

Garden of Eden

Scene: God and the Serpent having tea. Seraphim and cherubim are striking the last of the Garden of Eden set.

God: That went well.

Serpent: You think so?

God: They totally bought it.

Serpent: Divine wrath is a real attention grabber.

God: Well, I couldn't have done it without the setup. You were quite persuasive.

Serpent: And just one bite of the apple. Did you see how fast they saw they were naked?

God: Went right for the fig leaves.

Serpent: Yes.

God: You know, I've always thought you are one of my most gorgeous creations. That smooth skin of yours shows so many beautiful colors when it catches the light. And that was a particularly selfless act on your part.

Serpent: How so?

God: Now she's going to want clothes, and eventually she'll want snakeskin high heels.

Serpent: Even so, that's one aspect of her nature I wouldn't want to tangle with.

God: What aspect is that?

Serpent: A woman's right to Choos.

God: I knew you were going to say that.

Serpent: You try telling a joke to an omniscient being.

God: Actually, it's the delivery I enjoy. It's all in the...

God and Serpent: TIMING! (God and Serpent enact an elaborate fist/snake-head bump ritual).

Serpent: Seriously though, why kick them out in the first place?

God: If all they ever knew was oneness with me, they couldn't appreciate the profound joy of it. They need to experience separation for comparison. The path to oneness is like lovers reuniting after a quarrel.

Serpent: Like make-up sex.

God: Once again...

Serpent: You knew I was going to say that.

God: I did. Yes.

Serpent: And what is the reason for death?

God: There's no focus without a deadline. Old age, sickness, pain make you ponder the purpose of life.

Serpent: And what is the purpose of life?

God: To realize you have never spent a moment outside the Garden.

God and Serpent: (Fist bump. Laughter. Deep meditation).

By Stephen Josephs