

GOD IS...

by

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Characters

ADAM. *A very confused young man.*

EVE. *A very forceful young woman.*

The setting is Paradise. The lights open on ADAM who is looking around. EVE approaches cautiously.

EVE

Uh, excuse me.

ADAM

What? Oh. Hi. You're awake.

EVE

Hi. *(Pause)* Could you tell me where I am?

ADAM

Well, it doesn't have a name yet, at least not one that I have given it. I'm thinking about "Paradise," but it may be too...well...you know...

EVE

No, not really.

ADAM

Well, it doesn't matter. Do you like it?

EVE

I'm not sure. *(Changing subject)* How long have I been here?

ADAM

Hmm. I'm not sure myself. I fell asleep and when I woke, I saw you.

EVE

Well who am I? For that matter, who are you? How did you get here?

ADAM

I am Adam. I haven't named you and God made me.

EVE

Name me? You? Who are you to name me?

ADAM

I told you. I am Adam and that is my job. I name things.

EVE

What are things? And who said you could name them?

ADAM

God did. And things are...well...you know (*pointing*) things.

EVE

No, I don't know, or I wouldn't have asked. Who's God anyway?

ADAM

God is he that made us.

EVE

He. That made us. As in you and me? Wait, what's a he? Is it a thing too?

ADAM

No. See, I am a he but I am not a thing.

EVE

But you're a he and you name things. Therefore, being named he you are a thing. He, Adam, thing.

ADAM

No, you don't understand. My name is Adam. He is a way of saying me and I'm not a thing but a man.

EVE

...And a man would be?

ADAM

Me. (EVE *looks confused*) It means oneself. See? I am a me. You are a me but you are also you. Get it?

EVE

So my name is either you or me and you are he, me or Adam?

ADAM

Sort of, yes, but your name is not me or you.

EVE

(*Frustrated*)

Stop!

ADAM

What's the matter?

EVE

You are...I...me...oh! What is that over there?

ADAM

That thing is an ass. Why?

EVE

Then you or me am an ass!

ADAM

No. I am a man. See?

EVE

Ah! You...you...you...you say you are he or me or Adam. Now you are man. I say you are an ass!

ADAM

I am not an ass. I am a man. And I am going to name you now. I'll call you...oh...Eve.

EVE

Eve? What kind of name is Eve?

ADAM

Your name. It's also what I call the night before the day.

EVE

What's night?

ADAM

What day is always darkest before.

EVE

Oh, all right...but do I get to name you?

ADAM

No. God already named me. I am Adam. See?

EVE

No, I don't Adam SEE. I don't see why you can name me but I can't name you or why God's a he and not a me, which is you or me, which is what I am!

ADAM

No, I'm a man and you were made from me (EVE gives ADAM a harsh look). From my rib, see?

EVE

What's a rib?

ADAM

It's from inside me. God took it and made you from me.

EVE

And whom did he make you from?

ADAM

No one. Up until now there was just the things and me.

EVE

And God made you from nothing?

ADAM

No, not from nothing. From clay. (EVE *looks for a further explanation of terms*) Dirt and water firmly packed by time (Again, EVE *looks for explanation*. ADAM *is getting flustered*). Dirt is the thing you are standing on. Water is that (*pointing*).

EVE

(*Looking him over*)

You don't look like those things.

ADAM

Well, that's because God changed them to make me.

EVE

(*Disbelieving*)

Okay. Assuming I believe all this, and you are a man, whom God made from...

ADAM

Clay.

EVE

Whatever. Then what am I?

ADAM

Hmm. I'm not sure. I'll have to think of a name for what you are.

EVE

You said I was Eve.

ADAM

That's who you are, not what you are.

EVE

What's the difference?

ADAM

There's a lot of difference. Look, I am Adam. That's my name. It's who I am. I'm also a man. That's what I am. See?

EVE

I still think you are an ass.

ADAM

I am not an ass! If I am an ass then you're a (*looks around*)...a...

EVE

(*Mockingly*)

A what?

ADAM

A bitch. That's it. A bitch.

EVE

What's a bitch?

ADAM

(*Pointing*)

It's one of those things.

EVE

I don't look like that.

ADAM

No, you act like that. Like a thing of that sex.

EVE

What's sex?

ADAM

Well, I suppose it's like the difference between you and me.

EVE

You mean those (*pointing to his genitals*) and these (*cupping breast*)?

ADAM

Yeah.

EVE

So that ass is a bitch and that ones a man. Right?

ADAM

No. Well, not exactly.

EVE

(Extremely frustrated)

Oh...you...ah!

ADAM

Look, a bitch is the sex of that thing, which is a dog but not that ass. It applies only to the dog.

EVE

So I'm a dog?

ADAM

No. I guess that won't work I'll have to think of something else.

EVE

Why can't I think of something else?

ADAM

(Defensively)

Because that's my job. I name things. God said so.

EVE

Well, let's ask God if I can name some things.

ADAM

No. That's why he made me.

EVE

There you go again. Are you sure God is a he? Have you seen him?

ADAM

No, not exactly.

EVE

So, "he" could be like me, right?

ADAM

No! He made me in his own image. Therefore, God is a he like me.

EVE

But you're an ass, therefore....

ADAM

Don't you say it. He can hear you.

EVE

(Looks around)

Really. I don't see him.

ADAM

You can't see him. He is God.

EVE

Then where is he, hmm?

ADAM

Everywhere. All around. In everything. God is all.

EVE

So, he is in all things?

ADAM

Yes...

EVE

But you said he was a he, which is a man, which is not an ass or a thing....

ADAM

Uh....

EVE

And you hear this man, who is not a man, who is everything but who is not a thing talk to you, even though you cannot see him, even though he is everywhere.

ADAM

Well...

EVE

Do you know how stupid that sounds?

ADAM

Look, God is not like us.

EVE

You said he was like you.

ADAM

No, I said he made me in his own image.

EVE

Which is like you.

ADAM
(*Frustrated*)

No, it is not like that.

EVE
(*Mockingly*)

Then how is it...“God”?

ADAM

I am not God. I am a man!

EVE

No. You are an ass.

ADAM

Do I look like an ass?

EVE

No, but you act like one.

ADAM

How would you know? You just saw one today.

EVE

You have never seen God, but you know all about him. You know what he looks like even though you cannot see him. You hear him even when he is not around. What is the difference?

ADAM
(*Anger*)

Ah! Woe is to me the day he made you.

EVE

Woe? What’s woe?

ADAM

Regret. In fact, that is what I am going to call you.

EVE

You said I was Eve.

ADAM

Yes. You're also a woe. A woe to man, me. Therefore, your kind shall be known as woe-man.

EVE
(*Sarcasm*)

Typical. How original!

ADAM
(*Noting sarcasm*)

What's wrong with it?

EVE
Oh, nothing. Do continue, ass.

ADAM
I am not an ass. I am a man. What's your problem woe-man?

EVE
You're my problem. And you want to know why? Because you cannot just give something one name. No. You have got to rename it for every occurring situation.

ADAM
What do you mean?

EVE
You're not too bright, are you? Look, you call yourself Adam, say you are a man, and refer to yourself as he or sometimes me. I am Eve, woe-man, me, you and let's not forget bitch. A dog is also a bitch and a thing, and a thing can be, well, anything. Why can't a thing simply be a thing? Why does it have to be this here and that there or in that particular situation? Why not just say a man is a man and an ass is an ass and a dog is a dog? Therefore, I could be an Eve and you an Adam and things would not get so...so...confusing.

(*ADAM is almost at a loss for words*)

ADAM
Now I'm confused.

EVE
You seem to get that way quite easily. Let's just change the subject.

ADAM
Lets. Things seem to be getting out of hand. I know. I'll tell you about the rules. You'll need to know them if you are going to stay here.

EVE

Rules? What are rules?

ADAM

Things you can and cannot do in the garden.

EVE

Things like asses and bitches?

ADAM

No. Things like don't eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge or the tree of life.

EVE

Why not? Who made these rules? Oh, wait. Don't tell me. You did. Its another of your...jobs.

ADAM

Actually, God made the rules.

EVE

Oh, here we go again. Do you actually hear this God?

ADAM

Sort of. It just comes to me.

EVE

So, you could be making it up as you go along?

ADAM

No. God gives me a feeling and I do it.

EVE

I thought you heard him.

ADAM

Sort of. But not exactly. See?

EVE

No, I don't and for that matter, neither do you. Furthermore, you can't hear God either. You know what this means, don't you? It means that you've been talking to yourself and doing what you want. (ADAM *looks confused again*) Oh, never mind. This tree of knowledge, what happens if we eat the fruit from it?

ADAM

I'm not sure.

EVE

So why can't we just eat from it and see what happens?

ADAM

God said we couldn't, that's why.

EVE

So, God told you not to eat from the tree? Did he mention me?

ADAM

He didn't mention anyone. He just said not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge or the tree of life.

EVE

Well, he didn't say anything to me so maybe just you are not supposed to eat from it. Did you ever think of that?

ADAM

No, he meant no one was to eat of it.

EVE

Was I around when he told you this?

ADAM

No.

EVE

Well, there you go! He is your god. You follow his rules that he made up just for you. He hasn't spoken to me so I'll do as I please.

ADAM

He is both our God.

EVE

Who only talks to you. I don't like him so he can be your God. I'll just find my own, if you please. Hey, there's one on that tree over there. What's that you say? Have a bite of this. Why, yes, I will thank you.

(EVE walks over to tree)

ADAM

That's not God. That's a serpent (*Pleading*). It's not talking to you. And besides, this is the tree of knowledge. You're not supposed to eat of it.

EVE

God said that? I didn't hear him. (*She picks a fruit*) But I hear him (*mockingly*). He says it's yummy (*Tauntingly, to snake*). Umm. It does look good. Are you sure I should eat it? Well, Okay.

ADAM

No, don't listen...
(*She bites*)

EVE

It's good. You should try it
(*Offering to ADAM*)

ADAM

Oh no. You shouldn't have. You're in trouble now.

EVE

Nothings happened.

ADAM

You don't get it. You shouldn't have listened to the serpent.

EVE

I didn't. I just pretended to get my point across. Look, if we were in trouble, wouldn't we know by now? Besides, I am the one who ate of the tree of knowledge, as you call it.

ADAM

Yeah, but...

EVE

Look, Adam, you worry too much. If God were everywhere, he would know. Nothing happened. Here. (*Puts apple in hand*). You see God is what you make of him. Go ahead. Take a bite. It won't bite back, I promise.
(*Nervously, Adam looks around, then bites, pauses, and smiles*)

ADAM

It's good.

EVE

Yeah, it is.

ADAM

(*Looking puzzled*)

I don't understand. We broke the rules. God should punish us.

EVE

Maybe, he has (ADAM *looks puzzled by her words*). Think about it. Before we ate this, you relied on him to tell you everything. Now you know that God is what you make of him. From now on, God can no longer be the answer to anything you don't understand. You and I are now responsible for what we do. God is what we make of him.

ADAM

I'm scared. I feel like I've done wrong. I believed in God. He made me. He made you. But now, everything's changed. What I believe is what makes God. My belief in him and what he does defines who and what we are and who he is to us. I'm not sure I've done the right thing.

EVE

If it is wrong, then it's too late to go back. I think I understand how you feel, though. I know why this is the tree of knowledge. It's not the tree. It's the understanding of what it represents. Suddenly, I don't feel so good either.

ADAM

I feel like I've betrayed him. I feel...guilty. Like he is watching. Sad. Disappointed.

EVE

Me too. I never felt him before. I thought he is what you make of him but he suddenly feels so real. I wish I...

ADAM

...We had never seen the tree of knowledge. If this is what this tree holds, I never want to know of the tree of life.

EVE

Me either. What should we do?

ADAM

Leave the valley. Leave paradise.

EVE

It will never be the same. It's no longer paradise. That was before. Now, it's spoiled somehow, but only by our presence. We should rename it before we leave.

ADAM

Eaten. We'll call it Eaten. The lost paradise.

EVE

I'm sorry. It's my fault. I never...

ADAM

It's my fault as well. Maybe it is neither of our faults (EVE *looks confused*). What was God before? He was just another thing that I invented. Now, he is more than that. He is not an invention. He is someone whom we must strive to prove ourselves to. He is who we are responsible to, who we want to be part of, to become but not really. He is a goal of perfection. One I, or we, thought we had before we knew what it took to achieve it. He is our reason for existence. He really did create us by letting us create him.

EVE

Us. As in we?

ADAM

We. You, Eve, and me, Adam.

EVE

Creations of God. Equally?

(ADAM *nods*. EVE *smiles happily*)

EVE

Then perhaps God was talking to me too. Maybe, I just didn't understand. Maybe he made me to question you. Maybe, he made me to make you realize who you are and who and what he is.

ADAM

I suppose. You did question me from the start.

EVE

Of course, because God created me just like you. We are his creation. Together, we created Eden.

ADAM

But is that a good thing?

EVE

I don't think it's a bad thing. If it were wrong, he wouldn't have let us do it. He would not have put the tree within our reach. He cares for us and lets us be to show us how much he cares. Otherwise, we would be just things to manipulate, like fruit to see but never eat.

ADAM

So what now?

EVE

I think God wants us to create more things, maybe to make our own version of Paradise.

ADAM

I think your right. But if your not we are in big trouble (ADAM *pauses*). I just thought of something. What if God makes more of us and they want to come back, you know, to Eaten?

EVE

(*She looks at the serpent*)

We will tell them it's protected by one of God's creatures that we left at the tree.

ADAM

(*Frowning at the serpent*)

You think that'll stop them?

EVE

It will if we tell them it has a flaming sword.

Lights fade

FINIS