

Tell Me Why

**A Metaphysically Conceited Comedy
In Two Acts**

by
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Setting

Just before the Dawn of Creation, and then shortly thereafter in and around the Garden of Eden.

Time

Just before, and then for awhile after, Time begins.

Cast of Characters

Moses. A historian and a prophet, he is writing down everything that happens. Well, almost everything.

God. You know: the Creator. Who wants a universe that contains something other than Himself, and that wouldn't mind praising Him. Volatile, quick to anger, but also compassionate. He is not mean-spirited. God and Adam should look alike as much as possible.

Adam. The first man, childlike at first, but obsessed with questions. Unfortunately, not very good at arriving at answers. Naively trusting, he learns that trust is not always easy.

Lucy. The devillette. Very self-willed, proud as a peacock, sexy and seductive. And the ultimate Nihilist.

Eve. The first woman, she takes free will a bit too much to heart. A loving and sincere woman, capable of absorbing almost everything.

Scene Synopsis

Act I

- I-1 The Garden, at the Beginning
- I-2 The Garden, a few days later

Act II

- II-1 Outside the Garden, 20 years later
- II-2 Outside the Garden, a few days later
- II-3 Outside the garden, several hundred years later
- II-4 Outside the Garden, 100 years after Creation

*Well I gave you everything I had
But you left me sitting on my own
Did you have to treat me oh so bad
All I do is hang my head and moan
If there's something I have said or done
Tell me what and I'll apologise
If you don't I really can't go on
Holding back these tears in my eyes
Well I beg you on my bended knees
If you'll only listen to my pleas
Is there anything I can do
'Cause I really can't stand it, I'm so in love with you
Tell me why you cried, and why you lied to me
Tell me why you cried, and why you lied to me*

Lennon & McCartney

The following songs are suggested as opening music, curtain call music, and music to cover scene changes. These selections are optional, and can be certainly be substituted with other music (or none) as production requirements dictate.

"Tell Me Why", © Lennon & McCartney

Before start of Act I and start of Act II.

"Man Smart/ Women Smarter", © Norman Span & King Radio

Scene Change, Act I, Scene 1 to Scene 2

"Gates of Eden", © Bob Dylan

Scene Change, Act II, Scene 1 to Scene 2

"Sympathy for the Devil", © Jagger & Richards

Scene Change, Act I Scene 2 to Scene 3

"The Hallelujah Chorus", J.F. Handel

As God and Adam exit at the end, continue for Curtain Calls.

Act I

Scene 1

LIGHT: stage is completely dark. A voice speaks out of the darkness.

MOSES

Ahem. It's going to be a little hard to get this written down in the dark. I know "In the beginning" is the usual place to start, but you could roll things forward some. This is tough enough without having to guess at what it is I'm writing. How about jumping right ahead to "Let there be light"? *Fiat lux* and all that.

LIGHT: Lights come halfway, but only on half the stage: the other side is still in blackness. MOSES is seated at a desk, quill in hand, parchment before him. He wears some sort of robe implying Biblical times. Behind him, there is a forest. There is also a gate standing unattached to any wall. The Gate is open.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Oh, that's very nice. A clear separation of light and darkness. I'll just get that down while the image is fresh in my mind. "And the light was separated from the darkness." Listen, if this is as bright as it ever gets, you'll have every single living thing gone completely blind before the week is out.

LIGHT: Lights come up full on the lighted half.

MOSES (CONT'D)

Much better. Okay, here's what I've got so far: First there was Nothing, then there was Something. Then comes Light, and that separation there. The other side is Night of course. Then splitting the firmament. Oh, and there's some water someplace: over, under, it's not clear which.

GOD enters. He is dressed in workman's clothes, and has a tool belt. He holds a tape measure.

GOD

Sounds sort of blasé, Moses. Is that the best you can do?

MOSES

I'll spice up the language later.

GOD hands one end of tape to MOSES.

GOD

Hold this and stand next to the firmament there.

GOD extends tape from edge of light to edge of stage.

GOD (CONT'D)

I don't want it spicy, I want it dignified. And I want you to make sure you get all of it. Very important.

MOSES

For now, I'm just trying to concentrate on the main stuff. That's what you said you wanted.

GOD

(to himself)

Let's see, six hundred billion light years this side. The other side'll be the same. Big enough. If not, I can always expand it. Said I wanted what?

MOSES

For me to describe the Creation.

GOD

Frankly, I was hoping for a better description. The Creation of the Universe should get decent coverage. This is not exactly easy work I'm doing here, Moses. Well, actually, it is pretty easy.

MOSES

You're kidding?

GOD

I do not kid. You see, all I have to do is say a thing, and bingo! There it is. Word equals Thing. The hard part is dreaming up what to say. After that, it's a piece of cake.

MOSES

Just say it and there it is, huh?

GOD

Check this out: "Bacteria."

MOSES coughs.

GOD (CONT'D)

Voila, we've got disease.

MOSES

Nice trick.

GOD

You do have to be God.

MOSES

It couldn't hurt. Anyway, I'd be no good at it. I'm slow of speech and slow of tongue, as you well know.

GOD

Yes, I know. I know everything.

MOSES

If the Creation were up to me, it'd take a lot more than the six days you scheduled for it.

GOD

Six days, eh?

MOSES taps tablet.

MOSES

That's what it says here.

GOD

Actually, I figured in some slop time. I could do the whole thing in four days, five tops.

MOSES

Don't brag. Now go ahead and say whatever it is you're going to say, I'll try to keep up. But I have to tell you: I'm already getting writer's cramp. I hope I don't miss anything.

GOD

Just make sure you get the big stuff. The devil is in the details.

MOSES

What is that, the first joke?

LIGHT: As GOD enumerates the days, lights quickly go down to half and back to full to indicate the passage of days. GOD rubs his hands together.

GOD

Okay, here we go. That first light and dark and the firmament, that's two days already. Now, pile the waters up over there and that'll be the seas, and the dry land will be whatever's left. We'll put grass on the land, and plants and trees. Especially fruit trees.

LIGHTS: come up on the other side of the stage, where we see a large tree and a tall chest. The tree has fruit hanging from its branches and roses around its base.

GOD (CONT'D)

That'll do for a day.

GOD motions and LIGHTS go down almost off.

GOD (CONT'D)

Okay, the night is obviously way too dark, so put up a smaller light to take care of that, keep the big light for the day.

LIGHTS: Back up.

GOD (CONT'D)

Oh, and make the lesser light kind of fluctuate every few days, like a big pendulum.

LIGHTS: On one side of the stage go to full and black a few times.

GOD (CONT'D)

That's right. That way everything will be able to keep up with what time of year it is. That's a day. Big day coming up, it gets interesting here. Put fish in the sea and animals on the land.

SOUND: Animals.

GOD (CONT'D)

Oh, and let there be birds, lots of birds. Over both.

SOUND: Birds.

MOSES

The birds are a nice touch.

GOD

Thanks. But wait till you hear this. I made all of them, fish, birds, whatever, have two sexes, male and female. And that's all I had to do. They'll do all the work, and I sit back and watch them be fruitful and multiply.

MOSES

A peeping tom, that's what you are. But I have to agree that it is clever.

GOD

I am nothing if not clever. Okay, that's a day.

GOD motions with his hand, LIGHTS go down and up.

GOD (CONT'D)

That's five days, right?

MOSES nods.

GOD (CONT'D)

I told you I could do it in less than six. A nice job, if I do say so myself, and I do, and that's that.

MOSES

That's it?

GOD

This is it.

MOSES

You're sure this is it?

GOD

This is definitely it.

MOSES

Oh. So, what about man?

GOD

This is almost it.

MOSES

I thought Man was supposed to be the whole point. Create Creation and then give it to Man.

GOD

It is the whole point. I want to make sure I get it exactly right, that's all.

MOSES

You can get it wrong?

GOD

Let's just say I can get it less right. I am especially hung up on this free will issue. I mean, when a Creator goes to all the trouble of creating the universe, gets it just the way he wants it, he does not have a warm fuzzy feeling when there's a loose cannon like free will charging about the place.

MOSES

But you want Man to admire what you made.

GOD

Yes, and a little praise wouldn't hurt my feelings.

MOSES

All that admiration and praise will be so much empty noise if Man can only act like a parrot. Which is a very nice looking bird, by the way.

GOD

They have their place. But you're right. Without free will, I may as well use the parrot. Still, it is a risk.

MOSES

Who says you have to decide now? Go ahead and make Man, and then see how you like him. If you're satisfied with the way things turn out, give him free will then. Or don't.

GOD

Moses, for someone who is slow of speech, you do occasionally come up with a reasonable notion. Who says I have to decide now, indeed? Nobody but me. Okay, we'll start with mud.

MOSES

Mud? Why mud?

GOD fashions with his hands.

GOD

(building to a pitch)

I made the land and water first, so naturally, those have to be part of him. Then I add a little light, the "light of reason."

LIGHTS: brighten, then back to normal.

GOD (CONT'D)

And to top it all off, I breathe wind into the whole concoction.

GOD breathes into his hands.

MOSES

Why in the world would you want to break wind into him?

GOD

Breathe wind, not break. My breath. It's for his soul.

MOSES

That's a relief. What's he going to look like?

GOD

Why, me of course. Ecce, homo!

ADAM emerges from behind the tree, wearing a bathrobe.

GOD (CONT'D)

Well, what do you think?

MOSES

I'd have used more light and less mud. He has got your nose.

GOD

(to ADAM)

What do *you* think?

ADAM

I don't.

GOD

It's early yet.

MOSES

Does he have a name?

GOD

Let's see. His name should sound like... "Adam".

ADAM

Adam? Yes, that is my name. What's yours?

GOD

I'm God. But you can call me the Lord, if you want to. Or possibly Creator of the Universe. We try not to be too formal here.

ADAM

Nice to meet you, Lord.

GOD

Sooo- how do you feel?

ADAM

I feel great! Just great. Is there some other way I should feel?

GOD

Not at all. I was wondering how you liked all this. I made it for you.

ADAM

Really? Well, it's just great. Really. Looks great.

GOD

I made the whole thing, the entire Universe, just before I made you. It was sort of a big deal.

MOSES

That move from Nothing to Something, Bang! That was impressive.

ADAM

Well, it really is just great. Swell.

(pause)

Is, uh, this all there is?

GOD

All there is? What do you mean, is this all there is? There is a whole bunch of this. This goes way the hell out there, practically forever.

ADAM

Oh. Well, I could only see this part right here, and—

GOD

This is all there is.

(to MOSES)

You see what happens when you stuff an infinite spirit into a finite body? Cosmic myopia.

(to ADAM)

Is there anything you'd like to say? Any small word of appreciation?

ADAM

I said it was great. The, uh, Creation is really great.

GOD waits expectantly, MOSES discretely points to GOD.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Oh, and you. You're great, too. Oh, how great you are!

GOD

Well, thank you. Now it's time for you to get with the program, idle hands are the devil's workshop. Nothing has a name yet, except you, so naming things will be your big responsibility.

ADAM

But—

GOD

Oh, and if you see any odds or ends lying around, I'd appreciate it if you might clean up a little.

ADAM

But—

GOD

I already got rid of the trilobites and the dinosaurs, so it should be mostly okay. There is a lot of comet dust left over from that, but there's a broom around here somewhere.

(MORE)

GOD (CONT'D)

Moses, it's back to the Sinai for you. I've arranged a little meeting between you and Jethro. And his daughter, Zipporah. You're going to like her.

MOSES

I hope she's better looking than Nefertiti. Way too skinny.

GOD gives him a thumbs up and MOSES exits. GOD contemplates Creation one last time, motions for LIGHTS to go down and up (ADAM is awestruck by this), gives an appreciative nod and exits. ADAM watches him go, then drifts around the stage, idly looking up the tree, out over the Creation, examining the Gate. He picks up Moses' book and smells it inquisitively. He hums to himself. He looks at the ground, startled.

ADAM

What the--! What is that?

ADAM picks up something small.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I've never seen one of these. But then I've never seen any of this. I wonder what I should call it? Hmmm. For some reason, "earthworm" sounds right. Earthworm it is.

He sets it back down.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Now how did I know that was an earthworm? Hey, there's a lot of things around there.

He shades his eyes, gazes out.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Let's see. I'm pretty sure that's an oak tree. And that has to be a daisy. That's a, uh, wolf. Or is it a dog? No, it's a wolf. That's a dog. And there's a deer. There's a quail. And a duck. And a wide-mouth bass, and a crappie. And a catfish. Say, a fella could have himself a pretty good time around here.

He picks up another bug.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Now, is this a millipede or a centipede? One, two, three, four, five, six- Oh, what the heck, make it a centipede.

He tosses it carelessly away.

ADAM (CONT'D)

No sense in naming everything all at once. Anyway, I probably got most of the important stuff.

ADAM sits at desk, hums, twiddles thumbs, looks around, then to where God exited, then around again.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Yessir, got the important stuff. Naming the animals, that's what I'm doing.

ADAM looks up.

Uh, God? Lord, sir? Are you up there, God?

GOD (OFFSTAGE)

Yes, I'm up here. I'm trying to rest up here, if you don't mind.

ADAM

Oh. Excuse me, Lord. Sorry about that.

ADAM again sits at desk, hums, twiddles thumbs, etc.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Yessir. Animal namer, that's me. Hmmm.

He calls up.

ADAM (CONT'D)

God! Hey, God! I'm really sorry to bother you, but, well, doggone it, it's lonely down here. I was wondering, you know, if you're not too busy, maybe you could—

GOD sticks his head out.

GOD

I said I was resting, didn't I? Those to whom I give the gift of language usually understand that resting is the opposite of busy.

ADAM

Sorry. I am kind of new at all this.

GOD climbs down. He is wearing a bathrobe like ADAM'S.

GOD

That's alright, I was only drawing my bath. I hope I didn't leave the water running, I don't want to flood the place. Yet. Now, what's all this about being lonely?

ADAM

Look, you put all this great stuff around here, and I really do appreciate it. But there's nobody to talk to, nobody to play with. I've got all these brand new words in my head, and I'd sort of like to use them. Can't you stay down here with me? We could talk.

GOD

Stay? I can't stay here all the time. This is a big universe, I mean, this thing is huge! Running a universe is a full-time job. And frankly, I don't see where you'd make much of a conversationalist. If you're lonely, I guess I'll have to get someone to stay with you.

He goes to chest, opens it. Red light and steam are seen.

GOD (CONT'D)

I had some earlier designs that didn't exactly work out. I believe I left one of them down here. Might be a nice companion for you. Ahh, yes.

GOD helps LUCY out. She is beautiful and sexy, practically poured, as they say, into a slinky dress. She walks to ADAM.

LUCY

(seductively)

Hello, there, handsome. Where have you been all my life?

ADAM

Right here. Only place I've ever been. My name is Adam. What's yours?

LUCY

For everybody else, I'm Lucy. For you, I can be whatever you want me to be. What do you want me to be, Adam? How about Lilith? Would you like me to be your Lilith?

ADAM

Oh, yeah, I'd like that a lot!

GOD

I'm not getting a good feeling about this. I just remembered why I put you down there. We'll have to come up with something different, Adam.

ADAM

But, I like this one, God. Really, I do!

GOD

Yes, I can see that.

GOD pulls ADAM aside.

GOD (CONT'D)

Listen, Adam, she wouldn't work out. She'd make you do things you wouldn't like.

ADAM

Name one thing I wouldn't like!

GOD

Okay, okay, you'd probably like them. At first. But believe me, you'd never be able to keep up the pace, not with a hot-to-trotter like her. She'd wear you down like sandpaper.

ADAM looks at LUCY.

ADAM

Possibly. Probably. But I'd sure like to give it a try.

GOD

I'll start from scratch and make something that will always be agreeable with you. You'll be much happier. Lucy, thanks for your time. Maybe we'll get back with you, I'll let you know.

LUCY

Are you sure, Adam? We could have a whole lot of fun.

GOD

He's sure. Now off you go.

LUCY blows ADAM a kiss and exits.

GOD (CONT'D)

I've got to stop taking shortcuts. Moses! Come back here. I tell you, a Creator's work is never done. Not if you want to do it right.

MOSES enters, barefooted.

MOSES

What? What's happening? I'm standing there talking to that burning bush of yours, and all of a sudden I'm back here at the dawn of creation. What's the emergency? You could have at least let me get my sandals back on.

GOD

Oh, be quiet and write. And watch where you step. Somebody forgot to clean up after the ducks. All right, Adam, the best thing to do is get something as closely related to you as possible. That way you'll have a lot in common.

ADAM

And don't forget: something that will always be agreeable with me.

GOD

Naturally. Now, what should it be? Chimpanzee? Spider monkey? Gorilla? Oooh, maybe I could use a pig. That would be interesting and the DNA is a pretty close match.

MOSES

Pigs could cause me some heartburn later on. If it's all the same, I'd rather you use something else.

GOD

Oh, that's right. Deuteronomy and all that. Lawyers! Well, the best thing is use the original, then change it up a little. Moses, bring me a table.

MOSES

What table?

GOD

"Table." The one over there.

MOSES looks offstage.

MOSES

Oh, that table.

MOSES exits.

ADAM

What are you going to do?

GOD

Simple. I'll take one of your ribs and use it as the starting point for your companion.

He feels ADAM's ribs.

GOD (CONT'D)

Ooh, that's a good one. Nothing could be simpler.

MOSES, with an intern's scrub shirt over his robe, rolls an operating table on.

ADAM

How do you get the rib? I mean, they're all, you know, inside me.

GOD

Climb on the table. Light, up a notch over here.

LIGHTS: brighten over table. ADAM sits on table and GOD pulls a pocket knife out of his bathrobe pocket.

GOD (CONT'D)

No sweat. All I have to do is cut it out.

ADAM

Cut it out!? Wait a second, let's discuss this. I don't know if I'm all that lonely, come to think of it. Come to think of it, I like the quiet. Quiet is good. I'll be able to think of more animal names in the quiet. Really peaceful, just wait a second, will you—?

GOD

Go to sleep.

ADAM immediately plops back on table, sound asleep.

GOD (CONT'D)

His new friend is never going to get a word in edge-wise.

MOSES

He's a real talker when he gets wound up, that's for sure.

GOD

I'll compensate for that in this new model. I'll make the other one talk even more than he does.

MOSES

So long to peace and quiet. Are you really going to use one of his ribs?

GOD

Certainly. He's got plenty. That's the beauty of a redundant design. Now, if I needed his heart for this, I'd be up a creek.

He holds up a rib.

GOD (CONT'D)

Here's a nice one, he'll never miss it.

MOSE

Nobody's ever going to believe this.

GOD

Believe is *exactly* what they're going to do with it. You know, I think I'll make this one to be like Lilith, at least on the outside. He got pretty tongue-tied looking at her, maybe it will keep him quiet.

MOSES

Who's Lilith?

GOD continues to work on rib.

GOD

An early prototype. Also known as Lucy. Unfortunately, Lucy was a mistake, and I freely admit it.

MOSES

What happened?

GOD

I gave her free will. And a moral sense. Even worse, she's immortal.

MOSES

What could possibly be wrong with having a moral sense?

GOD

She chose the wrong side! Who would have thought it? Well, I suppose I should have. I actually had to throw her out of heaven. By the way, all this stuff about Lilith, or Lucy, or whatever she calls herself, strictly off the record. We'll wait for Milton to come up with that. There, that should just about do it. Here you are, my dear.

GOD assists EVE, who stands up and walks around to the front of the table. She wears a bathrobe like GOD'S. Her eyes are closed. MOSES whistles.

MOSES

Now, this, this is a nice piece of work! Adam should have been so nice.

GOD

I do alright when I put my omniscient mind to it. Open your eyes, my dear, and take a look around. I'd ask how you feel, but I can't imagine that you could feel anything but terrific.

EVE

Oh, I do feel terrific! What a beautiful day. You're the sweetest thing for waking me up, it's such a glorious day. And what an absolutely beautiful place this, everything so fresh and green and clean. Why, it's almost like a garden. Is it a garden? I'll bet it juts goes on and on and on. Say, if you don't mind my saying so, that robe you're wearing is simply darling! Is that thing hard to keep clean? I'll bet it is. Where did you get it? I'd love to have one like it. Well, will you look? I do have one. Just like it. Oh dear, they don't have to be exactly the same, do they? Oooh, what's this thing?

EVE inspects the tree.

MOSES

What a Babylonian! You've got her talker switched on overdrive.

GOD

Maybe she's just excited about coming into being.

EVE notices ADAM.

EVE

Who is this? He is so good-looking! Could you introduce us?

GOD

Sure. Adam, wake up.

ADAM sits straight up.

GOD (CONT'D)

Adam, I am very pleased to introduce you to, uh, "Eve." She'll be staying here with you. Eve, this is Adam.

EVE

It's really nice to meet you, Adam.

ADAM

Likewise, I'm sure.

GOD

Moses, let's leave these two alone so they can get acquainted. We'll be back in bit, you two.

GOD and MOSES exit.

EVE

Could you show me around, do you think? This place is gorgeous, is it yours? I love what you've done with the flowers and all.

ADAM

Actually, I didn't do much- You like the flowers?

EVE

Especially those red ones. What are they called?

ADAM

Those are- roses, yes, that's right. Roses. I worked especially hard on those.

EVE

Well, they're just beautiful. Of course, you might consider, it's only a suggestion, you know, but you might consider putting them together with another color flower, say white.

(MORE)

EVE (CONT'D)

It would just set off the roses so nicely. Say, do you know any games we could play?

ADAM

The only thing I know about is naming things.

EVE

Naming things?

ADAM

Yeah, like the animals. They all have to be named. I'm supposed to invent names for everything. It's a pretty big responsibility.

EVE

But what's the point?

ADAM

Point of what?

EVE

Why play? I mean, who wins the game?

ADAM

I don't know. I suppose it could be whoever names the most animals, I guess—

EVE points at things in rapid-fire succession.

EVE

Rhinoceros, giraffe, orangutan, pekingese, magpie, snapping turtle, chicken, kangaroo—

ADAM

Wait! Wait! You can't just name them, you have to name them correctly.

EVE

So what does that one look like?

ADAM

Well, obviously that's a kangaroo, sure, but—

EVE

Okay?

ADAM

Okay.

EVE

Badger, skunk, mouse, roach, black widow spider— Oh, she's so cute—

ADAM

Look, let's do something else instead.

EVE

Like what?

ADAM

I don't know. We could climb a tree.

EVE

Maple, scotch pine, hackberry, chestnut, red oak—

ADAM

Hey! I already named the oak.

EVE

This is a red oak. You're not very good with colors, are you?

ADAM

We don't have to know what kind of tree it is to climb it. In fact, let's just sit down and rest awhile.

EVE

Well, if you insist.

ADAM

I do.

They sit on chest for a few moments, looking around.

EVE

I am so bored.

ADAM

Me, too.

EVE

Want to do something different? I just had an idea. It has to do with these robes and it might be interesting.

ADAM

What do we do?

EVE

For starters, stand up here and face me. Now we just open them up.

They open their robes toward each other. ADAM stares down at EVE, and she at him. GOD and MOSES enter.

ADAM

Uhng-ng!

GOD and MOSES quickly close their robes.

GOD

That's enough. I can see you're both acquainted now.

MOSES

If they get any more acquainted, he'll get his rib back.

GOD

But notice the lack of talking. Are you satisfied, Adam?

ADAM

Uhng-ng! Uhng!

MOSES

Sounds like he is.

GOD

Then wait over by that tree a minute, I need to settle a few details with Moses.

They stand by tree, ADAM trying to look inside EVE's robe.

GOD (CONT'D)

After I get them properly educated, there should be no problem getting the place all populated up.

MOSES

They definitely seem to like each other.

GOD

A little secret: I told you I fixed it so that all the animals have sex?

He points to ADAM and EVE.

GOD (CONT'D)

Well, I made sure *they* enjoy it. A lot.

MOSES

Is that what you want me to write?

GOD

No, no, no! Definitely not! That part we let them find out for themselves. No, it was something else.

MOSES

Yes?

GOD

Well, I was just thinking that maybe they could start praising me.

MOSES

I don't see why not. You did create them.

GOD hands MOSES a small piece of parchment.

GOD

Here's a little something I worked out, I was hoping they might sing it.

MOSES

Sing?

GOD

It would be best if they would sing it unceasingly.

MOSES

That could be a problem. There's only two of them, they might get tired.

GOD

Like I said, there's going to be more. What do you think?

MOSES

(reading)

"HAAH-lelujah! HAAH-lelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Ha-Lay-Ay-Looo-Yah!". Hmm. Might be a little complicated for them.

GOD

Nothing's firmed up yet, but I do have a little handle on the melody. Here's the middle part.

MOSES

Ha-Lay-Ay-Ay-Lu-yah. Ha-Lay-Ay-Ay-Ay-Ay-Lu-ooo-oooo-Yah. You might consider getting another lyricist.

GOD

Lucy is pretty good at that sort of thing. I always thought "better to reign in hell than serve in heaven" had a certain ring to it. But I really like this.

MOSES

It's fine, it's fine. They'll love it, I'm sure. Listen, have you made up your mind about the other thing? Are you going to give them free will or not?

GOD

I'm glad you brought that up. I afraid I have discovered an ontological imperative that is confronting a teleological necessity, and the implicit paradox has manifested itself in this decision.

MOSES

A simple yes or no will suffice.

GOD

I'm not a simple yes or no God.

MOSES

Yes, you are.

GOD

No, I'm not.

MOSES

Yes, you are.

GOD

No, I'm not.

MOSES

(sing-song)

Yes, you are.

GOD

(shouts)

No, I'm not.

MOSES

(pauses, then very quickly)

Yes you are. So what's the verdict?

GOD

Yes. No. Yes. Maybe? Okay- yes. It really is the only thing that makes sense. And I am nothing if not sensitive. Adam, you and Eve come here. Now, I've made a big decision about you two. It has to do with whether or not you'll be allowed to do whatever you want. I have decided in the affirmative. Here's the way it works. When I say a thing is so, that's it. It becomes reality. And I'm saying this: both of you have "Free Will." But- I am also throwing in "Destiny", just so I can keep my hand in things.

MOSES

Good compromise.

GOD

I do not compromise. I create bilaterally.

ADAM

You just have to say it, and it's so?

GOD

You do have to be God.

MOSES

It doesn't hurt.

EVE

I don't feel any different. Should I?

GOD

It'll grow on you. For instance, later on, you might feel the urge to, oh, I don't know, sing. Well then, you just sing. Do you feel like singing?

EVE

No.

GOD

Oh. Well, give it some time.

EVE

Whatever it is you did to us, thank you, God.

GOD

Call me Lord. Don't mention it. Okay, Moses, time for you to get back to Egypt and start handing out the plagues. You should have everybody on the way to the Promised Land in nothing flat.

MOSES

I'm not so sure. Have you looked at the map? The Red Sea is smack in the way. How am I going to get my people across that?

GOD

Keep your staff handy. We'll work something out.

MOSES nods and exits.

GOD (CONT'D)

And you two, the whole place is yours. Here's the keys, I'm giving you dominion over the plants, the animals, everything! The whole schmeer. Have a nice life.

He starts to exit, then smacks his forehead.

GOD (CONT'D)

Oh, wait. What an idiot, I almost forgot: Don't eat the fruit.

GOD exits.

ADAM

Wow! The whole place is ours. Terrific!

EVE

What's to eat, I'm famished!

ADAM

I don't know, what sounds good?

EVE

For some reason, I could really go for some ribs.

ADAM

I don't have any to spare. Anyway, I haven't invented fire yet.

EVE

Oh. Then how about those over there?

EVE points to fruit in trees.

ADAM

Yeah, that looks good.

They cross to tree and reach for fruit.

ADAM (CONT'D)

By the way, what is this stuff?

LUCY enters from behind tree.

LUCY

It's called fruit.

EVE

Who are you?

ADAM

Eve, this is Lucy.

LUCY

Please to met you.

ADAM

She was here when I got here. Did you say fruit?

LUCY

Yes, fruit. It's called fruit.

EVE

But didn't he say—

ADAM

He did say. I think.

LUCY

Look, you guys are hungry, right? Here's some food, right?
This is absolutely a no-brainer.

ADAM

I don't know- He said not to eat it, didn't he?

LUCY

Great! No-brainer meets no-guts.

(to EVE)

What about you? Weren't you looking for some games to play?

EVE

How'd you know that?

LUCY

One of the birds told me. A little one.

EVE

I'll bet it was a- hummingbird! Or a sparrow. Or maybe a
parakeet.

ADAM

That's amazing. How do you come up with all that?

LUCY

Look, I know lots of games. Games, games, games, I can teach
you games like you wouldn't believe. And how do I know about
all of these games? Because I ate this fruit.

EVE

I not sure I'd like your games.

LUCY

Believe me, sweetie, you'd like them. And they'll drive the
boy here wild!

ADAM

But why did he tell us not to eat the fruit?

LUCY

Why ask why, for God's sake? Why don't you ask "what"? Like,
"What does it taste like?", "What could he do to me even if I
did eat it", "What possible difference would it make?"

EVE

What kind of games?

LUCY

Fun for everybody games, I guarantee it.

EVE

I am awfully hungry. I haven't had a bite to eat since- well, ever! And I would like to learn some new games. Naming the animals is certainly no competition. Let's do it, Adam. Here, I'll try it.

ADAM

No wait, let me go first.

EVE

Why you?

ADAM

Well, I did come first.

LUCY

(shrugs)

You're a man. Besides, I was here before you, and I like her. She's fun. Let her eat first. I promise, it'll make it more interesting for you later.

(whispers)

Plus, it will give you some plausible deniability.

EVE

Here goes.

She eats fruit.

EVE (CONT'D)

Say, that is tasty. You'll love this, Adam.

LUCY

What did I tell you? Here, have a bite.

ADAM

Well, okay.

He eats fruit.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Hey, not bad. In fact, it's good, very, very good. And speaking of good, for some reason, I just had a sudden thought about good. And evil. You know, it's funny, but-

ADAM and EVE slowly look inside their bathrobes, then at each other, then they run off in opposite directions.

LUCY

See, we're already playing our first game. Hide and seek. I'm it, and ready or not, here I come!

She runs after ADAM, then changes her mind and runs after EVE.

BLACKOUT

Scene 2

ADAM and EVE enter. They are dressed in robes made of leaves, which are hideous, scratchy and uncomfortable. LUCY follows them on.

LUCY

I told you everything would be better. Now truthfully, was I right? I was right, wasn't I? Okay, one thing. You could use a better tailor.

EVE

You're the one who sewed this stuff. I was hoping I'd get a nice outfit like yours. Instead, this!

LUCY

Sewing is not my calling, darling, unless it's sowing discord.

ADAM

We are going to be in such a lot of trouble. I should have listened to God. He said you'd get me to do stuff I wouldn't like.

LUCY

What's not to like? Take the fruit-juicy from little ol' Lucy, and presto! You know lots of games to play, you get some swell clothes to wear, and you still have the keys to the place. From where I stand, it's a win-win situation. You do still have the keys?

ADAM pulls keys from around his neck,

ADAM

Yes, I've got them. A fat lot of good they're going to do when He finds out about this.

EVE

Hey! Look there! It's a- a raccoon!

ADAM

Will you quit with the naming? Give it a rest. We are going to be in such hot water.

LUCY

Hot water? You have no idea about hot water, not like I know hot water. Oh, the things I could tell you about hot. And we are talking seriously hot.

EVE

These stupid leaves are what's hot! I'm burning up in this thing, and it itches! I'd take it off, but after eating the fruit, for some reason I'm embarrassed. Why is that, Adam?

ADAM

I feel the same way, but I don't have a clue why.

LUCY

The reason is simple: that fruit you ate was the fruit of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Which fact that God guy of yours neglected to mention. Before, you were innocent and pure. Now you know the difference.

ADAM

Difference in what?

LUCY

Good and evil. Right and wrong. Pain and pleasure. Male and female. *Vive la difference!*

EVE

Not wearing clothes is evil?

LUCY

In the broad spectrum of good vs. evil, going naked is admittedly small potatoes. But it's a start. Besides, it's what you do after you're naked that causes the problem.

ADAM

Before, I was just curious. Now, I have to admit, I do have other ideas.

LUCY

Good for you! Or bad, if that suits you better. It does me.

EVE

Adam, I'm scared. I'm shivering.

ADAM

Uh- what should I do?

LUCY

Why don't you put your arms around her?

ADAM

Will that help?

LUCY

No, but she might forget about shivering. Speaking of which, I'm going to visit the cold-blooded species for a little while. They always appreciate it when I come around, especially on cloudy days.

LUCY exits. ADAM hesitantly puts his arms around EVE.

ADAM

Is that any better?

EVE

Yes, it is. What do you think will happen? When God comes back?

ADAM

I don't have a lot to go on, but ever since eating that stuff, I have a terrible feeling that it won't be pleasant.

EVE

What will he do to us?

ADAM

My guess is it hasn't been invented yet.

EVE

He might let the- lions, that's what they are. He might let the lions loose on us. They've got very sharp teeth and horrible claws. Or those things over there, the- elephants. What if he were to make them step on us?

ADAM

Knowing about good and evil has given you an overactive imagination. But I'll say one thing. You sure know what to call these animals.

EVE

It's a gift. I'm glad you're here, Adam.

ADAM

I'm glad you're here, Eve. You're the best woman I've ever known.

EVE

I am the only woman you've ever known, not counting Lucy, and I'm not too sure she is a woman. And you haven't really known me yet. Not in the, uh, something-way.

ADAM

No, but I'd like to.

They kiss, shyly.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'd really like to. Whatever God does, Eve, I want you to know we'll face it together.

EVE

Wife and man.

ADAM

I like that, that's a nice phrase. Only, how about, "man and wife"? It seems to flow better.

EVE

All right, Adam. We'll be "man and wife." Forever.

They embrace, but EVE sees GOD approaching.

EVE (CONT'D)

Adam, he's coming. We've got to hide!

They hide behind chest as GOD enters, singing.

GOD

"It is the evening of the day..." Adam! Eve! I was in the neighborhood, I thought I'd drop by. Where are you guys? Adam? They can't be far, there's nowhere to go.

LUCY enters from behind tree.

LUCY

They're not. They're right back there.

ADAM.

Shhh! Be quiet. We're trying to hide here.

GOD

Hide? What are you trying to hide for? Come out at once.

ADAM and EVE emerge, hanging their heads and holding hands.

GOD (CONT'D)

Well, if you're trying to hide these clothes, that's understandable. Where did these abominations come from?

EVE

Lucy made them, she gave them to us.

LUCY

Nice work, huh?

GOD

Sewing was never your strong point. Except discord.

LUCY

See?

GOD

There had better be a good explanation for this. Although I've got a feeling that "good" has nothing to do with whatsoever.

LUCY

Notice anything different about your precocious fruit tree, your Lordship? Anything missing?

GOD examines tree.

GOD

(roars)

Moses! Get back here. Now!

MOSES enters, carrying a staff, his clothes all wet.

MOSES

Behold the power of- God?? What are you doing? The whole nation of Israel is stuck in the middle of the Red Sea, and the waters are piled up on either side a mile high!

GOD

This is more important. Apparently the first couple here couldn't wait for me to teach them, they went ahead and had a little taste of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You're going to have to write this down.

MOSES

But-

GOD

Write!

MOSES goes to desk and opens book.

MOSES

Yes, sir.

GOD

So! You didn't like the robes I gave you? This is an improvement? Here's a hint for future reference. I, the Lord thy God, happen to be a jealous god.

MOSES

That explains a lot.

GOD

You just write. You heard me, jealous. I do not appreciate you preferring something Lucy gave you over something I gave you. And I also hate bad taste. Okay, Moses, get this down. I want to know, and I want to know now! Whose idea was it to eat that fruit?

ADAM points at EVE.

ADAM

She made me eat it.

MOSES

(writes)

"It's— the woman's— fault."

EVE points at LUCY.

EVE

Hey, wait a second!. She convinced me eat it.

MOSES

"Devil— made her— do it."

LUCY points behind herself.

LUCY

Hold it, I got the idea from— Oops. Okay, even better!

She points to GOD.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You made me, so it's all your fault! There, work your way out of that little conundrum, Mister Perfect God, Mister "I Created a Perfect Universe, So How Did Something Like Lucy Slip In Here"? Ha!

GOD

Silence! If she had jumped off a cliff, would you just jump off, too? It doesn't matter whose idea it was, as long as you live under my roof, you live by my rules. Give me the keys.

ADAM gives him the keys.

GOD (CONT'D)

Now get out.

LUCY

Hey, you're not under his roof anymore. No more rules!

GOD

You! I'll take care of you in your turn. I haven't forgotten you, Lucy.

LUCY

What? No sympathy for the devil?

ADAM

Why are you throwing us out? You almost forgot to even mention the fruit. It couldn't have been that important.

GOD

What do you know about what's important? And you want to know why? You ate the fruit, you're the wise guy now, figure it out for yourself. You'll get it wrong. And I wouldn't tell you why in a million years. Which is a good thousand days on my clock, so don't hold your breath! Banishment is not enough, so here's the rest of your punishment. You, Adam. You ate my fruit for free. Therefore, for the rest of eternity, you'll earn your food, and hers, by the sweat of your brow. Lots of sweat. And you, Eve, I've got two words for you: "child-birth." Tell me why, he says! Here's two more words for both of you: "teen-agers."

MOSES

Oy!

GOD

Wait until they show up, then you'll think "tell me why"! And while we're on the subject of aging, here's the kicker, the icing on the cake: death! Your whole species will die, one by one. Vengeance is mine, saith me.

MOSES

Thanks a lot, Adam.

ADAM

How long do we have?

GOD

I'm thinking less than a day. I'll let Mister Enlightenment here do the arithmetic. It's a detail, I'll fill it in later. For now, out! No wait. You'll catch your death of cold wearing those ridiculous leaves. Which reminds me: "Rhino Virus."

ADAM & EVE sneeze.

GOD (CONT'D)

I guess I'll have to make you some clothes. "Leather. And Cloth." Moses, bring me those clothes. Those, tasteful, well-made, decent clothes.

MOSES goes off and returns with clothing.

LUCY

It kills me the way he can just say stuff and, Boom! it pops into existence. I wish I could do that.

GOD

Here, wear these.

ADAM and EVE take clothes.

GOD (CONT'D)

Now, go on, get out of here. No, wait. One last thing. None of this punishment is enough, you couldn't possibly answer for what you've done, there's not enough of you to do that. So I'm going to make each and every one of your descendants pay for this sin, too. They'll all look back at you and say, "He did it! Adam committed the original sin, but it's us who have to pay for it."

ADAM

But, God! Not everybody?

EVE

All my children? For all time?

GOD

And their children's children, and theirs, and all the rest. Now leave. But don't go where I can't find you. I'm not through with you, not by a long chalk.

ADAM and EVE exit.

MOSES

Well, this certainly ought to cheer up everybody back at the Red Sea. Assuming they're not all drowned already. You were pretty tough on them. And by implication, on me, too.

GOD

I am not in any mood to talk to any human being at the moment. If I were you, I'd get back to Egypt, or wherever it was you left off.

MOSES

All right, I'll go. But I want to say one thing. While you're busy throwing out retribution like a volcano, handing out little presents to humankind like death and original sin, you'd better consider handing out a damn good sense of humor as well. With everything else you've laid on them, they're going to need it. Especially with the teenagers.

GOD

Thanks for the advice. When the Almighty needs advice, I'll know where to go now.

MOSES

What are you going to do to her? She's the rotten apple here.

GOD

Write down that I change her into a snake. Even that's not low enough.

MOSES

A snake, huh? She's got the curves for it. And the fangs.

MOSES exits.

LUCY

"She walks, she talks, she crawls on her belly like a reptile." Moses is right, you know.

GOD

About what?

LUCY

About them needing a sense of humor. For that matter, you could use one, too.

GOD

Don't presume too much, Lucy. I made you, I can unmake you.

LUCY

See what I mean? "I made you, I made them, I made everything." You ought to be making jokes instead. Or maybe you did make a joke and you just don't know it yet. And don't be too sure you can unmake me. You poured a whole lot of yourself into me.

GOD

I can do anything. I am God.

LUCY

Anything, huh? Okay, God. Make a rock.

GOD

"Rock." There, satisfied?

LUCY

Now pick it up.

GOD picks up rock.

GOD

I mean, honestly, Lucy—

LUCY

Now, make a rock big enough that even you can't pick it up.

GOD tosses rock away.

GOD

(realizes he's trapped)

I don't feel like it.

LUCY

See? You laid down the rules, you got it all set up just right. If you start breaking your own rules, you'll end up breaking everything you made. You can't unmake me, God.

GOD

You see, this is exactly why I made Adam. He's not as complicated as you. And certainly not as devious.

LUCY

Why did you make him? Really?

GOD

(pause)

I made the laws, I set all the parameters. Gravity. DNA. Speed of light. Order, regularity, patterns, constants. Everything I made is a constant. Unchanging and predictable. But Adam is different, Adam is a variable. That makes it interesting. And Adam is free to choose. That makes it mean something. All I wanted was for somebody to say to me, "Good job" and have it mean something.

LUCY

Too bad it didn't work out.

GOD

Oh, it's not over, Lucy. It's not over by many a long, long chalk.

CURTAIN

ACT II

Scene 1

The Gate is now on the other side of the stage. Just above the Gate is a sign: "KEEP OUT!". It faces the other way, that is, we see the back side of the Gate. The tool chest is now overgrown with vines and resembles a boulder. EVE has some pots on the table, and she is shelling beans. ADAM sits on the ground, chipping away at a flint arrowhead. They have both aged a bit, a few lines on their brows. ADAM hits his finger with the rock.

ADAM

Ow! There has got to be a better way of making these things!

EVE goes to him.

EVE

Oh, you old clumsy.

She kisses his finger.

EVE (CONT'D)

There, is that better?

ADAM

No. Well, maybe a little. This doggone flint is a bear to work on. Hit it too easy, you get nothing. Hit it too hard, you ruin it.

EVE

Along with your poor fingers. You poor baby.

She kisses his hand again and returns to her beans. ADAM resumes chipping flint.

ADAM

I wouldn't need so many, but we can't just eat vegetables all the time.

(whispering)

Or fruit.

(normal voice)

He forgot to make them grow all year round.

EVE

The more I know him, the less I think he forgets anything.

ADAM

You're right. He probably made it this way just so my brow could sweat more.

EVE

And mine. Who's sweating over these beans?

ADAM

You are, and a good thing, too. The few times I had to do it, it was a disaster.

EVE

When did you ever cook?

ADAM

Oh, those two times you got fat, remember? You were too sick at your stomach to cook, much less eat.

EVE

That's right. When the boys were ripening.

ADAM

(struck by this)

It was before they came, both of them. Isn't that strange? What a coincidence, the only two times you ever got sick, and right after that, here come the boys.

EVE

(rolling her eyes)

They were so cute when they were born.

ADAM

Too red and wrinkly if you ask me. And howlers! Good Lord, I didn't sleep at all when Cain first got here.

EVE

I don't remember that you lost much sleep. Ever.

ADAM

Well, I did. Until I moved my bed outside.

EVE gives him a look.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I like sleeping outside. Fresh air, starlight. And in the middle of the night, when you've got to go, you just get up and go. You're already out there.

EVE crosses to ADAM.

EVE

You are so unsanitary. You never even wash your hands.

ADAM

Sure I do. See?

He shows her his hands. EVE takes them in hers.

EVE

I see. I see dirt, I see grime, and I see things I don't want to guess what they are. But I love them just the same. I remember the time these hands pulled Abel out of the river. God, I was so scared! He'd have drowned if you hadn't rescued him.

ADAM

I didn't even know I knew how to swim.

EVE

You surely did, though. I couldn't move, all I could do was scream. I've never seen anything move so fast as you did that day.

ADAM

Well, I'd have missed his howling, I guess. Maybe.

EVE

I've always wondered how it happened. He and Cain never played in the water before. I always took them with me to do the washing, but they'd play up by the willows. I'll never forget the look on Cain's face when he saw Abel out in the water. He just stood there, staring.

ADAM

Abel never would talk about it. And you can't get five civil words out of Cain's mouth, at least not in a row. Especially lately.

EVE

They're growing up. They were babies, then they were boys, now they're teenagers. It's a natural sequence.

ADAM

Teenagers are not natural! Sometimes I think Lucy snuck in and substituted one of her horrible experiments for our children.

EVE

Don't start on Lucy. If she hadn't taught you to how to hunt and kill animals, I don't know where we'd be.

ADAM

She likes the killing part far too much. Creepy.

EVE

She can be strange sometimes, I'll grant you that.

ADAM

Anyway, God was one thousand percent right about teenagers. They are driving me crazy. Especially Cain! What is wrong with that boy?

EVE goes back to beans.

EVE

Cain is a nice boy. He brought me these beans, and it's a good thing. You haven't trapped any decent game in weeks. We could starve.

ADAM picks up bow & arrow.

ADAM

We won't starve. I've always provided for you, and them. It's just that the game is not as plentiful as it used to be. I think the animals are starting to catch on. About the B-O-W and the A-R-R-O-W. And then there's Abel, and he's not helping the situation. There's not enough to go around, what with his newfangled notions.

EVE

So he's managed to tame some of the animals to stay with him, instead of having to hunt them. What's wrong with that? He's a clever boy.

ADAM

Too clever. The old ways are best.

EVE

Adam, the oldest ways there are aren't any older than a few years. That's not a big investment in tradition.

ADAM

Big or not, I stand by it. I started by hunting, and I'll stay with it. Taming animals. Hah! What does he call it? What's that "I-know-more-than-my-old-man" word he uses?

EVE

Animal husbandry.

ADAM

Animal husbandry. Hah! Why doesn't he just say, "I'm taming the animals", why bring husbanding into it? What makes him think husbanding is the same thing as taming?

EVE

(to herself)

Who says it's not?

ADAM

Excuse me?

GOD enters.

GOD

Of course you're not tame. If you were tame, you'd still be in the Garden instead of out here. I wish you were tame. It would make my job easier.

EVE

I don't believe there's anything you could do to him that would make him easier to get along with. Not when he gets in one of these moods.

ADAM

It's not me. It's those boys of yours.

EVE

They're not just mine.

ADAM

They came out of you. I saw it. Yuck! Don't try to blame them on me.

EVE

You really haven't figured out how they got in me, have you?

ADAM

What's to figure. Important thing is how they got out.

ADAM shudders.

GOD

He's a hunter, not a farmer. He hasn't had the opportunity to figure out that when the both of you.. well, you know, how that eventually leads to the uh- well, you know.

ADAM

I thought you knew.

GOD

I do. You should. Maybe you should take up bird watching. Or beekeeping. Then we can have a little talk.

ADAM

Here's what I do know: Cain and Abel are driving me nuts! Cain is all the time down at his end of the garden, putting seeds in the ground, and damming up the Euphrates to get water to them. He spends all his time watching them grow. I can't get him out to do any serious hunting to save my soul.

GOD

Too late for that.

He picks up the book.

GOD (CONT'D)

Hmm. I just realized that all this business of you having a family is missing from Moses' account. He needs to update the thing. Moses! Come to me!

MOSES enters, carrying two tablets.

MOSES

Not again! This is getting to be a real pain. I'm supposed to be carrying the nine commandments back down to your chosen people. Who are also getting to be a real pain! Complaining, complaining. I mean, you free them from bondage to the pharaoh, you'd think they'd be more appreciative.

GOD

This will only take a moment. I want you to get something in your book about Adam and Eve's two children.

MOSES

They have kids? That's great, congratulations to the both of you! Boy, girl? What were they?

ADAM

Trouble, and more trouble.

MOSES

Oh, sorry to hear that. Look, I really can't stay, the tribes are getting restless down there. Every time I leave them alone for ten minutes, they start screwing up. Aaron said—

GOD

Don't worry, I'll take care of everything. I just want you to get the details down, you can fix up the language later. The oldest one's name is Abel, he's a herdsman. The other one's name is Cain, and he's a—

ADAM

Pain! That's what Cain is. Cain is a pain.

EVE

He's a farmer, and I'll bet he'd at least understand where he and Abel came from. You know, if we could just find him a nice girl, they could set up a little home—

LUCY Enters. She has not aged a day.

LUCY

Somebody mention a nice girl?

ADAM

Yes, so don't worry. We are obviously not talking about you.

LUCY immediately sits and starts shelling beans.

LUCY

What is the father of the human race on the rampage about today?

GOD

He's going on about his teenage sons again.

(chuckles)

Boy, when I come up with a punishment, I do it right!

MOSES

That Angel of Death certainly did the trick. Talk about "let my people go!" After that little episode, it was "Goodbye, good riddance, and don't let the door hit you in the sphinx on the way out."

ADAM

Well, Cain is punishment in spades! That boy is worthless! And Abel! He won't help around here, all he's got are his animal husbands—

EVE

Animal husbandry.

ADAM

Whatever they are. He's completely ruined the forest for hunting, all the good meat is over in his corral. All I have left are some deer and few quail and things. And Cain is so proud. And mean to his brother.

EVE

It's just a phase. He'll get over it, he's not a bad boy.

GOD

Oh, if only you two had let me teach you about morals, you'd be a lot better at recognizing what things are really good and what things are really bad.

LUCY

It's a good thing somebody around here knows what's really bad. For instance, beans are definitely bad. Those are all the beans I can look at for one day.

EVE

I'll put them on to boil. Adam, do you have anything I can cook with them?

ADAM shows Eve his hunting pouch.

ADAM

Haven't caught anything decent in weeks, huh? Look at this. Two prime rabbits, trapped fresh this morning!

EVE looks in pouch.

EVE

Is that all there is?

ADAM

Is that all there is? What do you mean, is that all there is?

EVE

They're awfully small. Well, I've got some hams Abel brought me yesterday. They'll make a good meal.

ADAM

We will NOT eat any of Abel's hams, do you hear? I am master of this household, and I forbid it!

EVE

You forbid it. You forbid it. You listen to me, Adam. Lucy's told me all about how she was here before me, and how things started out on an even keel between a man and woman. Now I don't mind cooking your meals, Lord knows I don't.

GOD

I do.

EVE

(ignores GOD)

You are my husband, and I love providing for you. But don't pretend to tell me what I'll put on the table. Ham beats rabbits any day of the week, including the sabbath. I'll run my home the way I see fit.

EVE exits with beans, leaving ADAM holding rabbits.

ADAM

You know, when you made her, I thought you told me she would always be agreeable to me.

GOD

She will. As long as you agree with her. Moses, lets you and I take a little walk and see if anything has evolved lately.

MOSES

Okay, but try and hurry it, will you? I've really got to get those commandments down to the chosen people or they'll do something stupid.

GOD

I think I want to add one.

MOSES

There's room. That will make an even ten.

GOD

Here it is: "Honor thy father and mother."

(to LUCY)

No sense of humor, huh? I am nothing if not humorous.

GOD and MOSES exit, GOD chuckling to himself.

ADAM

Why does he do stuff like that? Why does *she* do stuff like *that*?

LUCY

Still trying to figure it all out, huh, big boy? You won't. You don't have the mind for it. It's such a delicious irony. God gives you all this crap to deal with, it would be a mess for a saint to figure out. Then he shortchanges most of you in the brain department. That bell curve is a bitch, isn't it? So hard to see the forest for the trees.

ADAM

Why don't you just leave us alone? You're always hanging around, you never go away. And you've been nothing but trouble ever since we met.

LUCY

Leave you alone? Where's the fun in that? And who would comfort Eve? Who's going to talk to her, give her a shoulder to cry on? You? Ha! You've got big, strong shoulders, Adam, but they're not that big. You couldn't handle the load.

ADAM

What do you get out of all this? You hang around here, you get between Eve and me, stirring up bad blood. What are you trying to accomplish?

LUCY

Accomplish? Nothing. That is all I want. Absolutely nothing.

ADAM

You do a whole lot of something for somebody who wants nothing.

LUCY

Oh no, I don't just want nothing. I want everything to *be* nothing. I want it all to be nothing, every last atom of it to damn well disappear!

ADAM

What are you talking about? What do you mean disappear?

LUCY

Forget it. It's too subtle for you, just like I am.

ADAM

Eve and I would have been a lot happier if you had never interfered.

LUCY

Maybe. But how would you know you were happy?

EVE enters, wiping her hands on dress.

EVE

There, that's done. We'll have supper tonight, anyway.

LUCY

I think I'll go down to Abel's and see what new animals he's tamed.

EVE

Come back and eat supper with us.

ADAM

Don't feel like you just have to come back. Anyway, Abel probably has a roast or some lamb chops.

LUCY

Perhaps. Ta-ta, brain boy.

She holds EVE's hands, looks at them.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Au revoir, ma cherie. Oh, you poor dear, your hands used to be so smooth and silky. He's done this to you, all his cooking and cleaning.

EVE

It's all right, Lucy. I don't mind. It's not that hard.

LUCY

I'll never know, and thank God. Or whoever.

LUCY exits.

EVE

She's so sweet. Well, not sweet, really. What would I do without her?

ADAM

You'd be better off.

EVE

Adam, don't say such a thing. You have no idea. You think it's all you and Abel and Cain. I love them, and I love you, but you're all worthless to talk to. If I didn't have Lucy, I'd be a basket case by now.

ADAM

Why does she find fault in everything? Especially me.

EVE

It's only because I'm always telling her what a hero you are to me. She's just jealous, that's all.

ADAM

Jealous? About what, for heaven's sake? I'm certainly nothing to write home about.

EVE

If I had a home to write, I'd write about you every day. Lucy's my friend, but you're my husband. It's two totally different things. There's really no comparison.

ADAM

I guess. So why do I feel like I'm always being compared to something?

EVE

That, my dear, is a delightfully stupid way to feel. It's me that should feel that way. I mean, look at Lucy. And then look at me.

She looks at her hands.

EVE (CONT'D)

Oh, look at me. No, don't. I'm getting old. I'm getting ugly.

ADAM holds her.

ADAM

Old? Ugly? There's nothing that could ever be more beautiful to me, not one thing. No autumn sunset, no summer rose, no spring morning. You're the only thing I ever look at, the only person I'd ever want to share my life. Or my bed.

EVE

Adam, you're a hopeless liar. But a good one.

ADAM

Only after going dutch treat on the fruit. With you.

They kiss. LUCY enters, distraught.

LUCY

Eve, I- Oh, God, I am so sorry, Eve.

EVE

What are you sorry about? We were just kissing. You practically taught us about kiss-

LUCY

It's Abel. Eve, he's- he's dead.

ADAM

What?

EVE

Dead? What are you talking about? He can't be dead. He's just been out gathering his lambs, what's dangerous about that? Don't play your jokes with me, Lucy. That's what you do to Adam-

LUCY

Eve, he's dead. I saw his body, down by that altar of his, the one he built last spring. There was a sacrifice fresh burnt on it. He was dead, his own blood all over the stones-

LUCY breaks down, sobbing.

EVE

You're not joking. Lucy, you're really telling me that my boy is-

GOD and MOSES enter.

GOD

Dead. The first death. A brother murders a brother. They've made another chapter for themselves, Moses. You'll have to write it down.

ADAM

Abel is dead?

GOD

What did I think I was doing? I gave you fools the power to do whatever you wish, and you do this?

ADAM

Abel is dead?

GOD

He'd made a sacrifice to me, the first lamb of the spring. Why did it have to be a lamb? I accepted it, of course. I could not ignore universal symmetry. And Cain brought me fruit. Fruit! Was that some kind of joke, after what you did? I told Cain that fruit was not pleasing to me, that I preferred the lamb. And Cain had the temerity to be insulted. By me! Free will, damn it. Free will, and now, this.

EVE

Cain did this? Cain killed my Abel? My Cain, my only Cain, killed my only Abel?

GOD

I met him in the field. "Cain", I said. "Where is Abel?" Do you know what he asked me? "Am I my brother's keeper?" Am I my brother's keeper. Who did he think was supposed to keep his brother? Then Abel's blood cried out to me from the field, and I knew the truth.

EVE

Why would did he do such a thing? He's not a bad boy.

LUCY

Because your God preferred one over the other. Because your God made them in his own image. Because your Lord, thy God, is a jealous God, and so Cain, thy son, is a jealous son.

GOD

Was a jealous son.

EVE

What do you mean, was a jealous son. What have you done with my son?

GOD

I put my mark upon him. I banished him to the land of Nod, east of here. Very far east of here.

ADAM

Banished? Like you banished us from the garden? But that means—

EVE

He can never return! He's gone for ever. I'll never see him again. They're both gone. Flesh of my flesh, my body. I bore them. They're both gone.

LUCY

Rage. Rage, you have the right! See what he's done to you now!?

EVE

Gone? Both of them?

LUCY

Scream at him! He deserves it!

EVE

You took my children!?! You let the one kill the other, and then you took them both from me? I can't live. I can't breathe. I am dead. Damn you! Damn you! With whatever you damned us, damn you a thousand times!

EVE runs off.

ADAM

Eve!

LUCY

The creation has damned the creator. Creator!? Who gave you the authority to do this to her? Oh, that's right. You did.

LUCY follows EVE off. ADAM starts to follow EVE.

ADAM

Eve, come back!

He turns back to GOD.

ADAM (CONT'D)

God, tell me this is all some dream. Are you trying to teach us something? We can learn. Just wake me up, tell me what the moral is. Why are you doing this?

GOD

I'm not doing anything, Adam. I'm only waiting. I only set it all in motion.

ADAM

What do you mean you only set it in motion? Did you wait to banish Cain? No, you didn't ponder on that very long.

GOD glares, then turns away.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Why can't you fix things? Why can't you help? What kind of God are you? If this is some kind of joke, I don't see the humor.

GOD

You do need humor. So be it.

ADAM

You've destroyed her, Lord. Cain and Abel were all she had.

GOD

She has you.

ADAM

I'm nothing. I'm less than nothing. I can't fix this, I don't even know how the hell they got here. But they were my sons, I named them, I taught them. They walked with me, hunted with me. I didn't understand them, but I haven't understood a damn thing since you made me. They were my sons. Now, there's nothing left. Why did you do this?

GOD

Why do you keep asking why? It is not for you to know why!

ADAM

I only know what I feel. I feel like you set me down here,
and then you abandoned me. What else can I feel?

ADAM exits.

GOD

What can you feel? You can feel love, you can feel hate. But
you cannot feel justice, not the deep, naked justice that I
wove into the very fabric of being. That kind justice is too
hard for you, Adam. Only I understand that. Only I can feel
that.

MOSES

And only you can grant mercy and forgiveness.

GOD

But not this time.

MOSES

No, not this time.

GOD

Write down what I've shown you, Moses and then go back to
your people. You're a poet and poetry is wisdom. Maybe poetry
can make it possible for them to understand the truth.

MOSES

I'll go, Lord, and I'll write. But I'll only write what they
need to know. The truth... the truth is too hard.

BLACKOUT

Scene 2

**A few days later. EVE and LUCY enter.
Eve wears a black mourning shawl.**

EVE

You're a good friend, Lucy. I couldn't have gotten through these last few days without you.

LUCY

Friend of the devil, you know what they say.

EVE

No. But I'm glad you're here.

LUCY

I'll always be here, honey. I can't go away.

EVE

Lucy, I'm not going to quit.

LUCY

Quit what?

EVE

They're gone, my boys are gone. All right. It's true. But I'm going to have other children. I have to, it means too much to me. And it's not in me to quit.

LUCY

What do you mean? This is exactly *when* you quit. Quit now, and you show the old fool. Quit now, and he's got nothing. He needs you. I need you, Eve.

EVE

I can't. God made me to bear, and I've got to bear. Not just children, but Adam, too. And stupidity, and weakness, and pain. And I must have children, Lucy. I know what it feels like to have had them, to love them.

LUCY

But, Eve, you can do anything you want. You're the ace in the hole, the trump card. He didn't make you to bear. He made you the mother. You don't make the babies, it all stops here. God can't change the rules. You choose. You stop, it all stops. Like it should. Like it has to.

EVE

Like what has to? Don't you understand? I've lost my babies. I'm empty inside. I can't ignore that. I'll do whatever I have to do. It's the way I was made.

LUCY

And what about me? What about the way I was made? Does Lucy even get to have babies? Hell, no! Nobody thinks about poor Lucy, do they? Oh, no!

EVE

I think about you, Lucy. I don't understand you a lot of the time, but—

LUCY

Understand? Me? Of course you don't understand me. You just don't get it, do you? How could you?

EVE

I don't understand why you're getting mad at me. I'm the one who lost my children. What have you lost?

LUCY

What have I lost? What have I lost!? I've lost everything! Every blessed thing, every damned thing, every thing! You, oh, you'll die one day. Lucky you. But what about me? No one will ever weep for me, no child will ever call out for me. And I can never die, do you understand that? He made me immortal. And then he threw me out. That semi-God of yours threw me out of paradise.

EVE

What are you talk—?

LUCY

You think banishment from Eden was bad? It's nothing! I have an eternity of nothing to look forward to. And in all that black eternity, I will never, ever, ever see heaven again. Not even a glimpse.

(hopeless)

Never. You think you know, but you don't know. You have no inkling of what it's like. Me, I cannot forget. So what about me, Eve? What about me?

She starts to cry on EVE's shoulder.

EVE

Lucy, you'll be fine. I'll look after you. You can stay here with me and Adam.

LUCY

Stay with you and Adam? Here? This place, this is just crap! And you and Adam, at least the two of you can make things, you can make babies. I can't make anything. Except trouble.

EVE

Why would anyone want to make trouble? Don't we have enough already?

LUCY

Not by many a long chalk.

EVE

But why? Why can't you just- change?

LUCY

He's a jealous God, remember? And he made me, so I'm jealous, too. But he can do something about his jealousy. Make another law, or a miracle. Me? I can only make catastrophes. Chaos. Trouble. I can only wait. And never hope, not even once, that it will ever change.

LUCY grabs EVE's shoulders and pleads with her.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You could change it, Eve, you could fix it for me. Please, just stop him.

EVE

I'm sorry, Lucy. I'm not like you. He made me like this. I can't help that.

LUCY

You can't help it! You can't help anything, neither of you. You're weak, you're pathetic. You're insects! Less than insects! I don't know why I wasted my time on you, you're useless! Both of you!

EVE

What are you talking about? I don't understand you.

LUCY

Leave me alone! You couldn't possibly understand me! Nobody does, I don't need any of you!

EVE

But-

LUCY

Leave, you insignificant little snit! You weakling! Leave!!

EVE runs off, frightened and crying.

LUCY (CONT'D)

You're both stupid, little things. Insects! Bugs! So what if he made you!

LUCY falls to her knees and breaks down, realizing her defeat.

EVE

He made me, too. Eve, he made me, too. Damn him, he made me, too.

BLACKOUT

Peruses

Scene 3

LIGHT: lightning effects. SOUND: thunder and wind. There is now a gravestone in front of the boulder. ADAM enters against a strong wind, wearing an oilskin against the weather. He is much older now, stooped and determined. LUCY follows him on. Her demeanor has completely changed. Her hair is wild, and a strap from her dress is broken. She stalks ADAM, darting around him, almost striking him at times. Almost like a snake.

LUCY

Smart boy, clever little smartie pants, such a smartass. Nice ass, but such a simpleton. Lucy still thinks you have a sweet ass. Always seemed like a sweet ass to Lucy. Want to play with Lucy, smartass?

ADAM

(tiredly)

No, Lucy, I don't want to play with you at all.

LUCY

Oh, but once you did! Right there at the start, in the beginning. "In the beginning!" Such a stupid thing to say. He said it, he said everything, didn't he? "Say it and it's so." How tiresome it is when he says things. Talk, talk, talk. Words, word, words. Make, make, make. How sick I am of his making. It makes me sick.

ADAM

And I'm sick of having you talk about it. Sick and tired. Go away, Lucy. No one invited you here, and I finally know the rules. Nobody asks you to stay, you have to go away. And take this tiresome rain with you.

LUCY

Better to rain in hell than spit in heaven. This is hell, let it rain.

ADAM

It's only hell because you've made it so.

LUCY

Is Lucy scaring Adam? Adam doesn't like the rain? Then, Stop, rain!

LIGHT: normal. SOUND: storm immediately stops.

LUCY (CONT'D)

See what Lucy can do for Adam? Lucy can do anything! For Adam. Can Adam give Lucy a small kiss to say thank you?

ADAM

Adam cannot.

LUCY

(attempts seduction)

Adam doesn't want to kiss Lucy? Lucy can kiss so sweetly, sweeter than honey, sweeter than bees' honey with a sweet sting. A sting in the ass! Does Adam have a kiss for Lucy? What do you want me to be, Adam? I can be anything you want. Anything.

ADAM

Then be gone, that's what I want from you. Absence is the only thing you can give me that I would want. Leave, and leave now.

LUCY

(in a rage)

Oh, the First-made is a smartass, isn't he? May be that he is strong, too. He smells strong. Yes, he does, he stinks! Oh, Lucy will leave, since she has to. She knows the rules, the rules *he* made. But Adam's sons are not so strong, are they? Adam's daughters are not so smart.

ADAM

They're strong enough. And smart enough. For you.

LUCY

Now, yes. But the years will pass and pass and pass, so many years. So what? Lucy can wait. He made sure of that. Lucy cannot die, Lucy cannot leave this stinking hellhole. So Lucy will wait. Lucy has nothing better to do.

LUCY kisses ADAM violently, then runs off. ADAM shakes his head, then goes to Gate. Looking around, he tries to open it. It is secure. He sighs, then picks a rose. EVE enters, carrying a small cake. She tip-toes behind him, then taps him on the shoulder.

EVE

Boo!

ADAM

Lucy, I told you— oh, Eve, thank goodness it's you. Lucy was just here, raving and carrying on, as usual.

EVE

I guess that's what the storm was all about.

ADAM

Yes. She can't make a complete sentence anymore, but she can sure whip up a dandy tornado.

EVE

She really has gone off the deep end. I feel so sorry for her.

ADAM

Sorry!?

EVE

She wasn't always this way. Years ago, she could be so understanding. I think she really cared about us once.

ADAM

I don't know, I never did like her. She was always manipulating things. Like me and you, for instance.

EVE

I suppose so. Look at me, what am I thinking! Here, happy birthday, my beloved. I made this for you.

She hands him the cake.

ADAM

Birthday? Drat, I can't believe it, not another one already? These things sneak up on you after awhile.

EVE

They are sneaky. They sneak up and when you're not looking, and they tack on another wrinkle or another grey hair.

ADAM hands her the rose.

ADAM

Here's a rose, Eve. They're really beautiful this year. You know, I can remember like it was yesterday when you named them. Like everything else around here.

EVE

Silly old man. You named the rose. And I remember it, too, just like it was yesterday. You tried to impress me.

(imitates his voice)

"Roses. Oh yes, I worked especially hard on those."

(chuckles)

Don't they smell wonderful? Right after a rain, that's when I love them the best.

ADAM

Maybe Seth will come by, and all the great-great-greats. You know, to wish me a happy birthday.

EVE

They might, it is such a crowd now, when we all try to get together.

ADAM

It is a passel. Thanks to you, the mother of us all.

EVE shakes her head.

EVE

The tired mother of us all.

She staggers slightly.

EVE (CONT'D)

Lord have mercy, I feel a little shaky.

ADAM

Are you all right?

ADAM takes her arm, helps her sit on the ground.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Eve, are you feeling all right? What's the matter?

EVE

Nothing, nothing. I'm fine, really. Help me sit down over here, please. Next to Abel's grave. Adam, do you remember when you saved Abel? From drowning?

ADAM

Yes, of course, but be quiet, now. I think you ought to rest—

EVE

I was thinking about that today. You pulled him out of the river, and he was saved. But then later, Cain killed him anyway. Like it was meant to be, and there was nothing we could do about it.

ADAM

Be quiet, Eve. Why don't you take a little nap, you seem so pale.

EVE

I am tired. But it is a mystery, don't you think? What did God say, when he gave us free will? Something about destiny. Do you think that's what destiny is, a force that just ignores what we want? Or is it some kind of balance?

ADAM

I don't know. Try and sleep. Here, I'll sing to you. "Ha-le-lu-jah. Ha-le-lu-jah."

EVE

"Ha-le-lu-jah." We're going to have to learn a new song one day.

ADAM

At least the words are easy. "Ha-le-lu-jah. Ha-le-lu-jah."

EVE

Adam?

ADAM

Yes, beloved?

EVE

I have always loved you, Adam.

ADAM

Yes, my love. I have always loved you. "Ha-le-lu-jah."

EVE

Adam?

ADAM

Yes?

EVE

I think I've loved you more than I loved the Lord. Is that right?

ADAM

I... I don't know. It doesn't sound exactly right, but-

EVE

No, it is right. I'm sure of it. Goodnight, Adam

ADAM

Goodnight, Eve. "Ha-le-lu-jah, Ha-le-lu-jah, hmmm"

ADAM hums and rocks her for a moment.

SOUND: Low rumble of thunder. LIGHT: flash of heat lightning.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Eve? Eve, I think it it must be right. Because- because it's the same for me. Eve? Eve?! Eve!!

LIGHT: lightning crackles. SOUND: thunder and wind.

BLACKOUT

Scene 4

Cobwebs hang on the Gate & table, a thick layer of dust lies on the book & table. The chair lies broken. A tombstone bearing EVE's name is next to Abel's. GOD enters, looks around. He often comes here. He goes to the Gate, pushes on it, it doesn't move. Satisfied, he picks a rose, crosses to tombstone, places it on the Eve's grave. As he stands looking at it, ADAM enters. He is older than before. He uses a staff, and moves slowly.

ADAM

It seems like every time I come here, I find you. Am I looking for you, or are you just waiting for me?

GOD

A little of both, I imagine.

He goes to desk, picks up book, blows dust off, opens it.

GOD (CONT'D)

I really need to get this back to Moses. He'll forget everything if it's not written down. Oh, this is so good, listen to this. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed." Now that is the kind of language I had in mind. I tell you, if it's not King James, it's not the Bible.

ADAM

He does good work.

GOD

The best.

He goes to tombstone.

GOD (CONT'D)

Eve was a good woman.

ADAM

The best. And don't start with "she was the only woman."

GOD

I wouldn't dream of it. She was the best that ever will be, believe me.

ADAM

I was never dissatisfied.

GOD

When I know, I know best.

ADAM

When you know? Lord, you always know.

GOD

It just seems that way to you, Adam. It's a matter of perspective. Or paying attention. I pay more attention to some things than I do to others. Why didn't you finish her gravestone? You never filled in her age.

ADAM

(embarrassed)

I, uh, didn't exactly know how old she was.

GOD

You didn't know? How could you not know?

ADAM

I sort of missed a few of her birthdays. And then after awhile, I lost count. You know something? She never forgot my birthday. Not once in all those years.

GOD

I did give her a good memory, didn't I?

ADAM

Anyway, after I lost count, she never would tell me how old she was. I wonder why? It was just a number.

GOD

Eve could not abide growing old. It was different for her.

ADAM

(pauses a moment)

So why did she have to grow old? It was all because of the fruit, wasn't it? All because you made a rule saying we shouldn't eat it. It's all because of you, isn't it? I've lived nine hundred some-odd years, and not a day has gone by I didn't ask myself, "Why did God do that to us?"

GOD

If you'd left the fruit alone, you wouldn't have thought about it.

ADAM

It was the eating that caused the thinking. And it's never stopped. Except for a little while when Eve died. For a while, I didn't think about anything.

GOD

I made Creation for you, I laid down some rules. Was that so hard?

ADAM

Yes it was. Because when you made us, you made us alone.

GOD

You weren't alone. You had Eve, you had your children.

ADAM

Not alone like that. Lord, you made all this and you made me. You made Eve. But you made us apart. You gave us the sense to see it and to feel it and souls to appreciate it. But you didn't you give us any way to share it with each other.

GOD

I gave you language. I gave you words.

ADAM

Words? Words don't share, they get in the way. You say a thing, it becomes something else.

GOD

I guess you have to be God for it to work right.

ADAM

Be God, huh? It couldn't hurt.

GOD

(turns away, to himself)

Oh, it hurts. It hurts a lot.

(pause)

Adam, about that Original Sin idea. I decided against it.

ADAM

I thank you for that. My descendants are going to have their hands full just trying to avoid Lucy. It would have been a bit much to be convicted before they even did anything.

GOD

Anyway, I put so much guilt into the human psyche, some wise guy philosopher will probably come up with original sin all on his own.

ADAM

No doubt.

GOD

I am going to eventually hold everybody back to three score and ten years, more or less. But it's not a punishment. It's birth control. I mean, look at what you and Eve managed to do. You two were like rabbits.

ADAM

(grins)

We were, weren't we? She wore me out, although I never seemed to mind. But now— Lord, I am so tired. I don't sleep well these days, pain in all my joints. And I miss her so badly.

GOD

I know you do, son. Listen, I'm glad you came by here today, I had another thing I wanted to say. And this is a good place to tell you.

ADAM

Tell me what, Lord?

GOD

I'm taking you home with me, Adam. Your time is come, and now I want you to stay with me.

ADAM

Where?

GOD

Over yonder, through the gate. It's a nice place, and Eve's waiting for you.

ADAM

She is?

He starts to Gate, then stops.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Are you sure? It's been so long. Things must have changed. I won't know what to expect. I don't know if I want to go over there or not.

GOD

You're not afraid, are you? I told you it was a nice place.

ADAM

You're the one who put the fruit out in plain sight, remember?

GOD

Oh, for goodness sake! Do you want to rest from your troubles, or don't you? You are afraid, aren't you?

ADAM

You punished us with death. That was a punishment, remember? And then you took Abel. And then you took Eve. Eve's gone and I don't know where. You say she's over yonder, but I don't know that. Yes, I am afraid.

GOD

Listen, Adam, when I made death, I was making it a punishment. But I got that a little less right, too. Death is not a punishment, it's a release from punishment. It's a part of life, and there's no reason to fear it. It's just the end of your life on earth. Let it go.

ADAM

How can I let it go? I mean, why does death even have to happen? Why do we have to grow old and die? And why does living have to hurt so much? Whenever I ask you why things are the way they are, you ignore me. Just this once, couldn't you please just tell me why?

GOD

I can't explain it to you. I gave you my spirit, Adam. I didn't give you my mind.

ADAM

Then tell me one thing. Why am I here?

GOD

Why are you here? That's easy. I was lonely, that's why. Maybe I made the universe too big, or too empty. So I put you here, so that when I looked at you, I could see at least a part of myself looking back. Is that enough of a reason for you?

ADAM nods.

GOD (CONT'D)

Good, because it's the best I can do. Come, walk with me, Adam. I promise you that you'll be with me forever. You'll never be alone again. And you will always know why. I swear it.

ADAM

Your oath?

GOD

As I am my witness.

They start to walk to Gate. ADAM stops.

ADAM

While we're at it, there's something I've been meaning to tell you, too. It's about the creation.

(MORE)

ADAM (CONT'D)

I- I just wanted to tell you it was a good job, a really great job, and I mean that. Because you did put in one thing in it that kept us together: love. Loving Eve was the most powerful thing that ever happened to me.

GOD

I guess it's a good thing I remembered to put that in.

ADAM

And- I love you, God. It's a hard thing to do, loving God. I don't even know exactly why I do, but there it is.

GOD

And praise?

ADAM

(rolling his eyes)

Yes, and I praise you, too.

GOD

You wouldn't happen to remember that little hymn of praise I wrote, would you?

ADAM

Of course I remember. Would you like me to sing it?

GOD

Adam, only if you feel like it.

ADAM

I feel like it.

GOD

Tell you what, we'll sing it together.

**Singing, arms around each others
shoulders, they exit via the Gate.**

GOD & ADAM

"Ha-lelujah! Ha-lelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Ha-le-ay-lu-jah!"

MUSIC: "Hallelujah Chorus"

CURTAIN AND CURTAIN CALLS