

AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD

He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for goodness sake. Yes, that's right I spoke to God this month to find out what he's been up to lately.

- M: God, welcome.
- God: Hey man, it's great to be here.
- M: So how are you liking Ireland?
- God: Good. It's changed a lot since the last time I was here.
- M: The Celtic Tiger.
- God: Yeah. All the people here are really nice. I've got a lot of support here so...
- M: You've had some huge successes in the past, the Great Flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, freeing the Jews from Egypt. But we haven't heard from you in a while, what have you been up to?
- God: Well, I've been cooking up a few things which I'm really excited about. You're going to be seeing them soon and I think they're really going to blow people away.
- M: Wow, any teasers?
- God: Let's just say I'm moving things in a totally new direction. People are going to be really surprised by the new stuff I've got up my sleeve. And, uh, stay out of Greenland for a while. Hah.
- M: Speaking of changes in direction a lot of people looking back on your career are surprised by the shift from the "Old Testament Vengeful God" and the "New Testament All Loving God". Do you think there's some disparity there? I mean, which one's the real you or did you really have a change of heart there?

God: I think people read into my work whatever they want, y'know. And that's cool. That's what I'm all about. A hundred years ago all my fans were talking about me being all angry at whatever they did and you'd better have a miserable life if you want to go to Heaven. And that's cool. Now they're saying I'm some kind of hippy guy on pills who just loves you whatever you do. And that's cool too.

M: But you did reap a lot of vengeance in the early days.

God: Listen forget about the Old Testament thing. I was just going through a tough time. I was under a lot of pressure to produce more and more miracles. The whole flood thing was just a misunderstanding. I just flipped out. I'm sorry. I'm better now.

M: What do you think brought about this change in you?

God: Well, having a kid has really put things into perspective for me.

M: That's right you have...one child is it?

God: Yeah, a son.

M: And he even followed you into the business didn't he?

God: Yeah, that's right.

M: Did you encourage him to take up the same career as you?

God: We-ell. He...he got into it of his own accord. I didn't force him into anything. But I supported his decision, absolutely, 100%.

M: You even became his manager.

God: Uh, I wouldn't say I was his manager, I just tried to give him some advice and steer him in the right direction.

M: But it didn't work out for him in the end.

God: No, things turned a bit sour for him towards the end. But, y'know, it's a tough business. We tried to put a brave face on it at the time and pretend that's how we always planned

things, but he was really shook up. He's doing really well now though, he's become very popular since his uh...retirement.

M: What do you say to people that say that you've done your best work? That like Orson Welles your first project was your best.

God: Well, I don't think I'm a one hit wonder but I'm very proud of The Creation. Even if I was just known for that one thing I'd be happy. I did that in seven days you know. Van Morrison recorded Astral Weeks in two, but he had a lot of help.

M: Well, your press release says you created the Heavens and the Earth in seven days but isn't it really true that it took several billion years for the Earth to form and life to begin.

God: Well...

M: And that you didn't really have much of a part in it at all? In fact all the work was done by Physics, who has been too modest to claim credit for it until now?

God: Yeah, but I created Man in my own image.

M: No, you didn't, Evolution did that.

God: Ah. But who invented evolution? Me.

M: No. Evolution is logical process that arises inevitably from mutation and the inheritance of characteristics. In fact every step in the process leading up to what the world looks like today has now been explained by natural causes and not as you originally said by you.

God: Well, I created the Universe.

M: No, the Universe was created by the Big Bang.

God: Right...Yeah...Do we know who created the Big Bang?

M: Well, it's actually physically impossible to tell what happened before the Big Bang, so...

God: Alright then. I did that. That was my idea.

M: Okay. Let me ask you this. You've never really made much of an impact on the Asian market. In fact you've never really tried to. Why is that?

God: Oh, everyone's always going on at me, "When are you going to break Asia? When are you going to break Asia?" I mean, who needs Asia? With their weird music and their slow cyclists.

M: That's a bit racist isn't it?

God: I don't care what you call it. I couldn't give a shit about those fucking idiots. They can believe whatever they like.

M: Well, it's not just Asia that you've ignored. In fact you've concentrated all of your energies on one small area of the Eastern Mediterranean. Why is that?

God: I just love those little fellas.

M: But don't you care about all the other people in the world?

God: Oh yeah. Of course I care about everyone else.

M: Then why have you never made any attempt to reach out to any of the other cultures on the Earth?

God: Well, I just knew that if I concentrated all my energies in the Middle East that the word would spread across the world. And it has. Christianity is the biggest religion in the world. Woohoo! Number one!

M: But more people in the world don't believe in God than do. Do you really not give a shit about all those people? Are they all going to hell?

God: Ah. But there you're wrong. If you add Christianity, Judaism and Islam together you get 3.3 billion. That's more than half.

M: Yes but they have such wildly differing beliefs, do you not think you should step in to sort it out?

God: It's much of a muchness to me really. The important thing is that you just believe in me in some form or another. My particular policies shouldn't be the key issue here. Just vote for me. For whatever reason.

M: So you really don't care what we say is wrong or right?

God: No, believe whatever you like. Go crazy. Believe I hate masturbation or pork-chops or something stupid like that.

It's all the same to me. I don't care. The important thing is that people pray to me and I'll help them.

M: You help people?

God: Yeah. That's what I'm here for.

M: But how do you do that?

God: I move in mysterious ways.

M: Yes, but specifically how?

God: I work through the hearts of people.

M: But I thought people had free will.

God: Oh yeah, free will, definitely. When people do bad things that's because I gave them free will, so it's not my fault. But if people do good things that's because I'm acting through them. You know if you're rescued from a mountain during a storm by the professional expertise of the mountain rescue team, then it's important that you thank me. Because I did it. If you get that job that you really wanted even though you were up against a hundred other people but ultimately the employers chose you. Then thank me. Because I did it. I can override that whole free will bullshit when I want to.

M: And what makes you decide to do that?

God: When people ask me to do it. Inside their head.

M: That's not what the Muslims say.

God: Don't you worry about the Muslims baby. Now come over here.

M: Woah. Slow down God. I didn't know you were *that* loving.

God: Aaaah yeah, I'm omni-potent baby.

M: Oh. I think I prefer the Old Testament God.

God: Right then! You'd better give me some loving or I'm going to turn you into a pillar of salt!

M: A pillar of salt?

God: That's right!

M: But you can't make a pillar out of salt.

God: I'm God, I can do whatever I like!

M: But it wouldn't be structurally sound.

God: Are you telling me what to do?!

M: No. I'm just saying you can't build a load bearing pillar out of salt. You'd never get planning permission. It'd dissolve at the first sign of rain.

God: It'd be good for keeping the snails off the building though.

M: Well, that is true.