

"Nothing crushes a man's spirit more than another semester."

Just what in the hell is this "Heaven" thing anyways? A new and exciting hypothesis

By Mike Sharkey

~Spiritual Guru, Gaming Guru, etc.

Although the number 42 has already been proposed, most people on this speck of dust are still looking for the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. "Why are we here? Where are we going? When am I going to get laid?" Mankind has always been searching for answers to the thing we call Life.™

Major religions believe that doing deeds thought as favorable by an omniscient Being will indeed help send people to "a better place." The word "Heaven" often evokes images of angels, harps, and virgins in the clouds. Now, we all know that NASA pilots don't have to scrape angel guts off their windshields like bugs, so we can pretty much rule out the possibility of any sort of happy place being located anywhere near Earth. Realistically, why would any sort of god put the perfect afterlife resort right next to the dung heap he had to peel us out of in the first place? Perhaps that is why us humans haven't had contact with other intelligent life in the galaxy. Earth was exiled to prevent us from bringing down property values. The Galactic Real Estate market was suffering enough, before those Earth people moved into the



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON
Loading screens exist in Heaven, but are much faster than Earth.

neighborhood, partying and disturbing the peace. Earth was excommunicated from the rest of the Universe for being annoying. Now, as we twirl here in space, the rest of the Universe is living life as Earth did in the 1950s... Happily. The husband wears a suit everywhere, the wife enjoys spending her days in the kitchen, the kids tuck in their shirts, and the threat of a nuclear holocaust keeps everyone docile. Ah, the good ol' days.

But what if this so called Heaven isn't such a loving and happy place? Referencing the Bible as one source of our understanding of Heaven indicates that Heaven may not be such a happy place after all. The Book of Revelation in the New Testament* states:

"And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses." ~Rev. 19:14

Such a statement (and others) can propose the possibility that this Heaven place isn't all about peaceful harp-plucking. There are more passages talking about violence in Heaven, but you can look those up for yourself.

Other typical conceptions of Heaven include ideas that it's everlasting, and that you'll have to work, but it won't involve fatigue or frustration. Rewards are typically offered for performing good deeds. All these and other ideas have lead me to one conclusion:

Heaven is a MMORPG - Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game.

If you think about it, the similarities are uncanny. In those damned online games, you enter a virtual universe unconnected to Earth, where work is fun, dragons are possible, and you earn rewards for doing stuff. It's been said that Heaven's occupants

have no gender, since reproduction is unnecessary. Just like Heaven, MMORPGs are genderless.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON
Everyone knows there are no women gamers. Always assume that a hot chick you meet in a MMORPG is in fact a 36-year-old male high school gym teacher still living in his parents' basement.

No matter how much you play, the game will never end, so like Heaven, it is virtually Eternal. Ah! But wait! The Bible states:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." ~Matt 24:35

Such as it is with MMORPGs... The game will not end until the Administrator or game company goes out of business and pulls the plug to the server. End of days. Apocalypse of the WoW variety.

Consider this following scenario: Imagine that you are reading this paper, sitting somewhere having some food, or waiting for class, when all of a sudden, a piece of the ceiling breaks and falls on your head killing you instantly. Not only would your parents get a hell of a settlement, they'd probably sue me for even thinking such a thing. Now, pretend that you wake up and find yourself in a new world. Heaven. We will assume the builder that put in the ceiling is going to Hell, since he was a tightwad and used

cheap materials.

You walk up to a friendly looking chap and ask for some assistance. He begins

by telling you to go through a sort of tutorial that involves you collecting some wildflowers. You proceed to frolic in the field, running as fast as you can, because this task is mundane and you want to get through it as soon as possible. You gather the correct number of flowers and give them to your guru. He

then rewards you with a set of wings, a harp, and a flame thrower. The gates open, and the loading screen appears.

After a few minutes, you finally see Heaven in all its 128 bit glory (since they're so high tech in Heaven). Clouds and tons of people you can chat with. It

truly is a marvelous sight to behold. St. Peter himself comes up to you and asks you for help. Oh how wonderful! You'd be honored! Slay a beast? Sure no problem! Uh, I can't die here... Right?

On your way to the Beast's cave, you run into some of the angels that have already been in-game since the beta testing, and they promptly pwn

your ass.

You "resurrect" at a nearby hospital, where you continue on your way to the cave.

On meeting up with the Beast, you realize that it's only a Level 1 monster, and you quickly dispatch it with your flame thrower. Coming back to St. Peter, he rewards you with a magic crown that gives you 1+ vitality...

This goes on for a couple years, but you begin to tire of the whole Heaven experience. You've achieved level 100, and yet you still feel unfulfilled. You decide to cancel your account, and head for Hell, where you've heard they have a spot open for Beta testers.

You sign up for a spot, and you're just lucky enough to get in. The joke is on you though, because Hell is in fact still buggy, resulting in frequent crashes, blue screens of death, and unwanted midget porn in your email. The game is released anyway, and millions of gamers suffer eternally for it. When you try getting back online in Heaven, you find that your account has been deleted, and the server does not accept your connection. You are stuck in Hell, hoping against hope that they come out with a patch.



Mike Sharkey/THE BEHREND BEACON OWNED.

*The New Testament (Otherwise known as The Old Testament: Part Deux) was released after the much acclaimed success of The Old Testament. Ever since then, movies, books, and video games have followed suit, because everyone loves a sequel.

Man sues all car companies for \$1 bajillion

By Mike Sharkey

~Serious Newsman, Seriously.

Hammond Desmond Schwartz has come forth with lawsuits for every major car company in the world, with more planned for the makers of baby buggies, tractors, and any other modern day invention utilizing what he claims is his ancestor's invention, the wheel.

Schwartz came forward last Thursday, but did not make the news due to the sheer absurdity of his claim. With the introduction of legal action, we are now obligated as Hammond Desmond Schwartz writers of this



A side by side comparison of the cave painting and as Hammond Desmond Schwartz.

paper to at least mention it (if at least on the humor page).

Using calculus to derive the amount of money he has been screwed out of, using the limit to infinity to estimate how much time it has been since the wheel was invented, Schwartz claims to be owed an outrageous "one bajillion

dollars." Schwartz was quoted as willing to settle for a kabillion, but at the time of print, carmakers refused to release any statements on the matter.

"My ancestor," Schwartz told reporters, "was a brilliant man: ahead of his time." Unfortunately, the only record or proof that Schwartz has is a sample of DNA he acquired during his time in the Mediterranean area. Cave paintings in the area suggest a family resemblance, though this is dismissible in court, yet may help sway a jury.

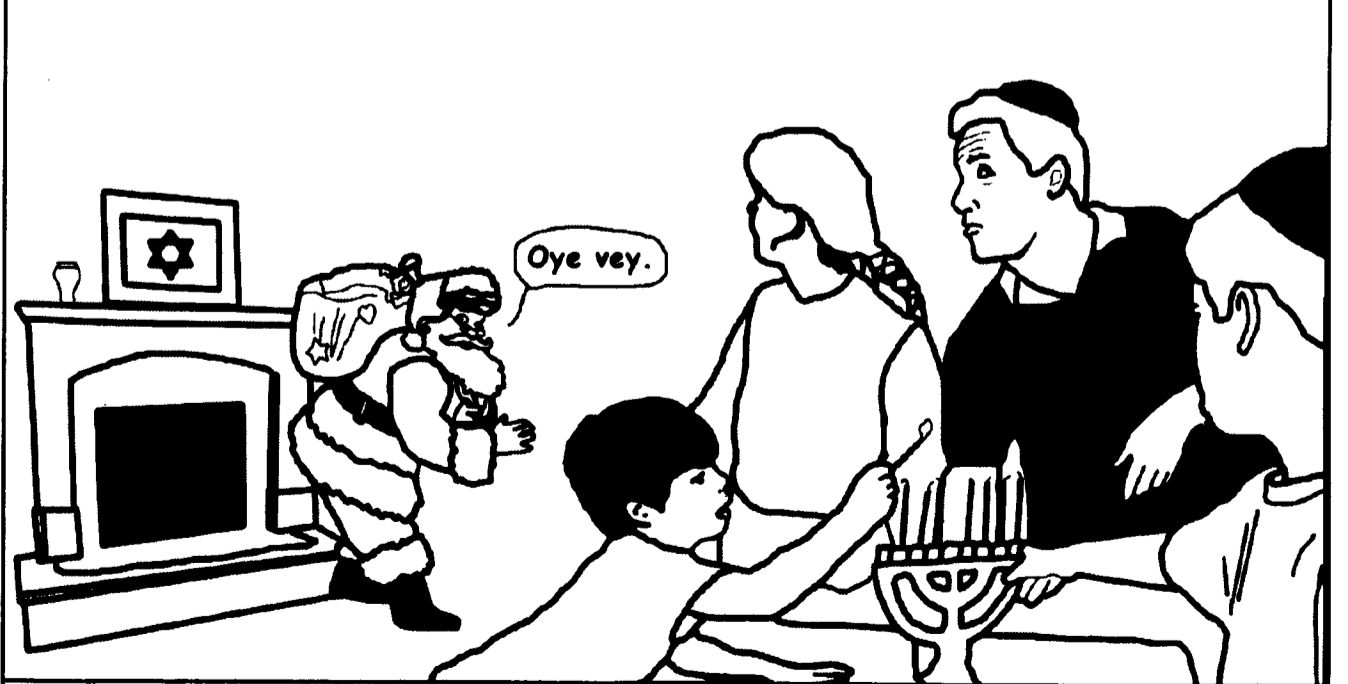
"These car companies have been screwing my family for generations," Schwartz declared. "This is my way of restoring honor to my family name."

Ford Motor Company has managed to tie up the case in the courts, so developments in the case may take years. "My family has waited this long, I can wait a little while longer," Schwartz said. "My son Gregor will help finish this."

Journalist Guild goes on strike, but no one is around to write about it (Photographer salaries go up 1000%)



Awkward Moments



Mike Sharkey
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