

The story of... God, Eve and Adam

What if...

1,526 words: 9 min.

As Readers' Theatre

Cast:

God: Linnea

Eve: Cheryl

Adam: Donald

Narrator: Ralph

Elephant: Donald

Blue Jay: Cheryl

Baboon: Donald

Narr: Way back when, at the very beginning of things, there was a God with an unpronounceable name. Something like Yahweh. Probably close, but nobody was sure. Now this Yahweh, being after all - well, God - shouldn't have *needed* anything.

God: I know. I'm God, right? So I'm supposed to be all powerful and all perfect and all knowing – but – I'm lonely. Yeah. There's no other gods around. Just me. And I'm lonely.

Narr: So Yahweh started making things. And in each little creation, Yahweh invested love. Deep love.

God: Ohhh this is fun. Round things like worlds, and growing things like dandelions and creepy crawly things like worms.

Narr: When God first made them, the animals could talk. But their conversations were pretty boring.

God: (ANNOYED) All you talk about is necessary things, practical things, like eating and mating and having babies.

Narr: There were two words the animals never used. What if.... Yahweh used those words constantly.

God: What if, instead of having babies come out of eggs, we grew them in their mother's stomach?

Elephant: I laid a two-hundred pound egg last week. I was going for the elephant record, and now you decide to change it.

God: What if you had a three-hundred pound baby instead? You wouldn't have to sit on it for two years.

Elephant: I suppose. But we never did it that way before.

Narr: The birds and the insects and reptiles seemed to be the most conservative of all.

Blue Jay: No way, Jose! I like sitting on eggs. I like it! I like it!.....

God: (INTERRUPTING) So all right already! What if birds, insects and reptiles did eggs, and the rest of you had the new improved instant kid?

Baboon: What if...What if... Can't you leave things alone instead of creating all the time?

God: (WISTFULLY) No, I can't. That's who I am. You're a survivor. I'm a creator. And oh, how I'd like someone to create with me.

Elephant: Here we go again!

God: What if... What if I made something that's a little like both of us. And what if we called it a 'human'.

Let us make a human in *our* image. A being that's going to be like you animals in all kinds of ways. An animal that can run like the gazelle and make stupid faces like the chimp... a being that will be preoccupied with necessary things like eating and sex and bearing young and staying alive. But -- this being, this human, will be like me too. This human will know what it's like to be God. This human will understand things like beauty and joy. This human will get the point of a joke. This human will know how to love. This human will understand the words, 'what if...'.

Narr: So Yahweh God went to work. Yahweh took some of the dust of the ground, moistened it with the water of life, and shaped it into a beautiful creature called human. Then Yahweh held the new being close, like a mother cradling an new infant, and gently breathed the breath of life into this new creation.

God: (BREATHES LIFE INTO HUMAN IN HER ARMS)

Narr: And the human, the human became a living soul! The animals gasped. The human was beautiful. Just beautiful.

Animals: (ADMIRING SOUNDS)

God: Behold! Behold, this is *very* good!

Narr: Yahweh and the human had a wonderful time together. Yahweh and the human loved to begin sentences with What if... But some of the animals were much more logical than God. They pointed out a small flaw in the divine plan.

Baboon: Ah, God, You said this human was going to be like us animals... all about necessary things like eating and mating. The eating part is no problem. The human manages to eat alone, all right. But (CLEARING HIS THROAT LOUDLY) if you're gonna mate, you have to have a mate, right? A mate requires a mate in order to mate, am I right?

God: (WORRIED) Good point.
(BRIGHTENING) But I'll go you one better. I created this human to love. So the human will need more than just another human to mate with and bear offspring with. I'll create a partner, so that humans will be able to do far more than just mate. They will be able to make love. Yes, they will make love. And it will be a sacrament. Yes, a sacred sign! And these humans, out of their love making, and because they will understand a little of what sacredness means, they will be able to create the world *with* me.

Narr: So God made another human, very much like the first but different in just the right ways and places. Yahweh looked at the two humans standing there, bare naked and beautiful. And God loved them and gave them names. Eve and Adam. And Yahweh smiled a smile as wide as the rainbow. Yahweh enjoyed creating with the humans...enjoyed the long what if... conversations they had strolling through the gardens.

But Yahweh also was just a little worried. The humans were getting a little careless about their creating. It was just too easy

for them to say, what if... and ZAP, there it was. Then Yahweh knew these humans were incomplete. Something was missing. It was fun creating with these humans, but they seemed so... God wasn't sure what. The garden was perfect. Everyone was having fun. But it didn't seem to mean anything.

God: (PONDERING THEN BRIGHTENING)
Hey! I've got it. Eve. Adam. I have a whole new question. It's even bigger than 'what if.' The question is 'why?'

Adam: I don't get it.

Eve: Why? What do you mean, 'why'?

God: (PONDERING) What if... (PAUSE)

Eve: (IMPATIENT) What if what?

God: (SLIGHT PAUSE, THEN POINTING)
Look, Eve. Adam. That tree over there? You can't eat any of the fruit off it, see. That's reserved for me. Touch it, and I'll stomp on you good. Y'hear?

Adam: (SHRUGGING) Whatever you say,

Eve: But why?

God: Never mind. (SMILING) Just do as you're told.

Narr: But Eve wondered. She almost thought she heard a challenge in Yahweh's order. Adam shrugged and walked off, but Eve sat down, looked at the tree, her eyes sparkling with the new challenge.

Eve: Adam, that fruit salad you're making. I've got a new kind of fruit I'd like to add to it. Just a little.

Adam: Eve, is that the fruit Yahweh told us not to eat.

Eve: Yeah, Just a couple of small bits. It looks so delicious. And Yahweh will never know.

Narr: But Yahweh did know. After all, Yahweh was God. God knew everything.

God: (ANGRY) All right! Everybody out of the pool. You didn't play by the rules. You

tried to think for yourselves. You tried to act on your own. So the party's over. Out!

Narr: God sounded furious. But Eve thought she saw the hint of a smile in God's eyes. Or was it perhaps that God was shedding a divine tear. Yahweh was both mother and father of this race of humans. Yahweh had enjoyed their childlike innocence, and it seemed like a shame for them to have to grow up so quickly. It was both a tear and a smile. Yahweh, like all parents felt both joy and pain, sending the kids go off into the world.

So God put heavenly arms around the couple and gave them a hug.

God: Because you ate that fruit, you now know something that only I knew before. Something none of the animals can ever know. You know the difference between good and evil. You have grown up and become fully human. So you must leave the garden of childhood innocence, and make your way in the world. You're going to have to work for your food. But the work will build strength. Work will put you in touch with the earth from which you

were formed. And because you are fully human, you will know pain and danger and anger and alienation and shame. And heartbreak.

Narr: Eve and Adam could feel that great heavenly body quake. God was crying.

God: (SOFTLY) I'm sorry it has to be this way, but if you don't know about pain and danger and alienation and shame, you'll never know about joy and comfort and love and community and ecstasy. And death too. You've got to die so that you can live.

Eve: But why?

God: You are human Eve. You now understand so much more than all the other animals. You and Adam are like me in so many ways, but still, you will never fully understand. But, if you remember how we are creating this world together, and how much I love you, then sometimes, just for an instant, you will know.

Narr: So Adam and Eve went off to start the human race. And Yahweh grinned and

cried at their naked buttocks bouncing away from paradise and into the world.

God: Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. You're the caretakers of it. Be gentle with our creation. (CALLING) And... and... don't forget to call home. Text, eh?! Often! Please.