

Genesis 6:

God Gets Mad and Kills Everybody

*A One-Act Comedy
by Robert Joseph Ahola*

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Synopsis

Did Yahweh really mean to destroy the world so early in the story? Or did he just have some bad pizza the night before? This conversation between God and Noah promises to confuse you even more than you already are. 3 M/2F. *Running Time: 28 minutes. Note: Of course it's a metaphor. Then again, so is the Old Testament.*

Note: GENESIS 6 is the third in a trilogy of one-act plays entitled "Death the Musical."

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Cast of Characters

GOD/YAWEH/JEHOVAH: Even though he looks like a guy in a “Just Do It” T-Shirt and sneakers, He has some pretty strong opinions. He also has an iPhone, which he uses frequently to get in touch with his Archangels.

NOAH: A Nice Guy in his ‘40’s who’s pretty confused at the moment.

A DRAGON: Probably the only logical character in the play—one with a pretty decent argument.

EMZARA. Wife of Noah. An Older Woman and slightly plump, she is somewhat dowdy and has a terrible attitude.

NAAMAH. Wife of Noah. Very young, very sexy, and the consummate opportunist.

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Synopsis of Scenes

SCENE 1: Interior Noah's Ark. A Dining Table.

SCENE 2: Outside the Curtain. Epilogue.

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Production Considerations

Interior of Noah's Ark is replete with broad brown planks representing the slats on a ship and dark planks for boards as a floor. A crude wooden table sits in the middle of the set with three or four chairs positioned around it.

Props and Costume Plot

Props. Crude wooden tables, a menorah, and some crude mugs and/or goblets. There may be some food on the table and some old rotting fruit. There should also be a green body and dragon-like head (for the Dragon).

Costume Plot. Very dull brown or hemp robes for Noah and his Wife Emzara, while Naamah has a very sexy halter-top and cut-off shorts.

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Scene 1: *Interior of Noah's Ark. It is stark, with wooden planks and a simple wooden table in the middle of the room with a cluster of candles, a menorah and parchment in the middle and a couple of stools. Noah, in crude hemp robe and sandals is fussing over the table, wiping and resetting objects, while his wife Emzara holds a bowl of figs.*

Think he'll be hungry?

EMZARA

I don't know if he eats.

NOAH

She brings over the bowl and sets it down, standing back to wipe her hands on her robe.

I haven't really cooked anything.

EMZARA

If he wants something to eat, he can create it himself. He's God. He can certainly spread out a meal if he's feeling a bit peckish.

NOAH

How are you going to even know He's here?

EMZARA

He's God! Could be anything...Cone of light, burning bush, crack of thunder, hailstorm. I don't know!

NOAH

No hailstorms! Not in my Ark! I just cleaned!

EMZARA

I'm sure he'll take that into consideration.

NOAH

Anyway, I don't think it's fair.

EMZARA

Who said it's fair? Who said life has to be fair?

NOAH

EMZARA

Destroying the world. We just got started!

NOAH

It's his world. He can do what he wants. The good news is he likes us.

EMZARA

Yeah, but all the animals—it's getting crowded. And can we take cats off the list? I'm allergic to cats.

NOAH

I'll see what I can do.

EMZARA

All I do now is sneeze!

NOAH

I said I'll see what I can do!

EMZARA

And the waste. Imagine how all that poop is going to pile up! What are we going to do with all the poop that piles up?!

NOAH

I got it! I got it! Okay! I'll see what I can do! Now go on. You're not supposed to be here. It's just God and me. That was the deal.

EMZARA

Men!

She storms out. Noah returns to arranging a quill and parchment on the table when an unassuming man in blue jeans and a "Just-Do-It" T-shirt [GOD] appears downstage left. He is holding an iPhone (or Droid).

GOD

I'm not really a man, you know. I'm the all encompassing infinite unknowable, blah, blah, blah.

NOAH

But you look like a man!

GOD

Well...I don't come off as well as a woman. Wrong Archetype as it turns out. I don't know why, but it is.

NOAH

But you look like.

GOD

Everybody else? You got a problem with that?

NOAH

I was expecting something more...

GOD

Impressive?

NOAH

Yeah, I guess so.

GOD

You mean like our first conversation—the Booming Voice in the Sky, the echoes, the pillar of fire... Got your attention, didn't it!

NOAH

Yes. Yes it did.

GOD

But you wanted to have a conversation. Right. You've got questions. You want to go over some things. Right? So this is my conversational form. Got it?

NOAH

I think so.

GOD

You think so?! So, what do you need? A Miracle—some kind of demonstration?

He looks away disgusted.

Shit, you people...

He holds up the iPhone.

Remember last time, I told you the whole bit about "I AM?" Well let me introduce you to the iPhone.

NOAH

The iPhone?

GOD

How about this?! 64 Gigs. Dual-core A5 chip. The 8MP camera with all-new optics also shoots 1080p HD video. 8 megapixel camera! Autofocus. 960-by-640-pixel resolution at 326 ppi! Kick ass technology — just look at that resolution! That miracle enough for you?

NOAH

My Lord!

GOD (*incredulous*)

Oh, so now you get it.

NOAH

Yes, oh yes, my Lord. Now I believe!

Overcome, Noah immediately falls to the floor and sprawls out on his face before him. Just as he does, the iPhone rings and GOD holds up his finger.

GOD

Wait one...

He clicks on the iPhone to answer.

Yeah, Michael...Look Lucifer drew the short straw. That's it! I know he's pissed, but that's life in the Pearly. Look, tell him he has free reign, and he can call the place anything he likes. He can even design it. What? He can call it whatever he likes. Hell, I don't know. Hell!! Now, there's a good name—short, to the point, easy to remember. Lay that on him, and see if he likes it. And keep me posted...

He clicks off and notes Noah on the floor.

Hey, man. Get up. We can't have a decent conversation with you face down "Freddy" on the floor. Up. Up. Up!

GOD tries to coax Noah to his feet, but Noah remains overwhelmed.

Come on, man! Don't make a big deal out of this.

NOAH

Oh, forgive me Lord. But I am overwhelmed. All these instruments of magic and mystery!

GOD

Technology! Yeah, it's part of this brave new world I'm creating. That's why I've destroy everything and just start all over.

He reaches over on the table and bites into a fig.

Come on. Sit down. Sit! Sit! Sit~

Noah timidly rises to his feet and sits on a wooden stool. GOD motions to the stools.

You know, you ought to put a couple of slats coming up out of the seat—you know to support your back—more comfortable that way. And...call it a "Chair."

NOAH

Oh, great and wise one. Such genius! Such brilliance!

GOD

Of course, man. I'm God! I think of everything.

NOAH

Yes, Oh, God!

GOD

You know, that's too formal. Just call me Lord, or Yahweh...of Jehovah. Whatever...So, why did you call me?

God looks around.

Nice job on the Ark, by the way. Coming along.

NOAH

Work in progress, oh...Yahweh.

GOD (*Casually acknowledges*)

So, what's up?

NOAH

Just had a few questions, Oh Yahweh. First of all...are you sure you want to do this?

GOD

Of course, I want to do this. I'm God. I've made up my mind.

NOAH

I'm just curious about why?

GOD

(He thinks about it.) Why...

Why?
Oh, yeah...

He scrolls up the file on his iPhone and reads from the screen like a laundry list.

"Because the wickedness of man is great on earth, and his heart is evil continually. So...I repent that I have made man on earth...So I will destroy whom I have created and drive them from the face of the earth—both man and beast and all the things that creep on the earth and all the fowl of the air. Because I repent that I have made them..." Got it?

NOAH

But I mean, aren't all these people descended from Adam?

GOD

Well, yeah.

NOAH

So, doesn't that mean we're all cousins, brothers, sisters...family? Aren't we all related in some way?

GOD

Yeah! So what!?

NOAH

I mean, they're family. And I mean, my cousin down the river, Hyam...really nice man. Lovely wife and six little children. Some only a couple of years old.

GOD

Yeah, I get that. So?

NOAH

But I know for a fact that he's devout. He prays to you every day. And he's generous to a fault...

GOD

See, faults! Faults! That's what I'm talkin' about!

NOAH

What I meant was that he's one of the kindest, most compassionate people I've ever met. And his family is loving and loyal and...beautiful.

GOD

Yeah, so, you think we ought to bring 'em along?

NOAH

Yes, I do...Respectfully, I do.

GOD

Yeah, maybe so. But I can't.

NOAH

You can't? But you're God! You can do anything.

GOD

I can't, because...

He holds up the iPhone and starts reading from the screen, pointing it out to Noah.

"Because the wickedness of man is great on earth, and his heart is evil continually. So...I repent that I have made man on earth...So I will destroy whom I have created and drive them from the face of the earth ..."

NOAH(interrupts)

I get it! I get it, oh Lord! I just thought maybe...

GOD

Exceptions! You want me to make exceptions! But I can't Because...

He holds up his iPhone and starts to read again.

"I've looked upon the Earth, and it is corrupt, for all flesh has corrupted its way upon the earth..."

NOAH

Well, I know it's corrupt. But maybe if we had some, you know...rules. You know, a kind of code of conduct.

GOD

You mean like a Rulebook? Commandments!?

NOAH

Yes. Well... yes!

GOD

Good idea! Yeah, rules...good idea. Think I'll rack up some rules—about 625, I can think of. Fill up the Torah!

NOAH

Couldn't we keep it simple? Like nine or ten?

GOD

Ten! Okay, ten! Nice round number. Damn you're hard to please! I mean, anything else?! Shit!

He punches in an earmark on his iPhone.

NOAH

Yeah, well...oh Lord! Yahweh...Respectfully, I thought maybe you could do a little selecting out. You know, keep a few good people.

GOD

Yeah, I know. Collateral damage. Believe me, that bothers me sometimes. But we've got to employ a little ruthless compassion here. So... I've invented something called Reincarnation. Good people get a chance to come back and try it all again, even in a better form. You know, handsome guys...hot women!

NOAH

Why can't they just live it now?

GOD

Well, we screwed up a little bit with this whole longevity thing. I mean look at Whatshisname...Seth, 800 years plus! And Methuselah, 930. That's just too long.

NOAH

I know I'm pushing 300! And trust me, I just don't have the energy I used to.

GOD

See there? Exactly what I mean! So it's easier just to blow it all up and start all over. And in the New World nobody lives over 60, 70—80 tops!

He punches-in another mental note to himself.

Yeah! That's the ticket.

NOAH

But...respectfully, isn't it a little early in the story to go wiping out the whole world?

GOD

Au contraire, mon ami! What do want me to do—wait a few thousand more years until things get really screwed up?! Cut your losses early on. That's Rule #1!

NOAH

But I mean, couldn't you just wave a magic wand or something, and fix everything—you know, change consciousness, make things vanish? Or just disintegrate everything that doesn't work... I mean you are, well...God.

GOD (*interrupts*)

Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! I thought about all that. Not metaphorical enough. We've got to get graphic, you know! Send a message!

NOAH

A message?! And just whose going to get the message? I mean there's nobody left.

GOD

Look! Don't argue! I'm God! I don't like questions!

He points to his "Just Do It!" T-shirt.

What does this say?

NOAH (*mutters*)

Just do it!

GOD

What?!

NOAH (*still grumbling*)

Just do it!

GOD (*like a drill instructor*)

I can't hear you!!

NOAH

"Just do it!" I get it! I get it!

GOD

'Bout effin' time! So...

NOAH

Well, I just had a few logistical concerns.

GOD (*impatient*)

Okay. Okay! What!? What, what, what?!

NOAH

Had a little list here...

He pulls out a role of parchment that rolls out along the floor.

GOD

What?! What the hell is that?! I'm not answering all those!

NOAH

Well, just a few Lord, so I can get my bearings.

GOD

Oh, okay. Half a dozen, maybe...ten, tops!

Noah goes over his notes, putting his finger on the first item.

NOAH

It says here in my notes that you want me to make the Ark out of gopher wood. And...

GOD

And what?!

NOAH

And I don't even know what "gopher wood" is. And I don't know anyone who does. I mean...what is gopher wood?

GOD

No, no, no, new, new, new! I said, "Go for wood."
He points to his iPhone.
See, it clearly says, "Go for wood."

NOAH

But, but...

GOD

But what?!

NOAH

I remember asking you if you meant "gopher wood," and you said. "Yes!"

GOD

Hey man! I had a migraine at the time. Okay? I mean give a guy a break! Wood! Wood! I don't care what kind of wood. What have you been using up to now?

NOAH

Uh...cypress?

GOD

Cypress is fine! Oak and Pine are better. But cypress is fine.

NOAH

It's the Middle East. We don't get a lot of oak and pine here.

GOD

Then import it! And look around at all the cedar you've got! I mean, get creative. You're Noah! You're an innovator. It's part of the reason I chose you. That old entrepreneurial spirit! Make it happen, man!

GOD cuffs Noah on the arm in a good old boy fashion. Noah consults his notes.

NOAH

Then, there's the size of the Ark!

GOD

Yeah. What about it?

NOAH

Well, you said, I should make it...

He checks his notes.

300 **cubits** long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high, with 3 decks...

GOD*(is texting)*

Right! So?

NOAH*(checks his data)*

I mean, in modern parlance, that's about 450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 40 feet high.

GOD

Yeah! Big huh?!

NOAH

But maybe not big enough, your God-ship. See, from your orders, we've got about 17,500 species of animals to save. So we're going to need one that's about 12 decks and about the size of the Queen Mary...

GOD

I get it! Make it bigger! Okay?!

NOAH

But...Yahweh, sir. We've got a manpower shortage here.

He checks.

I mean you want my three sons—Ham, Shem and Japeth—and me to build this whole thing and not tell anyone else.

GOD

Got to be a secret, right!

NOAH

And you want us to complete the job in about six months...

GOD

Yeah...

NOAH

But, according to my calculations, if it's just us the four of us to finish this, it's going to take about...120 years!

GOD

So, what are you saying?

NOAH

So, I thought maybe...couldn't we have a little help? You know, some kind of miracle. You know like...

GOD

What!? You want me to build it for you? Is that what you're saying?!

NOAH

I just thought, a little jump-start!

GOD

Look...Noah. Let's get something straight, okay? I don't just go tossing miracles around like loose change, you know! I mean, if I did it would ruin the whole effect. I mean, you're here to sweat and strain and toil and labor and grow old and die. That's how you earn your place in heaven. Got it?!

NOAH

Got it! I just...

GOD

(interrupts)

Look, I deal in Concepts. The really important stuff. I don't have time for all this knit-picking. So I'm leaving the little details to you. So...okay look. If you need some help, get your buddy down the road. Your cousin, Whatsisname...

NOAH

Hyam.

GOD

Hyam! Right! Get Hyam and a few of his buddies—the ones you find morally acceptable to pitch in. Speed things up if you need to.

NOAH

So...when we finish, can they come onto the Ark then?

GOD *(Thinks about it.)*

Maybe a lottery...

(Thinks about it) Oh, okay! What the hell?

NOAH

And their families?

GOD

Okay, okay, their families too! Just keep it quiet. We don't want this to get around.

NOAH

Get around? How's it going to get around? Everybody else is dead. So how's it going to get around?

GOD

I meant beforehand. Could cause a run on the Ark! You want a run on the Ark!? I don't. We need...

(He checks his notes on the iPhone)

"Mockery, skepticism, and ridicule of your efforts"—reinforces my theory that mankind sucks at the moment...What else?

NOAH

This whole 40 days and 40 nights thing... And all the people and animals that we don't get into the Ark drown and all that. Right?

GOD

Basically, yeah. That's it.

NOAH

Well, I just wondered. If everybody drowns, and all the animals and stuff. Well, that's a lot of dead bodies, isn't it? I mean millions and millions of rotting, stinking putrefying corpses.

GOD

So...

NOAH

And after the water drains down and everything dries up, what's going to happen to all the stinking rotting carcasses?

GOD

Well, you've got carrion—vultures, buzzards, crows, you know!

NOAH

But if, like you said, you're going to destroy...

NOAH *(Continuing, reads from the text)*

"Both man and beast and every creeping thing and the fowls of the air..." Well, if you're killing the fowls of the air, we've got nothing left to clean up all these dead bodies.

GOD

Well, we've got ants and worms and maggots...

NOAH

Well, not really. Because if you've killed everything, you've killed them to — except for two of each which couldn't begin to handle all this inventory—all these rotting dead, stinking bodies.

GOD

Well, we've got fish. The fish will eat a lot. Well, some anyway...

NOAH

And what about the fish? I mean you're wiping out all these earth animals and mammals and birds, but you haven't even addressed the issue of fish. I mean are fish all that great? I mean, Krill. Who really gives a damn about Krill. And jellyfish. I mean what's so great about a jellyfish?

GOD

(Growing irritated)

So what are you driving at?!

NOAH

I mean—all they do is float about stinging things. And you can't eat 'em, can you?! And starfish? What good are starfish, except maybe to put on your mantle?

GOD

Get to the point!!

NOAH *(Grows cheeky)*

You haven't really thought this whole thing through, have you?

GOD *(It strikes him)*

Are you having a go at me?! You're having a go at me! You're having a bloody go at me!! Down on your knees, you worm!

NOAH

But you said, you wanted to have a conversation...

GOD

Shut up!! You're pissing me off!

NOAH

But you said you didn't want me to grovel.

GOD

I changed my mind! I'm God! I can change my mind! Shut up!

God gets up and points his finger at Noah.

Get back down and grovel! And do it now! I need some serious groveling! Now!!

Noah gets down on the floor and grovels. God lays it on. Bends over him and gloats.

Uh, huh. Uh, huh! Who's your Daddy now? Who's your Daddy now?!

You are!
NOAH

You sure now?
GOD*(appeased)*

Yes, oh Lord.
NOAH

That's more like it...
GOD

Just as God and Noah are interacting, Mrs. Noah, calls out from offstage.

EZMARA
Noah! One of the lions ate another one of the lambs!

Noah turns from his groveling, calling back over his shoulder to answer.

NOAH
I told you not to put 'em so close together! Move the lambs to the opposite side of the Ark! Crikey! How hard is that?!

EMZARA
(Entering as she finishes her line.)
I told you it was too early to bring them on board! But, oooh, no, you had to do it now, Mr. Smarty Pants!

Stumbling into the room, she feigns surprise.
Oh, so sorry to have interrupted, oh Lord!
She sees what is going on and gets down on her knees.

Oh forgive me...
God immediately relents and grows deferential.

GOD
Oh, not to worry, Sweetheart! Your husband and I were just having a little reality check.

Turns to Noah still groveling.
Weren't we, Noah?!

GOD
(Continuing, turns his attention to Ezmara)
Come on, sweet lady, up, up, up! Now what can We do for you?

EZMARA
(Coy and flirting, she gets up)
Well, your Grace...

GOD

Call me Yahweh! Or Yah! You know, it's cool.

EZMARA

Well, Yah. I didn't know if Noah had mentioned about the issue of... Well, I mean we're going to be sailing around for about a year or so. And we're going to have a lot of animals and things. And well... you know we'll have so much, you know...

Coy, but growing bolder, she comes over and whispers into his ear.

GOD

Not to worry. I've got it all figured out, right here.

He whips out a rendering on his iPhone and shows Emzara.

Look, we create this metal chute right in the middle of the arc. Creates a vacuum right here. You pour your... whatever in here... pull this string, slide some water down with it, and "slurp" it all goes right down into the sea! Voilà!

EZMARA

Oh, brilliant! Oh Genius!

GOD

I call it a Head! Because if you're going to solve a problem like that, you've got to use your Head! Get it. [Eh! Eh!?!]

EMZARA

(carried away, hugs him)

Oh, Lord! You are the man!

GOD

Hey, I'm God. If I don't come up with things, who will?

Emzara curtsies again, looking up flirtatiously.

EMZARA

Just one last little favor... Yah!

GOD

Name it, angel!

EMZARA

Cats!

GOD

Love cats! I'm a cat guy! Low maintenance. Smart. Clean. No hassles. Mind their own business.

EMZARA

But...the allergies! They're driving me crazy!

GOD

Look, the cats stay. But I'll tell you what: Take a couple of snorts of this...

He reaches in his jeans, and hands her an inhaler.

It's called NASONEX. Get's rid of your cat allergy in no time.

He demonstrates. Overwhelmed. Emzara falls to her knees.

EMZARA

Oh, truly you are God!

GOD *(helps her to her feet.)*

Today it's God. Tomorrow its big Pharma. It's all good—got your back! Go with...you know...

Overwhelmed Emzara runs from the room. GOD watches her exit. Noah looks up from the floor.

Interesting lady...

NOAH

Yeah, I was wondering if I might, you know...

Noah gives the exit sign with his thumb.

GOD

Noah, what's up with you, man?! The mother of your children, your life mate for how long—and here you are trying to "better deal" her?

NOAH

You try having sex with the same woman for a couple of hundred years and see how you like it.

GOD

You know, it's not too late to make a change. I do have a short list. Your name just came up first.

NOAH

Yeah but you won't, because...we're too far into this.

GOD

Leverage! I like that! Noah, the negotiator! Get up man. I'm tired of talking down to you.

Cautiously Noah, gets up, going back to his list.

NOAH

Just a couple of more details, oh Great One!

GOD

(Checks his iPhone)

Okay but that's all. I'm late for an appointment.

NOAH

About the animals...I mean, you say here that

He quotes

"Of every clean beast thou shalt take to the by seven, male and his female, and of beasts that are not clean by two, male and his female, and so on, and so on..."

GOD

Yeah, what about it?

NOAH

Well, sometimes, it's hard to tell which is which.

GOD

I told you, just mention my name. And the ones who go down on one knee are clean. They're the one's who get me. So they're the one's you pick.

NOAH

Well, we know cats are clean, and horses are clean, and sheep are clean... But sometimes its hard to tell...I mean, it says all over the place that pigs are unclean. But the minute I mentioned your name that pig went right down on one knee.

GOD

Well, there's your answer, idn't it?

NOAH

But what about lizards? What about a Gecko for example? Gecko's don't really have knees. So it would be hard for a Gecko to fall to his knees if he doesn't have knees...

GOD

Then, he's probably not clean is he?

NOAH

I mean, what did you do—just go around saying this creature's not clean, so I'm not gonna give him knees?! I mean what if he's clean but doesn't have knees.

GOD *(growing sullen)*

Point made.

NOAH

Well, what about chickens? Chickens don't have knees do they? So they can't bow down, can they? But chickens are very utilitarian. They give eggs, and they're good to eat. So we really need more chickens, don't we?

GOD

So?

NOAH

So, we're kind of on the threshold of a paradox aren't we?

GOD doesn't answer immediately, but it doesn't matter because Noah is on a roll now.

And snakes. I mean, how can you tell if a snake is going down on one knee since he doesn't even have any arms or legs? I mean, he's a snake isn't he? And he may be the best snake he can possibly be, but he's a snake. So he's got no knees, does he? So...

GOD

So, trust me! Snakes are not clean! Okay!?! I mean use your head, man.

NOAH

Then why did you make so many of them. I mean, according your list we have over 1723 different species of snakes—bout a third of them poisonous—and 13 different species of Cobra.

GOD

So?!

NOAH

So why did we have to have so many species of Cobra? I mean one's bad enough. But 13? I mean why so many?

GOD

Well, because...

(Forgetting, he checks his iPhone)

Because. "I've looked upon the Earth, and it is corrupt, for all flesh has corrupted its way upon the earth," etc. and so forth. So they're here for contrast—to show you true evil exists. [Besides, they're good at killing rats and things.]

NOAH

But we know evil exists. That's why you're blowing up the whole thing. So...

GOD

So, what's your point?! Cut to the chase! Shit!

Noah, starts to speak but GOD cuts him off.

Never mind! I know what you're going to say. Okay! We'll cut it down to a couple of species of Cobra: the Banded Cobra! And the spitting Cobra!

With that, Noah looks at God solicitously.

NOAH

Have you ever tried to catch a spitting Cobra?

GOD *(irritated, disbelieving)*

What?!

NOAH

I mean, you come within a 100 feet of them, and they spit right in your eye! I mean, makes it a bit dodgy, don't you think? I mean, some of these creatures are tough to deal with. Crocodiles, for example!

GOD starts to respond but Noah keeps jamming.

And Hippopotamus! Whatever made you create those? They're fat. They're mean. They're dangerous. They kill everything that moves. And they live under water most of the time. So how am I supposed to keep a mean, fat, overeating, killing machine—and his mate!—who lives under water dropped into a place with limited space that's supposed to float on top of water? See what I'm sayin'?

GOD

Shut up! Shut up! Just shut up!!

Calming himself down, God paces away for a moment then comes back.

Look. I'm a broad stroke kind of guy! I see the big picture. The Big Picture! Get it?! I gave you a game plan. And you've got to take care of the rest! If you want three dozen chickens then bring on three dozen chickens. If you only want one kind of Cobra then, that's your call. See what I'm sayin'?! I don't really care! Just do the best you can! Okay? And no more attitude! All you've done since I got here is bitch! And it's pissing me off!

NOAH

Well, your honor! I'm just tryin' to make this work, you know? It's just that this list you gave me has got some real red flags. I mean, you say here that I have to save two Roos. What's a Roo? I don't even know what a roo is?

GOD

Roo! Yeah! It's short for Kangaroo. You know Kangaroo?

NOAH

No, I don't. And I don't know what a...

(he reads)

"Tasmanian Devil," is either. What, are we savin' devils now?

GOD

Wait one.

He checks his iPhone.

Oh, never mind. They're Down Under. Yeah, Australia. My man, Akama has the Ark Franchise down there!

NOAH

Akama?! Ark franchise!? Ark franchise!? You're sellin' Ark Franchises?!

GOD

Yeah. I'm God. I can do what I want. And let's face it you were on overload. So I had to hedge my bet in a few places.

NOAH

You mean, you're running this game in different locations?!

GOD

Yeah, I am. You got a problem with that? Look, we're just feelin' our way along here. This Whole New World thing is a pretty daring concept. So cut me some slack! Okay?!

NOAH*(shrugs it off)*

Well, oh Lord, while you're at it...you've got a list of animals you're phasing out—which includes dragons and griffins and unicorns. And in fact, all mystical beasts.

GOD

Yeah, they've all got to go. Giants and Titans too. Bad idea. Too ambitious a concept. Got to cut my losses.

NOAH

Well, we've got a representative of theirs, waiting in the wings to see you. After all, you might want to hear him out...

GOD

Look, I'm on a tight schedule, know what I mean...

NOAH

Well, he's being waiting for a couple of weeks.

GOD *(Checks his iPhone and relents.)*

Oh, all right...

Noah motions to the wings. A man in a Dragon suit comes in and sits down. He even puts his feet up.

THE DRAGON

Look, I know what you're going to say...Too large, right?

GOD

Pretty much, yeah! I mean the sheer logistics alone.

THE DRAGON

But look at me now! I'm only six feet tall.

GOD

Yeah, but you're what? Three, four years old?

THE DRAGON

Ten! I'm Ten!

GOD

Don't lie to me, I'm God. I see everything!

THE DRAGON

Okay. Five!

GOD gives him a solicitous stare. The Dragon takes his feet down and gets humble.

All right...four.

GOD

And in a few years you'll be what? Seventy, eighty feet? Look size does matter. You're too big. So we've got no place to put you. And you're more powerful than man. You scare him shitless. You spit flames. You eat everything you can get your talons on. You live to be 500 years-old. And you're basically just as intelligent as man, which makes you a very bad invention. I mean, if you had an opposing thumb and forefinger, man would be toast.

THE DRAGON

I grant you. But look! I'm adaptable. I'm good at guarding treasure. And I provide all kinds of spiritual metaphor. I mean I'm fraught with all kinds of metaphysical implications. And I could tone the rest down...You know, eat less. Destroy fewer villages. I mean my metaphysical contributions alone have to be cause for consideration...

GOD*(reconsidering)*

Yeah... nah! It's just not going to work. Man claims he's capable of abstract thought, but I'm not buying it. I mean, this whole mystic beast and symbolism is just over his head. It confuses him. And he would just end up worshipping you instead of me—and Griffins too, and Unicorns. I mean, false gods! Bad concept.

He has an aha! Moment.

But a great Commandment!

He texts the earmark into his iPhone.

"No false gods before me..." I like it!

THE DRAGON

So, I guess you're phasing us all out, huh?

GOD gets up and the Dragon joins him. GOD walks him back out the door with his arm around his shoulder.

GOD

Yeah, it's a whole new world—streamlined, smaller, shorter life-spans, more technology. But look! I've invented this whole new concept called "The Transmigration of Souls. Reincarnation!" So, let's do this...You all get a, "Severance Package" for you. First, when man gets to learn how to read and write, I'll see to it that you get immortalized in myth and legend.

Immortality...
THE DRAGON
(He thinks about it.) I could do with a bit of that.

GOD
And, you can come back as any creature you like. I recommend an eagle. Or a whale, if you want to consider the size thing.

THE DRAGON
Never cared much for water.

GOD
Eagle it is then! Live up high! Soar into the sky [just like before]...and you're a symbol for all that is best about human nature! Instead of being more or less of a villain, which is the rap you're getting now.

THE DRAGON
A positive image...

GOD
We aim to please. I mean, blowing up the world like this is a bit of a mess, isn't it? So, we have to be flexible. Don't we?

THE DRAGON
I'll pass the word!

GOD
Say good things about me.
They start to shake, but bump fists instead. The Dragon exits. Noah reenters.

NOAH
That went well!

GOD *(Impatient, looks at his watch)*
Look, I've done all I can. I'm on a schedule. So I'm leaving the rest in your capable hands.

As GOD pats Noah on the shoulder, a beautiful, if showgirl cheap, twenty-something appears in the doorway. This is Naamah, Noah's other hot, young wife.

NAAMAH
Noah! I'm horny!
Seeing her, Noah fustily motions her away. But she refuses to leave.

Noah! I want you inside me. So whip out that big monster mammajamma!!

Noah keeps motioning, but GOD catches on.

GOD

And who might this be?!

NOAH

Oh, that's nobody that's uh...

GOD

That was a rhetorical question.

He glances slyly in Noah's direction.

Noah! You dawg! You got a second wife!

NOAH (*anxious*)

Well, I...you know, uh...

GOD

No lad. I get it! Your second wife, Naamah! No worries! You've got needs. I understand. Shows ingenuity! Unfortunately...

He checks his data on his iPhone.

Yeah, see...in the new world I'm creating, we've outlawed polygamy. Just creates too many domestic issues. Egos. Territorial imperatives. So, uh...you're going to have to get rid of one of them.

NOAH (*jumps on it.*)

Take the other one. Take the other one.

GOD

Yeah...you know it just doesn't work that way. We've got the whole "mother of your children" thing. And there's tenure. You know, you've got to show some loyalty.

NAAMAH (*Skeptical*)

Who's this?

NOAH

Oh, sweetie this is Yahweh! Jehovah. You know...

He mouths the word, "GOD"

NAAMAH

Not very impressive...

GOD

Oh, yeah! You want to be impressed? Look at this?

He taps into his iPhone, showing an image.

That's where I hang out.

NAAHAH

Hot!!

GOD

Trust me. My house has many mansions!

NAAMAH

Nice.

GOD

So, Naamah. We find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma. In our new world, Noah can only keep one wife. So I'm going to give you an option. You can come with me. Or you can draw straws here with Noah's other wife, Emzarah. If you win, she goes. And if she wins, you go. [In which case, you're left behind to drown and fester and rot while fish and carrion devour your decaying flesh.]

NAAMAH

Eewww!

GOD

Yeah, we'll your odds are 50-50. Not all that bad. But with me, they're 100%.

NAAMAH

100%? I like that!

NOAH

What!? Wait a minute! You're really considering leaving me.

NAAMAH

Well, Noah! These are tough times. And you know I've always been risk averse. I mean a girl has to look out for herself.

She turns to GOD

So what kind of package are you offering?

NOAH

You bitch!

GOD

Not really—this is the woman for a new era. They've got instincts for the "Better Deal." It's in their DNA.

He turns to Naamah.

Look angel. Here's the deal. You know when you get with Noah, and you hit that "G" spot and Wow! You know...orgasm!

NAAMAH

I think so. Yeah, maybe once.

GOD

Well, when you come with me inside the Pearly, you get to experience that all the time. It's called Ecstasy!

NAAMAH (*considering*)

Hmmm. All the time? I don't like doing anything all the time. What if I get bored?

GOD

Okay, look. If you get bored, in a few thousand years, I'll let you reincarnate. You can come back and be a cover model, live in this magazine publisher's mansion, lie around in the sun all day, swim, and hang out in his grotto and shag movie stars. I'll even throw in a December cover spread. What do you say?

NAAMAH

I say...bring it on!

Naamah and GOD high five. They start to walk out together. Noah is disbelieving.

NOAH

Unbelievable. Un-fucking-believable!

GOD *(turns back to Noah)*

Look Noah! I'm doin' you a favor! Trust me. In twenty years or so, she's going to put on about 80 pounds, her tits will be down to her knees, and you'll be tired of shagging her. So, I'm saving you a boatload of disappointment. Meanwhile...you've got some tough deadlines my friend! So get on it! Time is a thief!

NOAH

Yahweh! I can't believe you're doin' this. After all I've done down here. I, your most loyal servant...as you have so often pointed out!

GOD

Yeah, well...Rule #1. "The Lord giveth, and the Lord Taketh away.

NOAH *(sullen)*

That's Rule #2. Rule # 1 was "Cut Your Losses."

GOD

Right! See. I need you man! We're a team! Rule #2 "The Lord Giveth and taketh away!" Ciao baby.

He walks out the door with Naamah, but then comes back into the room, pointing at his watch!

Come on man! Tick, tick, tick.

GOD exits. Noah watches.

NOAH *(beat)*

Shit!!

As Noah shouts out. Emzara reenters stage right, singing.

EMZARA

Well, the Lord Giveth and He taketh away!

She is joined by the Dragon who enters, stage left.

THE DRAGON

Well, the Lord giveth, and He taketh away!

They are joined by Naamah who enters center-stage.

NAAMAH

Well, the Lord giveth and He taketh away!

ALL

S'the way it is! Way it is. Way it is!

All repeat the refrain. All clap hands, in a good old tent revival fashion.

Well, the Lord giveth and He taketh away!

Well, the Lord giveth and He taketh away!

Oh yes! The Lord giveth and He taketh away!

S'the way it is! Way it is! Way it is!

As they continue clapping GOD reenters stage center.

GOD

Well, life is tough, and it's enough just to play your part.

But understand I've always got your interest at heart.

And day to day can be a drag without creativity!

So I come along and show you all your possibilities!

Otherwise, you'd fall so far out of control.

That you'd lose your wife,

Your House

Your life

And probably your soul.

All repeat the refrain. All clap hands, in a good old tent revival fashion. As they sing and clap hands Noah joins them.

ALL

That's why the Lord giveth and He taketh away!

That's why the Lord giveth and He taketh away!

Oh yes! The Lord giveth and He taketh away!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

They reach a crescendo and extend their hands to the audience. GOD jumps in the middle, and the ensemble extends hands to the audience.

Curtain

Scene 2: Epilogue. *GOD comes outside the closed curtain, playing a ukulele. He is mellow and very lay back.*

GOD

Well that's not really me.
That was back in the day.
The world was still young.
I was feeling my way
A-round it.

I was still forming
The meaning of living
I was still learning
The meaning of giving.
I found it.

It's pure and it's True.
And I'm always there for you.

It's the wings of the dove
It's the faith of a boy
It's all about love
It's all about joy,
And you know it.

It's been such a journey
It's the Mote in God's Eye
It's deep in your heart
It's clear as the Sky
As you Grow...

It's pure and it's True
And it's always there for you.
My love is always there for you.
It's there for you.
It's there...always there...for You!

GOD ends the song, and bows.

Thanks for coming.
And We'll see You on the other side.

*He points a finger around at the audience and exits stage right.
Blackout.*