forever and ever and I can't wait.

(JESUS steps forward.)

JESUS

Father...?

GOD

Yes my son, how may I help you?

JESUS

I heard you want to quit being God and my father. Please, I don't want to be an orphan.

GOD

Until the end of time I will always be your father, my son. And why have all of my so called 'Good guys' assembled?

JESUS

They too are troubled and disheartened with thy decision to quit, dear Lord and choosing Murray to become Thy favorite Angel and asking him to select Thy replacement. Be it as ye so aptly perceive us as being Thy four 'Good guys,' Thy so called Prophets who Ye say must replace thee, not that I think any of us are deserving; Why not pick Thy son or one of Thy 'Good guys'? Forgive me Father, but since I am part of Thy Holy Trinity, You are the Father, and I am Thy Son and of course the Holy Ghost, I feel I should keep it in the family, don't ye? I mean who better to replace the Father than his own son? But to my dismay, Abraham, who you spoke to first and made with thee thy covenant, and Muhammad, who you gave thy Qur'an to and Buddha, humble and as pious as he is, they all want to become the number one big guy. They have such big egos, for how can there be four Gods?

GOD

There can be only one God for I am who I am! And it is for Murray not all of you to decide who that shall be, and leave me out of it. I told you I've had enough of this baloney and I quit! I suggest you discuss it with Murray. I want to just relax on my rocking chair for a couple of million years. Don't you understand? I QUIT!

(MUHAMMAD speaks to MURRAY.)

MUHAMMAD

A'alaykum al salaam, Murray.

MURRAY

A'alaykum al salaam, Hammy. How are you?

MUHAMMAD

Fine thank you. *Allah Akbar*, God is great!

MURRAY

Yes He is Hammy. There is none greater than God.

MUHAMMAD

So I hear it's up to you to select one of us to replace Him. As you know almost a billion-and-half of my people read the Qur'an and pray to Allah everyday, and I gave Him His name as you know, and I feel that only I would be His ideal replacement, don't you?

MURRAY

I think you would be a fine replacement.

MUHAMMAD

Then it's settled. Tell them all you picked me as I knew you would and to forget about all those idiotic games that they're making me play. I can't wait to see the look on their faces when they find out I am going to be their new...

MURRAY

...I think you're rushing things a bit, Hammy. I didn't say I picked you, I just said...

(♪ **Sings** ♪)

Dear God,

WHY ME?

You have so many 'Good guys',
Please pick one and don't ask me.
Pick one of your Prophets,
And don't ask me, please let them be and don't ask me.

Like Muhammad,
You gave him the Qur'an,
To bring peace and harmony,
To enlighten every man.

And your, Buddha,
Wanted to bring happiness
Help avoid man's suffering,
Of all man, he too was so blessed.

You have so many 'Good guys',
Please pick one and don't ask me.
Pick one of your Prophets,
And don't ask me, please let them be and don't ask me.

Your shining star,
Jesus you called your son.
He was the Prince, prince of peace.
And he died for everyone.

And Abraham,
You made your covenant with.
You promised him the promise land,
And a chosen people herewith.

You have so many 'Good guys',
Please pick one and don't ask me.
Pick one of your Prophets,
And don't ask me, please let them be and don't ask me.

(Muhammad steps forth.)

MUHAMMAD

Excuse me for interrupting, *Allah Akbar*...

GOD

(Loud.)

Again with all those names? Doesn't anyone know my real name?

ABRAHAM
Ha-shem

JESUS
Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
Ishvara, my God.

MUHAMMAD
Allah Akbar.

GOD

I give up; it's useless with these guys.

ABRAHAM

So *Adonoi*, if it's not me, what should we do? Tell me how should we pick the next you?

GOD

To assist Murray in his selection, why not play one of those games you're always playing, but remember only one game and the winner who wins the most games Murray shall name him...

ABRAHAM
...Barouch Hashem.

JESUS
... Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
...Grant me peace
Ishvara my God.

MUHAMMAD
...*Allah Akbar.*
God is good.

MUHAMMAD

Alright fellas, let's take a walk and decide what game we play, not that it matters because it's up to Murray... It's important you know, but remember, *HaSatan*, the devil's most trusted advocate only wishes to create disparity and enmity amongst us by means of wine, gambling and other sins.

ABRAHAM

Alright, if you don't wanna play and just drink, its okay with me I'll just become...

JESUS and BUDDHA

NO WAY JOSE

(ALL leave GOD who is stage right and go center stage.)

DEVIL

(Aside. Dressed as clown. Grinning and rubbing His hands together.)

Now let's see what dumb game those idiots decide to play? Probably potsy or pick-up sticks.

ABRAHAM

(♪ Sings ♪)

I say we play "*Heart of my hearts, I love that melody.*" Five card stud!

MUHAMMAD

Casino!

JESUS

Must I go through with this? Monopoly!

BUDDHA

Texas Hold'em!

ABRAHAM, JESUS, MUHAMMAD

I like Texas Hold'em.

ABRAHAM

So what are we waiting for? Who got the cards?

MUHAMMAD

(Takes out cards and starts to shuffle them.)

I always got all the cards Mr. Abie. Okay, besides taking over, what are the additional goodies we are we playing for?

JESUS

Ten Big Macs.

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-49

BUDDHA

I do not like Mac Donalds, too much cholesterol. Perhaps manna and some fruit would be better for our metabolism?

MUHAMMAD

I like Burger King.

ABRAHAM

What about Nathan's? Ev'rybody likes a hotdog, maybe some well done fries? *Nu?*

ABRAHAM
A hotdog!

JESUS
Big Mac!

BUDDHA
Manna!

MUHAMMAD
Burger King!

ABRAHAM

Who are we going to send to get the goodies this time?

JESUS

Izzy.

BUDDHA

We can't send Izzy. Remember when he didn't want to come back because he dilly dallied the last time and when he finally did, I believe you said the fries were soggy and mushy and besides, Izzy is no longer His favorite Angel and as you know, only His favorite Angel can go and Murray's His favorite Angel, hello.

MUHAMMAD

Then send Murray. He'd love to go, he likes the Mets.

JESUS

(Aside.)

Shall do, soon as ye give me the word. With all the time on his hands I'm certain he'll pick me.

MUHAMMAD

I thought we were going to play for whom was going to become...

ABRAHAM
Adonoi.

JESUS
Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
My God, *Prakrit.*

MUHAMMAD
Allah Akbar.

ABRAHAM

We are.

JESUS

So what kind of stakes?

MUHAMMAD

Hey I'm hungry. And even though I'm going to become *Allah*, this *Allah* gets hungry.

(Shuffles cards.)

Can you please send that *schlemiel*, I'm starving.

ALL

HURRY!

JESUS

(Loud.)

MURRAY! YOU'RE GOING HOME AND MAKE IT SNAPPY! AND NO DILLY DALLYING! Remember what happened to Izzy? He was his favorite Angel too.

Nothing lasts forever, so get going.

MUHAMMAD

So are we playing or just B-essing?

ABRAHAM

You mean if I win one rotten hand and I become...

JESUS

...I'm afraid not, Abie. My Father said one game only believes one of us has to win two hands of Texas Hold'em to become...

ABRAHAM

Adonoi.

JESUS

Dear Lord.

BUDDHA

My God.

MUHAMMAD

Allahu Akbbah,
God is greater.

MUHAMMAD

All right, two hands. Let's get started, for with the blessing of *Allah* and that *yutz* my destiny awaits me.

BUDDHA

The way is not in the sky. The way is in the heart. Three things can not be hidden: the sun, the moon and the truth. Let the game begin.

MUHAMMAD

(Dealing.)

Down and dirty: One for Ishmael's father, one for the Rabbi, one for Buddy and one for *moi*. Two for Mr. Covenant, two for Mr. Crusades, two for Siddhartha Gautama and two for the next Allah. And now I will open three cards in a-row: A seven of spades, a jack of hearts and a big Ace of Clubs. Anyone care to make a side bet?

ABRAHAM

After I win I want to eat three well done hot dogs with the works; mustard, sauerkraut and a celery soda and oh yeah, well done fries and don't forget the ketchup. Did you send Murray?

(JESUS nods yes.)

MUHAMMAD

Make that six whoppers, with a double order of fries and a large Coke.

JESUS

Two big Macs, double order of fries and a Pepsi.

BUDDHA

Just a small bowl of manna, perhaps some bananas?

MUHAMMAD

Okay, last card down and dirty; One for the Mockey, one for the Prince of Peace, one for The Four Noble Truths messenger and one for Mr. Destiny who is destined to replace Allah. What do you got Abie?

ABRAHAM

I got three sevens... I win, I win, I win! I knew I'd win! Did you hear Murray, I WIN!

JESUS

(Sad.)

...A pair of jacks... And yes you win Abie.

BUDDAH

To live a pure unselfish life, one must count nothing as one's own in midst of abundance. Alas, I'm afraid I have nothing.

MUHAMMAD

I hate to disappoint you fellas but the master has a *FULL* boat. Three aces and a pair of jacks. Read 'em and weep and say hello to your new...

ABRAHAM

...Say hello to a new nothing. You have to win two hands and don't forget, Hammy. I deal, give me the cards and I'll show you who wins.

(Trumpets blare and MURRAY appears. ALL sing.)

MURRAY

(Aside.)

I hope they all don't jump me because I don't know what to tell them. Personally I think anyone one of them would be great, but what do I know, I'm a loser and I'm never right because I'm a *schlemiel*.... Alright gentlemen, so what'll it be?

ABRAHAM

What kind of gentlemen? We're...

ALL

GOOD GUYS!

MURRAY

Alright ‘Good guys,’ what’ll it be? I’m going home, so please step on it and maybe when I’m there I’ll figure out who to do who becomes, but don’t count on it, I never know what to do.

ABRAHAM

If I’m not mistaken, please don’t forget about me, His number on ‘Good guy’ and Prophet. Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

(The DEVIL pulls ABRAHAM off to a nearby dark cloud. Singing ends.)

DEVIL

You were a miserable idol maker’s son, not a prophet. Now listen, if there are no winners, which I’m sure, you simply vote for yourself and knowing my luck Murray will occur. You say ‘lets vote but we can’t vote for our selves, remember humility, to decide who becomes the next...’

ABRAHAM

...*Hashem*, but what about Murray?

DEVIL

(Dressed as bum.)

I’ll take care of Murray, just do it, and remember they can’t vote for themselves, and we shall rule the world, and knowing that *schlemiel*, he’ll go along with whatever you guys decide because he doubts himself. He’s a damn loser and knows it. Now you and me, what a team; A Jew prophet and yours truly. You shall rule the heavens and *moi* the earth, hallelujah!

MURRAY

(♪ Sings.)

Okay, ‘Good guys,’ Prophets, whatever. May, I please have your order? “*Home, home on the range, where the deer and the antelope play...*”

ABRAHAM

I want three well done hot dogs with the works; mustard, sauerkraut and a celery soda and oh yeah, well done fries and don’t forget the ketchup. Murray, remember me?

MUHAMMAD

Make mine six whoppers, with a double order of fries and a large Coke. Murray, remember me? I am the *Shahid*, *Allahu akhbar*’s holy martyr!

JESUS

Two big Macs, double order of fries and a Pepsi, if thee would be so kind. Murray, remember me, the guy you're going to pick?

BUDDHA

Just a small bowl of manna, perhaps some bananas, thank you. Murray, remember me?

MURRAY

(Sings - flies away.)

Be back in a jiffy. See ya... whatever. "*Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word.*"

(ABRAHAM is tormented. WE see HIM argue with HIMSELF, turning Quickly and speaking from the left and right side of HIS face.)

ABRAHAM

(Left side of face.

-

Right side of face.)

I can't listen to the devil.

I have to!

How can I not?

I have to.

How can I let a Goy become God?

I can't

How can I let a Muslim become God?

Oi, vey iz mer, I can't.

How can I let Tonto become God?

I can't, *Oi, vey iz mer*.

What should I do?

I don't know.

Oi, vey iz mer.

What should I do?

(ABRAHAM takes, shuffles cards and deals.)

ABRAHAM

Five card stud, *Vone* for Buddy...

MUHAMMAD

...What kind of five card stud? We're playing Texas Hold'em!

ABRAHAM

But I'm in the mood for a little five card stud.

MUHAMMAD

He's trying to change the game because I won one hand already! It's Texas Hold'em, right fellas?

JESUS

I believeth he is correct. We must continue playing Texas Hold'em, Abie.

ABRAHAM

Shouldn't we ask Murray?

MUHAMMAD

Go ahead and ask him, the *schmuck* is on his way back to earth.

BUDDAH

Virtue is persecuted more by the wicked than it is loved by the good. I believe we must continue to play Texas Hold'em, Abie.

MUHAMMAD

Thanks Buddy, I knew I could count on you.

BUDDAH

You are welcome Muhammad, for I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on them unless they act and I pray that Murray acts accordingly.

ABRAHAM

I'll tell you, Buddy seems to know what he's talking about, not that I understand what he's talking about but *gutsen dhank* he knows what he's talking about.

MUHAMMAD

He who travels in the search of knowledge, to him God shows the way of Paradise. And it appears that God has shown Buddy the way, now, deal the cards and it's Texas Hold'em Abie! And forget about Murray. It's up to us to decide for ourselves not that *schlemiel!*

ABRAHAM

(Shuffles and the deals cards.)

All right, if that's the way you want it? I'll shuffle and deal... One for Buddy, one for the Prince, one for Hammy and one for me. Two for the *Budder*, that's funny isn't it? I called him *Budder* instead of Buddy. You have to admit, I have some sense of humor... And forget about Murray. Do you like him? I never liked his big nose.

DEVIL

(Aside.)

Too bad this Hammy can't read, maybe he wouldn't talk so much?

(We hear beautiful Arabic music underscored as MUHAMMAD recites parts of the Qur'an.)

MUHAMMAD

This is no time for levity, Abie: In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. *Alif Lam Mim*. In the Qur'an, which means recitation; I remember, moment by moment, line by line, it took over twenty-three years how I came to be blessed with Allah's message for all mankind. Those of my brothers who could read and write were at my side, listened and wrote every word and I was truly grateful for their dedication; *Allahu Akkbah*, God is greater... I was moved when I saw Gabriel on Mount Hera and he embraced me. Allah Akbar, God is great. There is no doubt in it, is a guide to those who

guard against evil. Those who believe in the unseen and keep up prayer and spend out of what we have given them. And who believe in that which has been revealed to you and that which was revealed before you and they are sure of the hereafter. They are on a right course from their Lord and they shall be successful and be redeemed. Surely those who disbelieve, it being alike to them whether you warn them, or do not warn them, will not believe. Allah has set a seal upon their hearts and upon their hearing and there is a covering over their eyes, and there is a great punishment for them.

ABRAHAM

Gehvalt gehshrigen, enough. How much longer is this *chazerai*, this baloney going on...? Buddy, Mr. Reform Rabbi, who wants take a walk with me?

BUDDHA

My pleasure, indubitably.

JESUS

Shall we join Abie, Buddy?

(Laughing, THEY join arms and walk around the stage as MUHAMMAD Continues his dissertation. At directors discretion WE will hear laughter and Howls interspersed throughout. THEY make posters and will picket MUHAMMAD, who will read sign and stick his tongue or give them the finger after reading.)

MUHAMMAD

...I'm not through Abie! And there are some people who say: "*We believe in Allah and the last day;*" and they are not at all believers. They desire to deceive Allah and those who believe, and they deceive only themselves and they do not perceive. There is a disease in their hearts, so Allah added to their disease and they shall have a painful chastisement because they lie. And when it is said to them, do not make mischief in the land, they say: "*We are but peace-makers.*"

(JESUS jovially carries his poster which says: "Son-of-a-gun, my father will Pick His son, to become His number One, should be lots of fun.")

MUHAMMAD stops, and reads it aloud with JESUS and gives the finger and JESUS hoots and howls and returns to his compatriots who discuss what happened and laugh. MUHAMMAD resumes his mantra.)

Now surely they themselves are the mischief makers, but they do not perceive. And when it is said to them: Believe as the people believe they say: Shall we believe as the fools believe? Now surely they themselves are the fools, but they do not know. And when they meet those who believe, they say: "*We believe;*" and when they are alone with their Shaitans, whom you call the devil, say: "*Surely we are with you, we were only mocking.*"

Allah shall pay them back their mockery, and He leaves them alone in their inordinacy, blindly wandering on. And those who disbelieve and are ungrateful in and reject my communications, *kabir b ma'mat al lah*, they are the inmates of the fire, in it they shall abide... *Inshallah*, if Allah wills it.

(ABRAHAM carries this poster: “A covenant in time is sublime, *vill* become my time *end dhat's* my rhyme.” MUHAMMAD stops and reads it aloud with ABRAHAM and sticks HIS tongue out and ABRAHAM laughs.)

O children of Israel! Call to mind my favor which I bestowed on you and be faithful to your covenant with Me, I will fulfill my covenant with you; and of me, me alone, should you be afraid. And believe in what I have revealed, verifying that which is with you, and be not the first to deny it, neither take a mean price in exchange for my communications; and me, me alone should you fear. And do not mix up the truth with the falsehood, nor hide the truth while you know it. And keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and bow down with those who bow down.

(BUDDHA shows and carries his poster which says: “If my God picks me, let it be, I will be filled with glee for eternity.” MUHAMMAD stops and reads it aloud with BUDDHA and sticks HIS tongue out and gives the finger.

BUDDHA bows and smiles and returns to his compatriots who discuss what happened and laugh. MUHAMMAD resumes his mantra.)

What do you enjoin men to be good and neglect your own souls while you read the Book; have you then no sense? And seek assistance through patience and prayer, and most surely it is a hard thing except for the humble ones, who know that they shall meet their Lord and that they shall return to Him. O children of Israel! Call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and that I made you excel the nations. And be on your guard against a day when one soul shall not avail another in the least, neither shall intercession on its behalf be accepted, nor shall any compensation be taken from it, nor shall they be helped. The best of friends is he who is best in behavior and character... Abie and his son

(Underscoring ends. Laughing, THEY march around MUHAMMAD and give HIM a hug and HE hugs THEM and smiles.)

Ishmael built Kabah, the first temple of one God and Ishmael became the father of the Arabs. And join me for the laugh is on me.

ABRAHAM

Thanks, I needed that. Boy, I never knew you knew, maybe I should read the Qur'an? and I'll know too. Not bad Hammy, not bad at all. Who knew?

MUHAMMAD

It couldn't hurt, in fact it might enlighten you. Now would you please deal the cards Abie? My full name is Muhammad ibn Abdalla. My first wife whose name was *Khadiji* and my other wives all wore veils as symbol of status to show they were my women. Unfortunately when Islam was taken over by Oikumene all women became second class citizens and had to wear a *kafir* to cover their faces, which was not what I intended. I never wanted people to be rich and amass a private fortune instead of giving to the poor and needy as the Prince of Peace said, “*Give and ye shall receive.*” Your mother's so called Immaculate Conception; I mean, wasn't your father Joseph sleeping with your mother Mary, I mean, Miriam? And what did your father Joseph just lay there and not enjoy the fruits of the earth...? My destiny of replacing Allah is in abeyance much to my dismay. Now I believe you were dealing, Mr. Covenant? So step on it!

JESUS

What about Murray?

ALL

FORGET ABOUT MURRAY! Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

DEVIL

(Off. Aside. Dressed in jeans, sweatshirt and sneakers.)

See what I mean about talking so much? The man gives me a headache; too bad they haven't invented Excedrin yet.

ABRAHAM

All right, where was I? Oh I remember I called him *Budder* instead of Buddy. Peanut *Budder* and Jelly is funny, no? You have to admit, I have some sense of humor...

MUHAMMAD

You said that already. Once was enough, now get on with it!

ABRAHAM

(Deals.)

What a tough guy. Two for the Prince, two for Hammy and two for me. And now I open two...

JESUS

Not two Abie, three and please make them what I so needeth.

ABRAHAM

(Opens three cards and grins.)

All right, all right, but they're gonna be what I needeth not what you needeth, understandeth...? Those eths are funny. An Ace of Spadeth, a king of Clubeth and another ace of Diamondseth. I got it, just what I neededeth!

BUDDHA

What do you haveth and what do you needeth...?

JESUS and MUHAMMAD

WHAT DO YOU HAVETH?!

ABRAHAM

Should I show you?

ALL

YESETH!

ABRAHAM

(Opens three cards.)

A full boat; three aces and two kings. I WIN, I WIN, I WIN. YOU HEAR MURRAY, WHERE EVER YOU ARE, I WIN!

MUHAMMAD

I don't believe this old Jew won a handeth!

ABRAHAM

One more and I don't want you to call me, Allah; I want you to call me *Adonoi* just like...

MUHAMMAD

...And when I win you call me...

JESUS

...I believe I shall win and all of ye when thou cometh to confession will call me thy Lord. What about Murray?

ALL

FORGET ABOUT THAT *SCHLEMEIL!*

(ALL♪ Sing Aria♪)

SALVATION

ALL

There is only one God.
He gives me peace and serenity.
Thy will be done.
What ever will be must be.
Thank you for the sun.
There is only one God.

DEVIL

**(Points to ALL that they are crazy.
Dressed like bum, throughout.)**

BUDDHA

Am I not also partaking in this consideration?
I seek salutation, celebration, my salvation,
blessed is the congregation of the Lord's celebration.

MUHAMMAD

You may think you are partaking and it's really heartbreaking.
My future is breathtaking. That's why I am merry making?
Earthshaking, noisemaking, my undertaking is peacemaking.

ALL

There is only one God.
 He gives me peace and serenity.
 Thy will be done.
 What ever will be must be.
 Thank you for the sun.
 There is only one God.

DEVIL

Holds nose.

ABRAHAM

And how can you be so confident, when I one a game too.
 Between me and you there was *gornisht*, nothing I could do.
 At ninety years old He made a covenant and I became a Jew.

JESUS

My door; he who entereth by me shall find eternal bliss.
 I am the bed; lieth upon me shall enter I shall kiss.
 He who loveth the lord and reminisce will not go amiss.
 Perpetual rest. I Am the Light; he who seethes by me shall behold all things.

ALL

There is only one God.
 He gives me peace and serenity.
 Thy will be done.
 What ever will be must be.
 Thank you for the sun.
 There is only one God.

DEVIL

(Feigns throwing up.)

JESUS

(Shuffles and deals cards.)

As I have told all of ye, there is no doubt I shall win the next two games, and now I shall deal... One for the Buddster, one for Hammbone; as ye see, I too have a sense of humor, Abie, instead of calling Muhammad, Hammy, I called him Hammbone, and that's funny, **(Laughs.)**

ha, ha, ha. One for Sarah's beloved and one for *moi*. Two for Siddsky, two for Hammy, two for Abie and two for His son. And now I shall open three cards that will show all of you who is going to win this game. A five of clubs, a seven of hearts and a nine of spades. Looks like a possible straight to me fellas. What do ye have, Buddy?

BUDDHA

Unfortunately all I have is two pairs, fives and sevens.

ABRAHAM

Two pairs are good, two pairs are good Buddy.

MUHAMMAD

Nothing! Can you believe it?

ABRAHAM

I have *bubkes*, nothing, pair of nines. Looks like you win Buddy.

JESUS

(Shows cards.)

Hold on. Don't put the horse before the cart. I just happen to have a little straight; five, six, seven, eight and nine. Looks like I just might pull this thing off, doesn't it fellas?

(Almost sings.)

And ye may address me as the Good Lord, 'cause "*here come the judge, here come the judge.*" You hear Murray, "*here come the judge, here come the judge.*"

BUDDHA, MUHAMMAD

(They raise two hands.)

YOU HAVE TO WIN TWO HANDS!

ABRAHAM

(Raises two fingers and smiles.)

YOU HAVE TO WIN TWO HANDS!

MUHAMMAD

I'll call you 'Good Lord' all right. And I shall win the next hand Mr. Crusader and the name is Allah with a capitol A, not *Adonoi* or "*here come the judge.*" Who deals?

BUDDHA

(Picks up cards and shuffles them.)

I believe I do Muhammad. The mind is everything. What you think you become and I think I shall become...

MUHAMMAD

...Don't say it Buddy, because you all know who is going to become the next...

ABRAHAM

Adonoi.

JESUS

Dear Lord.

BUDDHA

My God, *Ishvara.*

MUHAMMAD

Allah Akbar.

BUDDHA

The tongue like a sharp knife kills without drawing blood.

MUHAMMAD

Can we please play and please cut all this baloney out. Deal the cards, Buddy!

BUDDHA

(Deals.)

One for Muhammad, one for Abraham, one for Jesus and one for myself; two for Muhammad, two for Abraham, two for Jesus and two for, there are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting; and two for my self. And now I believe I must open three cards...

MUHAMMAD

... And make them good ones, Buddy... Make them good ones.

ABRAHAM

Please.

JESUS

I beg thee.

BUDDHA

(Opens cards.)

A blessed seven of-diamonds and a nine of-diamonds...

MUHAMMAD

...Boo...!

BUDDHA

(Opens last card.)

And a 10 of-diamonds...

ABRAHAM

...Give me the last card already. I can't stand waiting. Should we wait for Murray?

ALL

FORGET ABOUT MURRAY!

BUDDHA

(Deals cards.)

The last one for Muhammad, for Abraham, for Jesus and for myself. If, you would be so kind and reveal what you have, Muhammad?

MUHAMMAD

(Disheartened shows cards.)

Pair of sevens...

ABRAHAM

...Three nines and don't forget to call me *Adonoi* or *Hashem*. Either one! I win, I win!

JESUS

I shall not forget to call thee, *Adonoi*, Abie.

MUHAMMAD

Wait a minute with your *Adonoi*, Mr. Covenant. Buddy goes, don't he? You ain't won anything yet. Go ahead Buddy, what do you have?

BUDDHA

(Shows cards with delight.)

I believe this is called a straight, am I not correct? Seven,-eight-, nine-, ten- and jack of diamonds.

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-62

(ALL look in amazement.)

JESUS

HE HAS A...

JESUS, MUHAMMAD and ABRAHAM
A STRAIGHT FLUSH!

ABRAHAM

I never saw a straight flush before. Boy that could be a message from...

MUHAMMAD

...It's no message from anywhere, Sidd just got lucky, that's all, he just got lucky and I ain't telling Murray and neither are you.

(WE hear the sound of trumpets as MURRAY arrives with the goodies and places them on the table. ALL sing.)

MURRAY

Sorry I took so long but I got a little distracted down there.

JESUS

May I ask why, Murray?

MURRAY

The Mets were playing a double header against Arizona, trying to make the playoffs and Pedro Martinez was pitching the first game.

MUHAMMAD

Are you a Mets fan?

MURRAY

I like Reyes and Wright and they don't take steroids. I hope they win it this year.

ABRAHAM

So do I; they haven't won since 86, *Nu?*

MUHAMMAD

Nu my kabooty. What the hell are we going to do now? We said we were going to play one game of Texas Hold'em to pick the next Allah. Sorry Murray but we voted you out. Now what?

(THERE is silence as ALL ponder what to do next.)

MUHAMMAD and ABRAHAM

I GOT IT!

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-63

BUDDHA and JESUS

YOU DO?

MUHAMMAD and ABRAHAM

WE ASK...

MUHAMMAD

...Allah...

ABRAHAM

...Adonoi.

BUDDHA

...Prakrit, Ishvara.

JESUS

Of course.

BUDDHA

Not Murray but ourselves.

ABRAHAM, MUHAMMAD and JESUS

FORGET ABOUT MURRAY!

MUHAMMAD

I'm sorry Murray but you're out.

MURRAY

(Happily sits.)

Thank you.

ALL

(Holding hands THEY leave. Singing ends.)

LETS GO!

MUHAMMAD

Wait, let's eat first!

(The DEVIL whispers to ABRAHAM.)

DEVIL

Now that that *schlep* is out of the picture, tell me about voting to pick the next...I just can't say His name, it's revolting.

ABRAHAM

You're revolting not... And I can't and I won't!

DEVIL

Why not? Don't you want to replace Him?

ABRAHAM

More than anything, more than anything...

DEVIL

Listen I have a plan that has to work more than anything. You tell all those big losers that now that Murray is out of the picture, you guys have to secretly pick the next, you know who, but they can't vote for themselves because they must display humility. You will be the only one that votes for him self and away we go, ta rah! Now go tell them

(Exits.)

and make it snappy or I'll bring that *schlemiel* back!

ABRAHAM

We already did that...! I don't know if I should?

DEVIL

Then it will be your fault that all your Jews pray to that Goy, that Muslim and Tonto!

ABRAHAM

(Hurriedly to All.)

Listen, I got an idea. Now that Murray packed it all in, we secretly vote who we want to become the next you know who but we can't vote for ourselves. Humility, remember humility. Agreed? And you don't have to answer, what, else can we do just do it right now because He's quitting and we don't need Murray anymore!

(ALL write on parchment and give it to ABRAHAM.)

MUHAMMAD

If you would be so kind Abie and announce that I'm going to be your next Allah and I sincerely want to thank all of you for your splendid selection and I promise I will treat all of you and your brothers as my own. Allah Akbar, God is great, hey that's me, I'm Allah!

ABRAHAM

(There is the sound of a drum roll and loud trumpets after each name HE reads.)

One vote for Jesus... One vote for Muhammad... One vote for Buddha... and one vote for me...

DEVIL

(Aside.)

BOO, I DON'T BELIEVE IT? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

ABRAHAM

(To the Devil.)

What happened is without Murray to decide, they all voted for them selves like me, and they didn't listen to me, why should they? They never listen to Abie, remember? And

(To All.)

leave me alone! I would never be your partner! Come on, let' ask *Adonoi* to decide because we can't! Too bad we lost Murray he, was a hell of nice guy.

JESUS

Remember what His favorite angel said about me? Hey, my Father said it to him not me. And remember, His will be done.

ABRAHAM

When two listen patiently to each other, the Holy One, Blessed be He, listens to both of them and, I got a question; why are people so afraid of dying if they're going to heaven? Could it be they're not as sinless as Job and are going downstairs and not up stairs?

MUHAMMAD

I am the son of Abdullah and I once retired to a desert cave on Mount Hira for a month of heat and Ramadan in search of His answer, for I too was afraid of dying; Allahu Akbar, God is great. I was asleep when I heard His voice commanding me to read... I pleaded that I could not read nor write... For His temple Kaaba was built by my brother, Abie and was destroyed by the Wahabbis because it became depraved. You speak of upstairs

ARTIST of ARTISTS

(♪ Sings Aria♪)

meaning where we are, in heaven, Allah Akbar, I humbly thank You for

He is the Artist of Artitsts; the Source without a Source.

The Maker Al-Basit, The Fashioner Al-Musawwir, The Expander Al-Basit, The creator Al-Khaliq, The Constrictor Al-Qabiz, The Maintainer Al-Muqit, The Preserver Al-Hafiz, The Loving Al-Wadud. The Wise One Al-Haki,

He is the Artist of Artitsts; the Source without a Source.

The All-Embracing Al-Wase', The Alive Al-Hayy, The Generous Al-Karim, The Giver of Death Al-Mumit, The Giver of Life Al-Mohyi, The Restorer Al-Muis, The Beginner Al-Mubdi, The Source of All Goodness Al-Barr, The Governor Al-Waali, The First Al-Waal, The One Al-Wahid, The Originator Al-Badi, The Light Al-Nur.

He is the Artist of Artitsts; the Source without a Source.

ABRAHAM

Know that the day is short, and the work to be completed is great. Remember Hammy, you are not obliged to finish the task, but neither are you free to desist from it, so don't you think it's time you learned to read? Know before whom you stand...

MUHAMMAD

...ALLAH

JESUS

...Father

BUDDHA

...God, Ishvara.

ABRAHAM

Adoni, Exactly.

ALL

Now you know why. God cannot die. For if He dies? We all will cry and say goodbye. God cannot die.

End of Scene 5

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 6

MUHAMMAD is arm-in-arm with ABRAHAM as ALL are walking to ask GOD to pick HIS replacement. ABRAHAM is surprised how nice MUHAMMAD is to HIM.

ABRAHAM

You're holding my arm Hammy, why?

MUHAMMAD

Maybe, because I love and admire you.

ABRAHAM

Really? Love can only be when there is equality.

MUHAMMAD

Always have, always will. In fact we love and cherish you so much that we mention your name fourteen-times a day. I know a great deal about your life.

ABRAHAM

Really, you're kidding.

MUHAMMAD

How come you call Allah all those names, when you started out calling Him *Yahweh*, YHWH which must not be pronounced; El Shaddai; later preserved in IsraEL IshmaEL and ELohim. Your *Yahweh*, called *Sabaoth*, was brutal and a murderous God because He drowned Pharaoh and his Egyptian army in the sea of Reeds during the Exodus. You were promised to be the father of a multitude. You were promised Canaan, a land of milk and honey, later called Israel because of your beloved son Jacob who had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes. You were born in a house of idolaters, in the kingdom of Babylon. Your father Aazar was a well known idol maker that his people worshipped. As a young child, you used to watch your father sculpting these unholy idols from stones or wood. When your father was done with them, as a child you and your friends would play and toss them around. You would see these same unholy statues in the temple, and people

knelling and praying before them! *"Why do you take these toys to the temple?"* you told your father; *"they are just unworthy statues, they are not gods for they have eyes that can not see, ears that can not hear and legs that can not walk. We worship them, we ask them for things, and we offer them food and gifts and we never get what we ask for."* You secretly hated them Abie, didn't you?

ABRAHAM

Who told you? I don't believe it! It was so long ago I almost forgot myself.

MUHAMMAD

"Oh father! Why do you worship that which does not hear, does not see, and cannot give you anything you nor I desire? O father, I have attained new knowledge which you must abide to. So follow me, I will guide you to a spiritual path of true enlightenment." I'm sure you remember how angrily your father replied: *"Do you reject my gods, O Abram? If you don't stop I will stone you to death and feed you to the wild dogs. Get away from me before I punish and destroy you."* You said: *"Peace be with you father! I will ask forgiveness of God for you."*

ABRAHAM

Oi vey!

MUHAMMAD

After making sure that nobody was awake in town, you went towards the temple late at night, armed with your father's ax. Idols, statues of false Gods of all shapes and sizes that your father had made were sitting there all dressed up just waiting for you. Plates filled with the best food were offered to those false idols, but the food was never eaten. *"Well, why don't you eat? Your food is getting cold, Osiris?"* You laughed; then you swung your father's big axe and destroyed all those false idols except one, perhaps Ra, the biggest and you hung the ax around its neck and left. And boy how you laughed, Abie.

ABRAHAM and MUHAMMAD

(Laugh uproariously and embrace.)

Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

ABRAHAM

I guess that makes us...

MUHAMMAD

...Brothers Abie. Since we Arabs come from you and your son Ishmael I'm sure we are all half Jewish, and yes, some of us were circumcised, not all, but some of us and you know the Egyptians started circumcision before you ever did it to yourself.

ABRAHAM

So what happened brother? Why are we fighting now? Why do you raise your children to be terrorist bombers? Why do we have so much *tsores*, so many problems? Can you tell me?

MUHAMMAD

I'll tell you *vy* you have so much *tsores*. Give us back Palestine and there will be no terrorist bombers and no *tsores* and there shall be al *salaam a'alaykum*.

ABRAHAM

(Whispers.)

You talk and sound so Jewish, Hammy, and tell me, did you have a *bris*, are you circumcised and did you get any good presents? Me, I had to do it myself and I didn't get one present, and did it hurt, boy did it hurt.

MUHAMMAD

Ya know this supposed Virgin Birth of his mother Mary, I mean, Miriam, was this local carpenter, this beautiful, bearded, religious rabbi who went to *shul* and he loved your *Adonoi*. Judaism so much that he wanted to welcome the world including those that weren't circumcised to become Jewish; He felt the Rabbis were too sectarian. According to Paul, whose real name was Saul, who didn't realized that Christianity was start of reformed Judaism, which was way ahead of its time and that's why those old rabbis ostracized him and didn't accept his divinity, but he soon had lots of followers who some became apostles, follow him and Jesus; I mean they worshipped him and thought he was the coming of the Messiah. They tried to help spread his divinity although this never happened as Isaiah had predicted, for when the Messiah comes; the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. I guess you could say he was the first reformed Rabbi. His apostle, Paul wasn't his real name it was Saul who founded Christianity. Saul, Paul was the greatest P R guy in history. Jesus never wanted there to be another religion other than Judaism; he was a devout Rabbi and Mary wasn't his mother's name it was, Miriam. Some Pope around 600 AD hated the Jews so much that he changed there names because he thought they sounded *too* Jewish. That's not all; your day of rest is the Sabbath, *Shabbes*, he changed it to Sunday. In fact the three predominant religions of the world today are, Islam, Christianity and Judaism all come from your covenant with Allah and thanks to you my brother, WE are all part Jewish.

ABRAHAM

And don't forget that!

DEVIL

(Dressed as baseball player.)

They're all Jews, what a crock. Oh Murray, where are you when I need you?

(♪ ALL Sing Aria ♪)

THIS to SHALL PASS

JESUS

I believe that my Father will pick his son.
I believe that has been fated since time begun.
The Lord comforts me and all those that call his name.
Just confess thy sins He will you no longer blame.

BUDDHA

No matter how many words you read, it is the deed.
Never see what has been done, thank God for His seed.
In the sky, no east or west, we must do our best.
Failure in life is not to be true to one's best.

ALL

In the beginning you created the heavens and the earth.
Darkness was on the face of the deep.
Let there be light, and you said it was good for it was worth.
Made Adam and Eve soon they would weep.
Let there be water under the sky and let there be grass.
Let the earth bring living creatures, this to shall pass.
And on the seventh day our God He rested.
For eternity all of man would be tested.

MUHAMMAD

Keep yourself far from envy, it will eat you up.
Silence and good disposition shall fill your cup.
Find paradise at the feet of your mother.
Treat your enemy as though he were your brother.

ABRAHAM

Soon as I heard His voice I said *Baruch ator*.
With Adonoi with me I couldn't ask for more.
And *Boruch Hashem* who lives in the sky above
He gave me strength and He filled my whole life with love.

ALL

In the beginning you created the heavens and the earth.
Darkness was on the face of the deep.
Let there be light, and you said it was good for it was worth.
Made Adam and Eve soon they would weep.
Let there be water under the sky and let there be grass.
Let the earth bring living creatures, this to shall pass.

And on the seventh day our God He rested.
For eternity all of man would be tested.

(BUDDHA talks to MUHAMMAD and ABRAHAM and JESUS listens.)

BUDDHA

It is a man's own mind, not his enemy or foe that lures him to evil ways. I believe that is why Satan is so successful in deceiving the world.

MUHAMMAD

Satan my kabooty, Buddy. Let's go see Allah and let Allah decide who's going to replace Him, and I can assure it will be none other than yours truly. Perhaps I should call upon the great Mother Gods: Inana from Summaria, Ishtar from Babylon, Anat in Canaan, Isis in Egypt or Aphrodite in Greece and have them, confirm me, for I am destined. And I beg your forgiveness and you must allow me to apologize, for I have demeaned all of you these past millennia

ABRAHAM

You don't say?

MUHAMMAD

I called you Abie, not the name that Allah gave you, Abraham. I besmirched Jesus, the Prince of Peace and made jest of his mother Mary's Virgin Birth and I too called Siddhartha Gautama Sidd. I ask all of you to forgive me for I have sinned and I think you guys did too.

ABRAHAM

Me too?

ALL

YES, YOU TOO!

JESUS

Only God will forgive our sins and I include myself; forgive me blessed Father for, I too
(♪ Sings ♪)
hath sinned. Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sanctus; Go in peace my brothers.

DISTRAUGHT

I pray that Thee forgive my sin.
Only a fool thinks he must win?
A man who was a poor Yasser.
This man's now an absurd gasser.

I am beleaguered and distraught.
A fly in a web that is caught.
Who once believed and now deceived
Who is ashamed and is so grieved.

How shall I make amends?
Secrets are lamented.
To all my trusted friends.
My soul is tormented.

Alas I do not like myself.
As I turn to my Lord for help.
Forlorn, for my heart doth ache.
For Thy love I did Thee forsake.

I my desire to replace Thee.
I allowed the Devil to corrupt me.
I desired to be next in line.
In my greed thus I became blind.

How shall I make amends?
Secrets are lamented.
To all my trusted friends.
My soul is tormented.

BUDDHA

Through meditation and asking forgiveness will we, be forgiven.

ABRAHAM

Me too?

ALL

YES, YOU TOO!

ABRAHAM

Personally, I like being called Abie, so don't stop. And I should apologize to you, Muhammad. All these terrorist bombers, you didn't do the bombing, they did, and if **(JESUS, MUHAMMAD and BUDDHA start to walk away.)** you want to ask His forgiveness, let us all pray together; *Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad. Baruch sheim k'vod mal'chuto l'olam vaed.*

JESUS, MUHAMMAD and BUDDHA

(THEY stop.)
ME TOO!

ABRAHAM

I wonder where Murray is.

End of Scene 6

“ I QUIT ”

ACT I

Scene 7

DEVIL

(Dressed as in opening scene.)

Even though they thought it was Murray, I got those two Jews to believe that I'm that I'm still that Guy's favorite angel, if they only knew. Now I have to get Hammy and Buddy and in no time I will replace that loud mouth and then I'll get rid of all these 'Good guys' which I can't stand once-and-for-all and the world shall be mine as it was so intended.

**ALL are apprehensive as they face GOD,
whose back is to the audience.**

GOD

My, my, my, if it is not my favorite 'Good guys.' And what brings all of you here, if I am not being too inquisitive?

JESUS

Blessed Father, I know that ye have asked Murray to pick one of us to replace Thee, but he flew the coop and we have tried to choose one of us to replace thee but to no avail. We can not agree, for each one of us feels and wants to become...

ABRAHAM
Adonoi.

JESUS
Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
My God.

MUHAMMAD
Allah Akbar.

GOD

Again with all the names! Can't you all agree and call me one name?

ABRAHAM
Adonoi.

JESUS
Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
Ishvara my God.

MUHAMMAD
Allah Akbar.

GOD

What is it with all of you? Are you trying to confuse me? I created man in my image in the perfect world, where did I go wrong...? Bad enough I apologized to Moses and Noah about the flood and I never admitted it to anyone, but I think I goofed with the zebra and those cockamamie black and white stripes. I should have made it one color. I also I promise I won't do that again because you know why...

ALL

YOU QUIT!

(♪ **GOD sings Aria** ♪)

In the BEGINNING

I tried to be perfect,
Nobody is.
Now when I genuflect,
I'm not a wiz.
Gee wiz, nobody is.

I feel I am to blame.
With all this greed.
It is a crying shame.
For all who bleed,
For those who need, take heed.

In the beginning, I created the heavens and the earth.
And I took the darkness and said "Let there be light" at birth.
With the water below and the sky up above,
I prayed for the love.
Between Adam and Eve, did I conceive.
In the Garden of Eden.
Appeared Satan the heathen,
And so man lost his way.
What more can I say?
The true meaning of freedom is not suppression.
Bliss may be attained without sinful transgression.

I could not guarantee.
Man would be blessed
That, all men, would be free.
Help the oppressed.
And arrest who detest.

Bless those who are good willed.
All who believe.
Who toil and who help build.
Weak who achieve.
Reprieve and do not grieve.

In the beginning, I created the heavens and the earth.
And I took the darkness and said "Let there be light" at birth.
With the water below and the sky up above,
I prayed for the love.

Between Adam and Eve, did conceive.
 In the Garden of Eden,
 Appeared Satan the heathen,
 And so man lost his way.
 What more can I say?
 The true meaning of freedom is not suppression.
 Bliss may be attained without sinful transgression.

ABRAHAM
Adonoi.

JESUS
 Dear Lord.

BUDDHA
 Ishvara My God.

MUHAMMAD
Allah Akbar.

(♪ **ALL Sing Aria** ♪)

GIVE ME the STRENGTH

MUHAMMAD

Allah Akbar, you who have created every star.
 Allah Akbar, you who have taken me near and far.
 Allah Akbar, you who have shared every tear.
 Allah Akbar, you who are to me always so near.

ALL

Give me the strength to do all I can.
 Give me the words to spread serenity.
 Give me the wisdom to help all man.
 For what must be, must surly be, thanks to thee.

ABRAHAM

Boruch Hashem, you have given me the will to live.
Boruch Hashem, you have taught me the how to give.
Boruch Hashem, you have given me a day of rest.
Boruch Hashem, you have taught me, save the oppressed.

ALL

Give me the strength to do all I can.
 Give me the words to spread serenity.
 Give me the wisdom to help all man.
 For what must be, must surly be, thanks to thee.

BUDDHA

Dear God thank you for giving me my sanity,
 Dear God my quest is to uplift humanity.
 Dear God with your kindness and strength I will achieve,
 Dear God I pray all the sinners in you believe.

ALL

Give me the strength to do all I can.
Give me the words to spread serenity.
Give me the wisdom to help all man.
For what must be, must surly be, thanks to thee.

JESUS

Dear Father, I am with you until the end of time.
Dear Father, your love and passion shall always be mine.
Dear Father for I walk with faith and not by sight.
Dear Father I will try to do what thee thinks is right.

ALL

Give me the strength to do all I can.
Give me the words to spread serenity.
Give me the wisdom to help all man.
For what must be, must surly be, thanks to thee.

ABRAHAM

So who's going to tell *Adonoi*, you want me?

MUHAMMAD

Personally, I think it should be me to tell *Allah*.

JESUS

And why do ye think it should be you Hammy or you Abie, when I should be the one posing this momentous question, when it is I who is His son and next in line to inherit His beloved throne. Don't tell you've forgotten my Father's favorite angel?

BUDDHA

Chaos is inherent in all compounded things. Strive on with diligence and respect for your brother. If you forgive my self centeredness, perhaps I should be next in line to replace the almighty God?

(ALL are annoyed and shout.)

ABRAHAM

FORGET IT, HE WANTS ME!

MUHAMMAD

ALLAH WANTS HIS BELOVED MUHAMMAD!

JESUS

Forgive me, IT WAS THE DEVIL WHO SAID THE HOLY FATHER WANTS HIS BELOVED SON TO REPLACE HIM, NOT THE LORD!

BUDDHA

HE IS ABLE WHO THINKS HE IS ABLE AND I AM MOST ASSUREDLY AM ABLE!

(There is much tumult with each screaming that HE should be the one to Replace GOD.)

GOD

And to think I called you my 'Good guys,' my supposed prophets. Boy, was I wrong and it's not the first I was wrong; remember the flood with Noah and the stripes I put on the zebra? Didn't I just say that? Am I repeating myself? Now would one of you 'Good guys' please step forward and tell me what you have on your mind.

(ALL step forwards.)

DEVIL

I wonder which idiot is going to open his big mouth first?

(GOD looks in amazement as ALL take one step forward. JESUS takes another step quickly. ALL look at JESUS and think 'Oh yeah' and all do like wise. Trying to show THEM all up, MUHAMMAD takes three steps and ALL do likewise. Suddenly MUHAMMAD starts to run and the great Race is on, as they ALL run around GOD who is sitting in HIS throne and WE hear GOD laugh.)

GOD

Enough, enough, I'm getting nauseated from all this running around. It has to stop! Buddha, please tell me what this is all about.

(JESUS produces a poster and runs around GOD, showing and reciting, "Son-of-a-gun, my father will pick His son, to become His number One, should be lots of fun." ABBRAHAM does the same; "A covenant in time is sublime, vill become my time end dhat's my rhyme." BUDDHA does a repeat; "If my God picks me, let it be, I will be filled with glee for eternity.")

GOD (Cont'd)

Muhammad, where's your sign?

MUHAMMAD

Remember diddly squat? I don't have one. Dear *Allah*, we have come to the crossroad and can not decide who is the most worthy recipient of your throne. Can you please select one of us and end this incessant bickering?

GOD

You don't have to argue anymore, I have come to a conclusion.

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-77

YEA!!!!

ALL

I've changed my mind.

GOD

WHAT ABOUT MURRAY?

ALL

Forget about the schlemiel.

GOD

(ALL are thoroughly disappointed.)

GOD (Cont'd)

With all the good work you guys have done, I think it's time my kids took care of themselves. There are 6,000,750,413—no, make that 415; Lewis, a gorgeous boy with blond hair was born in New York City and Carie, a beautiful girl, with the most gorgeous face I ever saw just arrived. Among all my wonderful children I predict the next Messiah is ready and waiting to say hello. Remember, I gave humans dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and forget about creationist. They've had 100,000 years by now to learn the job. Anyhow, they should be good and ready to take over now, so I quit! I'm going to sit on my rocker for the next four or five million years and dream about everything that could have been and should have been. So would any of you 'Good guys' like to join me, because I QUIT!

JESUS
YES, I QUIT!

MUHAMMAD
ME TOO, I QUIT!

BUDDHA
I QUIT!

ABRAHAM
I QUIT!

GOD

Glad you see it my way, let's go! And don't forget your rocking chairs.

(ALL hold hands, follow GOD and exit. After a beat, MURRAY appears and  sings.

MURRAY

 Sings 

EVERYONE BUT ME

Afraid of all my fears.
I drowned in my own tears.
Down there I was alone.
A dog without a bone.

I tried to do my best.
 I never passed the test.
 A friend I wish I had.
 My life was oh so sad.

Since I was a babe, I was taught to believe in one God.
 So I prayed for everyone but me and nothing was ever too hard,
 High above, like his turtle dove I was filled with His love.
 He helped me see, to be free,
 I must yield to what must be must always be.

I asked Him for His help.
 I prayed not for myself.
 I asked for peace on earth.
 I was of little worth.

A lamb that lost its way.
 The sun, that lights the day.
 The child who is born blind.
 God blesses all mankind.

Since I was a babe, I was taught to believe in one God.
 So I prayed for everyone but me and nothing was ever too hard,
 High above, like his turtle dove I was filled with His love.
 He helped me see, to be free,
 I must yield to what must be must always be.

(It starts to rain.)

MURRAY

Hmmm, it never rains in heaven... So what do we do now? I wonder what else is going to happen? HEY, DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO I PICKED...? With a *schlemiel* like me, my luck, HE probably picked a new favorite Angel.

(The DEVIL taps MURRAY on his shoulder.)

DEVIL

(Taps Murray's shoulder.)

How did you know? That's exactly what I have in mind, Murray. Now that Charley and his 'Good guys' flew the coop and I'm in charge, and it's just me and you, I definitely

(Aside. - Laughs.)

Want you to become my favorite Angel... If they only knew that I reign because of man's indifference to man. Without them, there would be no sin, no war, just peace on

(Laughs.)

earth and that would be no fun, would it?.

MURRAY

Leave me alone, Satan! And I know you are the cause of all evil, you Beelzebub!

DEVIL**(Laugh.****Loud.)**

What do you expect? Once a *schlemiel*, always a *schlemiel*. Go ahead and join those
(To audience.)

other losers, loser! Good evening ladies and gentlemen, how nice of you to visit me in my home, heaven. I am the Devil, also called Satan, Lucifer, Mephistopheles, Beelzebub, the Evil one, the Prince of Darkness and the serpent who you may recall, led to the downfall of Eve in the Garden of Eden. I have been described as having fangs,

(Swirls cape.)

scaly skin, red eyes, wings which I have traded in momentarily for this gorgeous cape

(Taps.)

and cloven hooves which were giving me bunions for these tap shoes. I liked Fred Astaire but loved Sammy Davis Jr. What an entertainer. No one knows what I look like because I have the ability to disguise myself and become whatever the person or people I speak to desire most. I may be sitting next to you so please smile and give me a nod... Thank you. I used to be your God's favorite angel, second in command, in other words His right arm until we had a falling out, a mere slight disagreement; hence I became His fallen angel and was sent to earth to display my magnificent power of creating chaos, pain, murder, robbery, rape of women and children, alas crime and punishment for all my trusted followers. My prize pupils to name a few for there are too many to mention; Cain, Pharaoh, Genghis Khan, and Hitler, one of my favorites, Stalin who was a close second, Mussolini and my latest rage, Osama bin Laden. You see your God, who I call Charley, I was Charley's favorite angel and He called me Lu, short for Lucifer. At one time we were like kissing cousins and I hate to tell you this but Charley, never had full control over me nor you because He wasn't all powerful, but I AM! Welcome to my

(Laughs.)

Inner Sanctum, and you can't tell, what's His name you saw me here, because He's not

(Sings. ♪)

Here, HE flew the coop and I am now in charge. *"Those were the days my friends and I'm glad they came to an end. Those were the days, oh yes those were the days."* If God

(Laughs - Laughs.)

is God, He cannot be good. If God is good He cannot be God, for I know what is good

(Laughs.)

and bad, don't I?

MURRAY,

You certainly do.

GOD**(Sings ♪)**

I Cannot die, nor will I die, for this is why; I am God, I am love and love will not die.

(There is thunder and lightning as the curtain closes.)**The End**

S Goldberg

I QUIT!

1-1-80