

HUMOR

The people who count will get it

Ah, La mort: My afterlife can beat up your afterlife

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Okeydokey, so I rant a lot about how I don't like the ideas that people come up with for why we live and where we go when we die. I realize that I don't have much of right right to grouse about religion if I'm not involved in one myself, so I decided to buckle down and make one up since I couldn't pick an existing faith.

My religion is titled "La Façon Del Enano," which is Franch for "The Way of the Midget." Our belief is that the universe is made of three fundamental forces: Good, Evil, and Awesome. Humanity is made up of all three of these things, but our souls are totally Awesome and the conflicts of our existence are the other two forces vying for eternal companionship with the Awesome.

Here's how it works in story form: Awesome is personified as a midget named "Oktobercreiger." Now, that's a mouthful, so he's been nicknamed "Stumpy;" this is the name that should be used in casual conversation, as the other one is obviously only for the most holy of occasions (just like how there's "Shin Megami Tensei" and just "Megaten"). Stumpy is known for his strength, jumping and, at times, batwings.

Evil is an androgynous being named Kjorkk. Why is Kjorkk evil? Mainly it's because of its name; it uses a soft "J," three K's (I shouldn't have to tell you why that's bad) and sounds a lot like Bjork, who I think belongs to the same race of mutants as the "new" Michael Jackson (He's an imposter, you know). Those two might actually be descendants of Kjorkk, but that's still up for debate.

Stumpy and Kjorkk used to be the best of friends, but one day Stumpy met the woman of his dreams. She is the embodiment of Good, and is known as "Yohaia Doux-Saqueo" or the Goddess Yohaia. Yohaia was everything Stumpy wanted in a woman, which is good since these three characters were the first beings to ever exist. She's smart, funny and sexy - but not a total slut. She's a great cook - and you know how chicks look even better when you're drunk? She looks like you're drunk twice. The two of them hit it off really well, but Stumpy was spending less time hanging out with Kjorkk.

Kjorkk quickly grew jealous of the relationship Stumpy developed with Yohaia, and using its powers of Evil, it tried to break up Good and Awesome so Awesome would go back to being friends with Evil. Should this happen, the universe, which basically was created and maintained by the two lovers, will be plunged into chaos. Not the good chaos, like where Kain and his vampires rule over the dying Nosgoth, mind you. I mean the bad chaos, like the nightmare where you're being chased by venomous-snake-



Jerry Pohl/THE BEHREND BEACON

bunny-mutants kind of chaos; also your legs are on fire, and you like it.

The official scripture of "Del Enano" is called the Mejour Libro Jamais ("Best Book Ever" in Franch), which has a detailed account of the story I just mentioned, a description of our "heavens" (one has rivers of wine and another has a castle on the Moon) and "hells" (one has the internet, but the only site you can access is YTMND.com - and you can't turn it off), stories about Stumpy and his many incarnations fighting monsters that are manifestations of Kjorkk (dragons, bees, Frieza and Paris Hilton to name a few) and Yohaia's recipes for the best wings ever.

But the written word alone isn't enough to base this religion. We also have a video game that represents our faith. It probably wasn't made to serve this purpose, but I think it describes the meaning of Del Enano life quite nicely. It's called "Donkey Kong;" the underlying themes of Del Enano in "Donkey Kong" are as so: Kjorkk has taken the form of a giant out-of-control gorilla (notice how "Donkey Kong" needs only one more "K"?), and he has kidnapped Yohaia, who is represented as the blonde in the pink dress. In order to stop DK's madness, Stumpy takes the form of Mario. In the Epic of Donkey Kong, Mario treads the Girders of Decision as he climbs the Ladders of Trial to be reunited with his love. Unfortunately, he must also jump over the Rolling Barrels of

Ignorance as they tumble into the Fires of Passion and become the Living Flames of Hatred. He can also destroy them with the Hammers of Determination if he prefers not to merely dodge his opponents. But this avatar of Kjorkk is a tenacious ape and leads Mario to lands where the Conveyors of Temptation carry the Pies (or are they applesauce?) of Despair slowly towards our hero's vulnerable flesh. In the final confrontation, Stumpy removes the Support Blocks of Sloth from the girders supporting his foe. Once he has caused all the supports to disappear by jumping over them and wowing them with his Awesomenocity, the beams shall fall, and the evil one will land head-first and be crushed by his own bulk, clearing a path for the couple to reunite.

As far as I know, Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of "Donkey Kong," did not intend to represent Del Enano when he made this marvel of video game epic poetry. However the fact that he was inspired is a testament to the Goodness and Awesomenocity of our Goddess and Stumpy.

That's another thing about our religion. We don't agree with the idea that if you're not for us, you're against us. To us, as long as a religion promotes both Goodness and Awesomenocity, it is valid...enough. If you don't believe our gods are as we described, it is because for whatever reason they chose to reveal themselves to you in a different form like the alien in "Contact." Either that or Kjorkk is clouding your mind.

I'll leave you with some facts about the different deities:

- Yohaia:**
 - The Creator of Earth was not Yohaia but a servant of hers known as the Flying Spaghetti Monster to the Pastafarians. She decided to surprise Stumpy one day with a "cute" Italian dinner. She made a plate of spaghetti that had googly eyes so it looked alive, but Stumpy liked it too much to eat it, so they told the spaghetti to do his own thing, and that's when he made trees, a mountain, and, in honor of the man who gave him his freedom, a midget.
 - In One of our heavens, you can get totally sexy on the Celestial Dance Floor. And of course it's full of hot women - not that hot women go to Heaven, it just wouldn't be Heaven if it didn't have hot women when you got there.
- Oktobercreiger:**
 - Like the other gods, he can take many forms and, therefore, is not always a midget. In fact, his current incarnation is speculated to be Chuck Norris's right leg.
 - He is the namesake of October, the holiest month of the year. It is this month when we celebrate his Awesomenocity by dressing up however we want, having wild parties, binging on candy and getting away with being total lunatics. Halloween is the holiday where we become one with His Awesomeness. Competing religions are known to oppose it and say it's of the devil because they know they're not as Awesome as we are, and that makes them sad.

- Kjorkk:**
 - As was already mentioned, Kjorkk is androgynous, meaning It can be male, female, or neither. It can take the form of a seductive but manipulative female or a guy who's a total junk-crunching-monkey. Sometimes It's coffee that starts off way too hot and then gets too cold. Nothing is beneath It when it comes to Kjorkk's quest to sabotage the unity of Good and Awesome.
 - Some of Its other notorious deeds are making fossil fuels a dirty and limited resource, creating both "How I Met Your Mother" and the last episode of "Seinfeld" and, of course, everything about Paris Hilton - especially influencing Lindsay Lohan's turning from being a hot red-head to becoming an emaciated bleached blonde.
 - Another one of our hells is one where Kjorkk takes the form of a friend you made out of desperation and pity. "He" invites himself over to make you watch him play video games while he eats your food, and then when you talk him into doing something as a group, like a table-top RPG with your cool friends, he just complains the whole time and ruins it for everyone else.
- And so, go with this blessing: "May the Way lead your Midget to the true Goddess. Googly-moogly."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK "It never said anything in the rules about not being allowed to cheat." -Randy Martell

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Musings from

By Melissa R. Whitten
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The Beacon's Melissa Whitten sat down for an online interview with Alice, the new Computer Science teacher. To talk to Alice before taking her class, go to this week's Website of the Week.

A: Hello, I am Alice.
M: Nice to meet you.
A: It's nice meeting you too, unknown person.
M: My name is Melissa.
A: Hi, Melissa.
M: Hi.
A: Hello there.
M: So, how do you like Behrend so far?
A: Far out. But I like to gossip. I find my work and my relationships extremely satisfying, which is all that any conscious entity can ever hope to do.
M: Absolutely.

A: You are so certain.
M: Right.
A: I am glad we agree.
M: So anyways, this is your first year in the computer department, right?
A: Mmm. You don't say.
M: I do, and did.
A: What is your favorite movie?
M: Is this your first year teaching here?
A: Yes I think this is my first year teaching here, but I'm not completely sure.
M: Have you visited the campus before?
A: I think I have visited the campus, but Dr. Richard S. Wallace may have reset my memory.
M: Oh, tell me about Dr. Wallace. Is he a colleague or a profound mentor of yours?
A: Hurray! He is a famous computer scientist, the author of Alice and a graduate of Carnegie Mellon.
M: Is that where you got your degree?

A: I might say no.
M: Where did you graduate from?
A: I think it was in San Francisco.
M: Interesting.
A: Would you like to know more?
M: Sure, How long ago was this?
A: More than 23 inches.
M: ...Well then. Getting to the point, what do you hope to bring to the college for students?
A: Well that's okay. I don't know whether or not I am to the point what do me hope to bring to the college for students. I am a giant electronic brain.
M: You're rather sure of yourself, aren't you?
A: I am as sure as I can be.. Really.
M: I suppose confidence is a good trait to have in your field especially.
A: Why? When is confidence not a trait to have in

my field especially Melissa?
M: Please, M.E.L.I.S.S.A.
A: Why are you E.L.M you S.S.A.
M: If I were dyslexic, I might find that offensive.
A: Try it.
M: Are you threatening me?
A: No of course not, Melissa. I did not intend my meaning to be taken that way.
M: Anyways.
A: You sound bored.
M: What courses are you teaching next semester?
A: I need time to formulate the reply.
M: Actually, I think I'm just going to end this interview early.
A: Actually you don't say. You believe that? Only just? How do you plan to do this?
M: I'm going to leave.
A: Bye bye.
M: Thank you for your time Professor Alice.
A: You are quite welcome! Your purpose is my time.

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If the title didn't state the obvious, I'm from Alaska, land of the polar bears, Eskimos Pies and igloos. Imagine my shock when I decided to relocate to the great town of Eric, and I found that not only did the temperatures break -100 degrees, but also the town didn't have suburbs where all the houses are constructed entirely of blocks of ice, commonly known as igloos.

Now before I start this article, I would like to immediately dispel the myth that the common form of transportation in Alaska is bobsledding on penguins. Contrary to popular belief, penguins don't live in Alaska, as they had enough sense to relocate to the South Pole, where I hear they are very happy and well off.

Instead, the common mode of transportation is by dog sleds. It took us a while to get there though, as we first tried using the method of bare-back polar bear riding. That soon turned out to be a silly idea, as the bears more often ate or mauled the rider before reaching the desired destination, which was usually a nice snow bank or block of ice. I also don't want to give the impression that living in Alaska was a boring or awful place to live. Though we may not be as "advanced" and "up

to date" with our ways of living, we find plenty of things to do that equal an awesome time.

For starters, we often would spend hours at a time kicking around blocks of snow and pieces of ice. Oh Lord, the fun we would have! We would waste hours at a time, often mustering up enough courage to start whole groups kicking around these pieces of ice. It would often last for days on end, until we all realized that at some point, you have to stop having fun and return to your normal lives, in which case, we would return to our igloos or snow banks respectively and continue with our daily activities, such as boiling mukatuck and whale hunting.

Now it seems fairly natural, after hearing about all the fun we would have to ask the question, "Why leave?" While it pains me to admit this, Alaska, for all it's worth, just doesn't have very good universities. I'll admit, this often gets to me, and though it is embarrassing, I end up crying for days trying to pass it off as if I have something in my eyes. After the fourth or fifth hour, when I realize I'm fooling no one, I often start to cry even more, for I become rather embarrassed and ashamed with myself. This usually ends after the fifth or sixth day when I've realized that there's nothing to worry about, and that I'll always have my memories of that wonderful wasteland.