

Divine comedy

God's vision of reality isn't what we experience in this world



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In the beginning ... what's more likely? Some overblown explosion, a "Let There Be Light" with plenty of reverberation to impress the rubes?

Or just a cutaway, the now-you-see-it opposite of magic: nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, something.

In fact, Everything. And all at once, and quieter than any whisper, God's wheels, in mid-turn, turning.

The world might be newborn any moment. History, those pesky dinosaur bones no one knows what to do with, even your own memories created *en medias res*, like light already en route from Andromeda to your eyeball.

A divine economy of creation: make the world as it would have turned out anyway and judge it on that basis; instead of the Biblical Seven Days you take care of the whole thing, Genesis to Apocalypse, with a break for lunch and done before dinner.

Which leaves us, all of us, in that interval the authorless documents of a nonexistent past all call grace: The moment before God wipes His hands on a paper napkin and gets back to His bloody work. Quick, it could be any minute!

Sure, I know what you're saying: "Gee, Mark, what do you expect us to do about it? I mean, God is over 9 feet tall, has scaly arms and big, sharp, pointy teeth! If he feels like chopping wood, who - and what army - is gonna stop him?"

"It wouldn't take more than an asteroid the size of hardly one of God's

littles toenail clippings, from one of his smallest toes, falling on Dallas of a Wednesday morning," you go on. "He did it before with the dinosaurs, God knows what they did to earn His Divine Extinction."

And really you feel quite chatty and you muse:

"Maybe they had just finally eaten enough of those giant ferns they had back then, and produced enough doo-doo to cover the Earth, mostly. And He drowned them (in the Flood) to add compost to the sludge that, just in time for the 20th century, would percolate into enough crude oil to produce one hell of a Boom Town before going Bust."

"Like it's all sort of some cosmic plan, dig?"

Or punchline.

God leads all His lambs to slaughter. Not that I blame Him. They belong to Him, don't they? The little lambs? Don't they?

As Saint Homunculus said, in the 23rd book of Mumbblings: "Who will deliver me from this pizza of death?"

Let me just say that it's that kind of sniveling that will send us all to Gehenna in a handbag if we don't straighten up as a species and fly right.

Like any bully, you gotta stand up to God. There's no hiding away from his X-Ray eyes which make you feel so naked - as if a fig leaf in the crotch equals lead codpiece, no. But calmly and clearly expounding the unfairness of it all, to be judged by some Heavenly Bean Counter. Tell it like it is: We simply refuse to go.

To God all this (and by all this I mean more than just "from Bob Devaney to the Penis of the Plains," I mean the whole enchilada - including parts you thought you had just imagined) may be nothing more than an experiment, a game of checkers with the Devil or simply some kind of prank.

To us it is the world, el mundo. We are born by that thunder and murder each other beneath that moon. Our life involves terrible risks: loving children is terrible.

And, bending down to tie one's shoe at Little Big Horn or Gallipoli, the blood pounds in one's head like pounding on a coffin's lid: from the inside.

Stand up to him!

Peek behind curtains, sling monkey wrenches, count your chickens, leap without looking!

Make yourself useless.

I have striven all my life to be perfectly useless and hereby repent the few times (through weakness of will, fear, slavery to the flesh) I ceased to be anything but utterly and completely useless to the machine, the great boot in the back of our neck, triumphant King of this World.

I have endeavored and will continue to persevere in wasting time, stalling, fooling around, making things up, flipping the bird, complaining, lamenting and poking - with a sharpened stick - the humorless eyeball, the All Seeing, as depicted on the back of the dollar bill: In Hod We Rust.

While the rest of the world goes marching by (Hurrah!) I will be off on the sidelines, shaking my money maker or - if I must be carried along - dragging my heels.

I resent all attempts to get me to mollycoddle my so-called superiors - people I wouldn't deign even to parody were they not in positions of temporal power.

Stand up to him! The old Nobodaddy.

Send a message, loud and clear: If he can't play nice he can't play around here.

Look, if my plan works we could maybe bust outta this joint. And then we might actually see a little progress - I mean like Pilgrim's, not Edison's.

But first we gotta ditch this paranoid, spiteful, jealous God.

And if I'm wrong?

Well, let's all meet in Hell somewhere, say a thousand years from tonight under the big clock tower with human hands (you can't

miss it) to discuss things. I'll be there, along with some of Hell's more interesting citizens. And if you forget the date don't worry. I plan to show up around 2912 and just wait around for about a hundred years.



DEB LEE/DN

Failing families

New definition of values only hurts children, destroys tradition



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In case you missed the DN on Monday, 8-year-old Stuart Kujath loves his gay mom.

And Lincoln knows it, thanks to our ever-faithful media and a family who was willing to exploit a child for political gain.

I find it rather ironic that at the very rally at which young Stuart waved his colorful and politically loaded sign, the discourse was on "the new face of family values."

Just so you know, the rally was part of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's new rhetoric aimed at changing public opinion about the nature of family values.

And last Friday a small army of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people and supporters met on the steps of the Capitol for a Pride Rally.

After the rally, some attendees went to lobby the Unicameral about LB69 (even though the Legislature was in recess) introduced by Sen. Ernie

Chambers, which would add sexual orientation to a list of characteristics employers may not discriminate against.

LB69 has not been declared a priority bill and is expected to remain in the Judiciary Committee this legislative session, despite the exercise in influencing public policy.

Scott Winkler, Chairman of the Nebraska Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Political Organizations, was quoted by the Lincoln Journal Star as saying, "We put a new face on gay and lesbian Nebraska for them."

Too bad they chose Stuart's face. And too bad this political group is endeavoring to change the consensus of what family values are. You see, the redefining of family values can only serve to further exploit little Stuart.

This campaign to redefine the family is threatening the very principle that has propelled our nation to greatness - dedication to the family.

Of course, questions about what a family really is and who determines what makes up a family are unavoidable. Of course, the sanctity of the institution of marriage is dissolving among the sea of egocentrism and sexual confusion prevalent in our nation. Of course, the integrity of a lifetime commitment between a man and a woman is compromised so often in popular media and by national leaders that it may be difficult to remember when the definition of family was clear.

Historically, Judeo-Christian

instruction has provided the model for a family unit - an enduring commitment between a man and a woman.

This is the family unit that has formed the foundation of successful human civilizations.

Today, as that foundation deteriorates in the wake of redefinition, the most vulnerable and important component of our society is placed at risk - our children.

You see, in this reality of moral deficiency, the children are the ones facing the consequences.

Now we have entire movements, entire segments of society, that endeavor to not only redefine family but who also have labored to change the societal consensus about the importance of the family structure.

Research reveals a direct correlation between an increase in criminal activity and the compromise of family values. In the second half of this century, we have seen crime rates soar and religious conviction regress.

We are a country in which roughly half of our children are without one parent. And while the effects of this phenomena are staggering, popular culture is comfortable to accept the trend as the standard.

The American Journal of Sociology recently published a study statistically linking almost every major crime category (including violence against strangers, car theft, mugging and burglary) to single parenthood.

Nebraska's Center for Family Policy reports that fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of

school.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that around 70 percent the population in long-term juvenile correctional facilities are kids who were raised without fathers.

Children whose parents separate are notably more likely to exhibit behavioral disorders, be sexually active and to abuse drugs.

The single most contributing factor to juvenile delinquency is not race, social class or education level. It's whether or not a father was present in the home.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the second leading cause of death for all young people aged 15-24, and the leading cause of death for black and Hispanic youth in this age group.

The statistics are heartbreaking and plentiful. They coincide with society's denial of the value of the traditional family, a family in which a man and a woman enter into a lifelong commitment to each other and consequently, their children.

The "new face of family values" need not be one that embraces or facilitates an environment in which children don't flourish. The new face of family values need not be one that underestimates the importance of both a mother and a father.

The "new face of family values" should be a return to an encompassing dedication to the preservation of the family, one that will provide hope and stability for our children.

These campaigns to change the family as we know it are an assault on the futures of our children, and ultimately on the future of our nation.

At the Pride Rally last Friday, Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was reported in the Omaha World-Herald as believing the end was in sight for conservative groups who oppose homosexuality and use it as a political platform.

She went on to say that she looks forward to a day when such groups have to come to terms with the wrongs they have done to the homosexual community.

It seems to me that Lobel simply misunderstands that opposition to the lifestyle is not personal, it's a measure to protect family values.

Lobel was also cited by the Lincoln Journal Star as saying that opposition such lifestyles was a function of fearing their "ability to love each other with wholeness and authenticity." She continued, "It is with that love that we must lead our country into a different day."

Again, I'm afraid Lobel missed the point. Opposition is not the fear of whole or authentic love. In fact, that assertion is asinine. As for leading our country into a different day ...

We're already at a point where the statistical future for children like Stuart is markedly dim.

The direction for our country should now be a return to family values and a dedication to the future of our children.