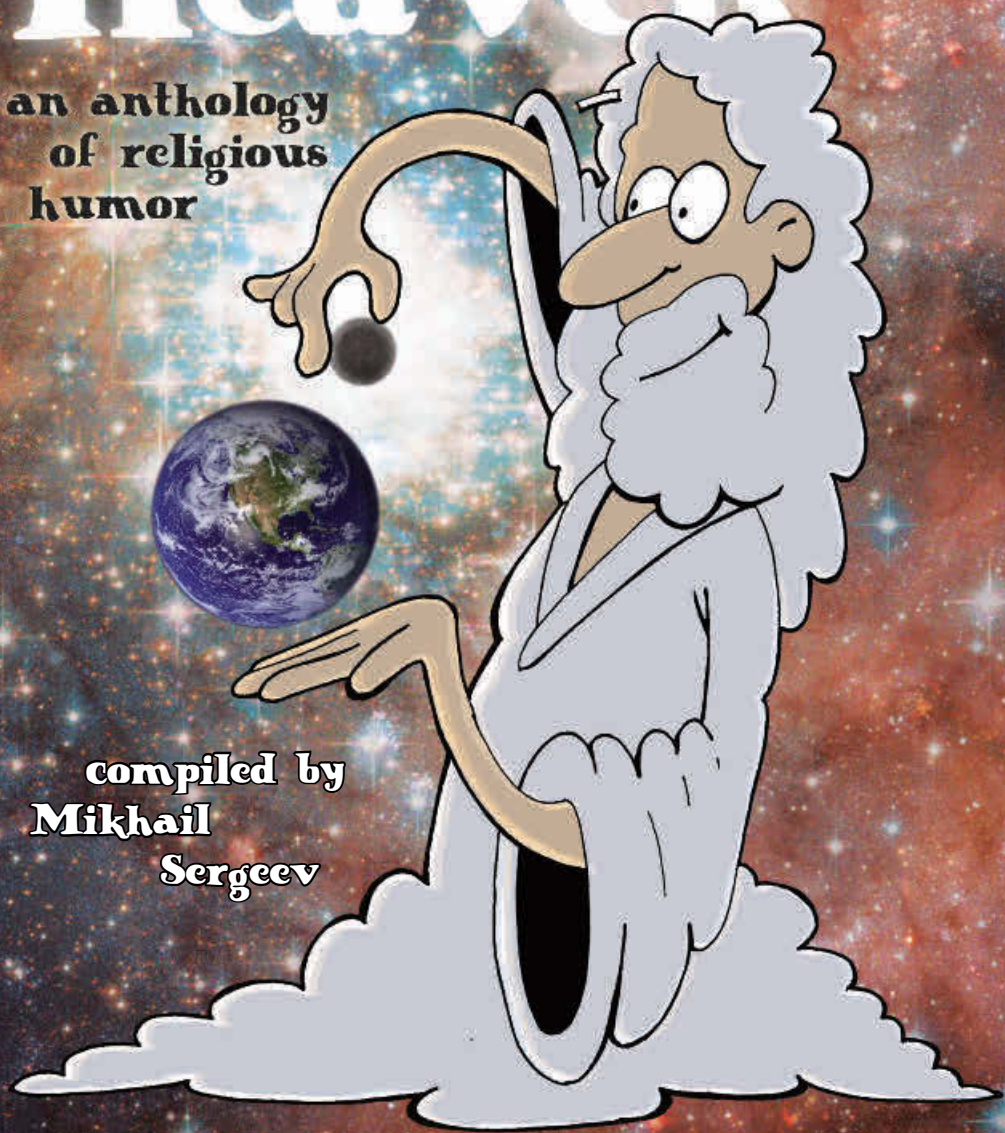


Smile from Heaven

an anthology
of religious
humor



compiled by
**Mikhail
Sergeev**

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Compiled by Mikhail Sergeev

Edited by Susanne Kummel

Smile from Heaven:

An Anthology of Religious Humor

(Compiled with an introduction by) Mikhail Sergeev

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Paradise Lost

Oh, you
handsome
devil, you.



Why didn't Noah kill those two mosquitoes?



Adam and Eve were the happiest couple on earth. They didn't have in-laws.



God must have loved mediocre people since he has created so many of them.



When God created humans he didn't protect his copyrights and now every fool can do the same.



In the beginning was the Word... But judging from how things have developed since then, this word would probably be unprintable...



God created the world in six days. On the seventh day he decided to rest, and, frankly speaking, why wouldn't he?!



— Sergeant, is it true that humans have descended from the apes?

— Yes, it's true, soldier, but this does not apply to sergeants!



In the very beginning God created the Earth. Then he rested and made a man! He rested again and created a woman! And since then neither God nor man ever rested again.



Most probably, God created woman after man because he did not want to listen to her opinions while creating the man.

They say that one minute of laughter makes one's life five minutes longer. Now it becomes clear why after creating life on Earth God lives forever...



For the first time Eve got hysterical after Adam ate the whole apple that she only had a chance to bite a tiny piece from.



God was able to create the world only in six days because he did not have to resolve the problem of compatibility with the previous version.



Many stories from the Bible sound quite contemporary. Let's take, for instance, the troubles of Noah who was looking for a parking space for forty days...



- Why in the world would so many people oppose human cloning?
- Because they remember the first unsuccessful experiment—the creation of Eve from Adam's rib.



Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage: he did not have to listen to stories about all the great guys she had a chance to marry; and she never had to hear her cooking being compared to that of his mother.



When God decided to punish Man, he pulled out man's rib and transformed it into a Woman. It turned out to be enough. That woman finished the punishment—she pulled out man's soul on her own.



The Word and the Sword



The software “Exodus” was written by God and compiled by Moses.



Our church is separated not only from the state, but from religion as well.



- What is the difference between God and a politician?
- God does not think that he is a politician.



I do not need much to be happy—a soft chair, clear monitor and root drive rights on the computer from which God rules the world.



Moses converses with God on Mount Sinai:

— Well, my Lord, they receive oil, and we have to cut a piece of what?



- Who is going to be the next president of the United States?
- George Bush the Holy Spirit.



I am a believer, but a pragmatist as well. I believe that Jesus walked on water but I also believe that this happened during the winter.



Adam and Eve are expelled from paradise and working day and night. The tempter snake approaches them: “So how do you like democracy?”



When God wants to punish Americans he sends unto them floods, earthquakes, storms and hurricanes. And when he wants to punish other nations he sends unto them, Americans.



While delivering God's commandments to his people, Moses broke the tablet with the most important 11th commandment: "Thou shalt not get caught breaking the previous ten!"



An inscription on a computer screen:
"Jesus Christ has changed your life.
...Save the change?"



A son is asking his father for permission to drive a car. His father says:

- Not until you get a haircut!
- But father,—the son objects,—Jesus also had long hair.
- Yes,—father replies,—but Jesus always walked on foot!



— Why was the Bible unacceptable to communists?
— Because, according to the Bible, in the beginning was chaos, and God introduced order into it. While the communist experience, on the contrary, teaches that order was first, and then came the chaos.



General Secretary of the communist party Brezhnev asked the Catholic Pope:

- Why do people believe in Catholic paradise, but refuse to believe in the communist one?
- Because we do not show them our paradise!—the Pope replied.



The 11th Commandment



Travel agency “Moses.” Travels to Egypt...



A woman is called kosher when, if she sleeps with a milkman, she will not sleep with a butcher on the same day.



- Mother, what is a five-point star?
- It is a circumcised six-point star, my dear.



- Why did Moses wander for forty years with the Hebrews in the desert before they came to the Promised Land?
- Because all this time he was looking for the only spot where there is no oil.



A man who wears kippa, does not eat pork, and does not work on Saturdays is an Orthodox Jew. A man who doesn't wear kippa, eats pork, works on Saturdays and does consider himself a Jew is a Paradox Jew.



- A Jew asks his rabbi:
- Tell me, rabbi, can I jump with a parachute during the Sabbath?
 - Yes, you can jump,—the rabbi replies,—but you cannot open the parachute!



- An old Jew is about to die. He dictates his will:
- I leave \$ 10,000 to Sarah, \$ 50,000 to Jacob, \$ 250,000 to...— he stops and raises his eyes above.—Oh, Lord, where will I get so much money?



An inscription near the door of a synagogue: "To come inside with your head uncovered is the same sin as adultery!" A handwritten addition below it: "Tried both—no comparison!"



An old Jew is about to die. His friend—a very old Jew—comes to say goodbye to him:

— Moshe, soon you will come to heaven and you will meet Him. So if he asks about me, tell him you haven't seen me and don't even know me at all!



A Jew is standing for a couple of days by the Temple's Wall, praying: "Lord, help me, give me money, and a car, and an apartment. I am poor, I live in misery. Help me." One week passes by. The Jew comes back and prays again: "Lord, one would think that I am talking to a wall!"



A question in reference to the Six Day War:

— Are the Jews allowed to make war on Saturday?

Answer:

— It's hard to say. They started the war on Sunday and finished it by Friday.



Rabbi in a supermarket:

— How much does this fish cost?

Salesperson:

— Sir, this is not fish, this is pork.

— And who was asking you?



— Our rabbi speaks with God every day.

— How do you know?

— He said it himself.

— What if he is lying?

— How can a person who speaks every day with God be lying?

New (Russian) Testament



Did Khrushchev believe in God?

— Of course, since he organized the Great Fast!



— What does one call the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church?

— Mitropolit-bureau.



— What is the difference between a Christian and a communist?

— A Christian hopes to go to paradise after he dies while a communist hopes to be rehabilitated posthumously.



On the tombstone of a neo-Russian there is a granite memorial in the form of a cell phone. On its display it's written: "The client is temporarily out of the service area."



— Who were Adam and Eve?

— The first Soviet couple. Only Soviet people could live without clothing, have one apple for a meal, and still believe that they are in paradise.



Do you know why neo-Russians don't like Jehovah's Witnesses? It's because they don't like any witnesses at all.



The Cathedral of Christ the Savior has been rebuilt in place of the swimming pool in Moscow. So, why wouldn't neo-Russians visit it? Because it doesn't have swimming facilities!



A guy comes to the Church and prays to God:

— My Lord, I am so tired of this mess, of these never ending Russian disasters. Please make the fools smarter and the roads better!

The next day he gets a phone call from the US embassy and is notified that he won a green card.



A schoolboy in the Soviet Union memorizes a fable:

— Once upon a time God sent a slice of cheese to a crow... Daddy, is it true that God exists?—he asks.

— Oh, my little baby!—His father replies,—And is it true that cheese exists? It's only a fairytale!



A neo-Russian went to a jewelry store. He looked at the stand with the golden crosses for a while and then asked the vendor:

— Listen, man, do you have a cross like these but without the gymnast?



In Soviet school:

— Children, there is no God! Let's show a finger to the sky! Abraham, why don't you do it?

— Well, if God does not exist, to whom will I show the finger? And if he does—why would I damage our relationship?



The daughter of a neo-Russian prays before sleep:

— Lord, please send some clothes to those poor girls from the magazine that my father reads.



A schoolboy in the Soviet Union memorizes a fable:

— Once upon a time God sent a slice of cheese to a crow... Daddy, is it true that God exists?—he asks.

— Oh, my little baby!—His father replies,—And is it true that cheese exists? It's only a fairytale!



Mikhail Sergeev was born in 1960 in Moscow, Russia. He holds his Master's degree (1993) and a doctorate (1997) in the history and philosophy of religion from Temple University in Philadelphia. Mr. Sergeev has taught in several universities and colleges of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Now he teaches history of religions, philosophy and modern art at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Dr. Sergeev is the author of numerous articles on philosophy and religion, which were published in Russian and American scholarly journals, as well as of several books, including *The Project of the Enlightenment: Essays on Religion, Philosophy and Art* (2004) and *Sophiology in Modern Orthodoxy: Solov'ev, Bulgakov, Losskii and Berdiaev* (2006).



“The collection of jokes in the book represents the tradition of spiritual and self-sacrificial humor... There is a proverbial saying in Russia—force a fool to pray to God and he will beat his forehead. Many anecdotes portray in a comic light just this pseudo-piety, the eternal human intention to follow the letter of religion to the detriment of its spirit...”

Religious anecdotes mock blind imitation of the authorities, literal (and often absurd) interpretation of the Scriptures, inappropriate claims to sainthood, and an insatiable desire to use God and religion in self-interest. Religious humor awakens respect and compassion toward those people who profess another faith or hold different views and opinions, and belong to diverse races, nations, classes and civilizations—an attitude needed in our contemporary world, stricken by the fever of religious intolerance and fanaticism.”

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