

By

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The Beginning

Chapter 1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was green and full. Herbs and fruits were available at any season.

The oceans abounded with whales and fish.

Man had dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Man cleared the forests, cultivated the land, and harvested from the sea. Mankind was fruitful and multiplied.

And all men were obese and happy.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.



Chapter 2

And the LORD God commanded man, saying, “Of every tree of the earth thou mayest freely eat.

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it, for in the eating of it, thou shalt surely die.

Chapter 3

Now the broker was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And broker said unto the people, “Did God not say that you shall have domination over all the earth?”

The people replied that they must not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for we shall die.

And the broker said unto the people, “You shall not surely die.

“For God doth know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

And when the people saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, they took of the fruit thereof, and did eat.

Chapter 4

The people grew in the knowledge of good and evil, classifying all men as good or evil. They sought to rule and punish all those judged to be evil.

And those people ruled and punished called their rulers evil and rose up and conquered or killed them.

Chapter 5

God looked upon his earth and saw the people judging and killing one another. The Lord knew that the people could only be redeemed by diminishing the knowledge of good and evil by distracting their minds.

So God set forth upon the earth a plague of pestilence. The climate warmed; strong storms ravaged the earth's surface; and whole earth became unfruitful. The fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and every living thing that moveth upon the earth suffered great destruction.

Great numbers of the people died. The living struggled daily to survive. The people became emaciated and saddened.

The Gospel

Chapter 1

After an eon of tribulation, God sent to mankind a savior, Nicholas, the Santa Claus. Nicholas was fat and happy.

In the dark of morning on the fourth day after the winter solstice, Nicholas appeared at the hearth of every man's home. Upon the need of every family, he left gifts in the home. In return, the families left milk and cookies to nourish his body and lift his spirits.

Chapter 2

In the nursing homes where the elderly waited grimacingly for their end, Nicholas turned off life-support machines. And the elderly, smiled. And the people rejoiced at these miracles.

Nicholas traveled about the countryside, educating the people.

Chapter 3

Upon leaving the city of Hotlanta, Nicholas and his disciples, known as elves, traveled to sacred hill of Woodstock. Many thousands of the people gathered at the hill to hear what Nicholas had to say.

And turning his gaze toward his elves, Nicholas began to say, "Blessed are you who are skinny, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall become fat. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh a big ho-ho.

"Blessed are you when men ridicule you, and steal from you, and insult you, and scorn your name as weak, for the sake of the Santa Claus.

"Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in Santaland."

Chapter 4

But the people said that they were hungry now, having been waiting at Woodstock for many days to see him. Nicholas sent his elves out among the people to gather food. When they returned they had but one bag of hard butterscotch candies and one bag of sugar.

And the elves said this is not enough to feed the masses. But Nicholas said, "Put the candy and sugar into a large pot and fill the pot with warm river water."

The people drank of the holy tea. Their stomachs tightened and their bowels loosened. And the people ceased asking for food.

Chapter 5

On the seventh day before the spring equinox, Nicholas traveled to the holy city of Houston. As he and his elves approached the limits of the city, throngs of people lined the roadsides. A man dressed in camouflage clothing, approached Nicholas and gave him a mule deer with reins tied to its head for Nicholas to ride.

Wearing only a blood-red colored robe with fringes of white cotton, Nicholas sat upon the deer in side-saddle fashion. Many of the people laughed heartily and were pleased to see Nicolas ride in such fashion. But many others jeered and called out insults.



Chapter 6

On the fifth day before the spring equinox, Nicholas entered the cathedral of the mass media. Seeing all the commentators and consultants lounging in the cathedral, eating abundant food, and becoming fat, Nicholas became enraged. He threw over the tables and walked upon the food.

The media priests grew angry and babbled incessantly against Nicholas calling him a false profiteer.

Chapter 7

On the fourth day before the spring equinox, Nicholas gathered his elves in a motel meeting room.



Nicholas told the elves that his enemies were increasing in number daily by spreading falsehoods using blogging and instant messaging. He said that before the evening was over, one of the elves would betray him by tweeting his location to his enemies. And each of the elves, said, “Not I Lord.”

Nicholas told his elves that the people should remember him and honor him by decorating trees in their houses with brightly colors baubles and lights. And they should leave an offering of milk and cookies by the tree on the night of each third day following the winter solstice.

Nicholas gave the elves milk and cookies, and then left the meeting.

Chapter 8

In the wee hours of the third day before the spring equinox, Nicholas' enemies arrested him and brought him before the regulators.

Nicholas was condemned as a trouble-maker and sentenced to exile in the desert.

Nicholas was cast into the Chihauhaun desert without any food or water, where he died.

Chapter 9

On the day of the spring equinox, the elves and many other people reported seeing Nicholas at their hearths.

The people rejoiced and said Nicholas was surely the Santa Claus.

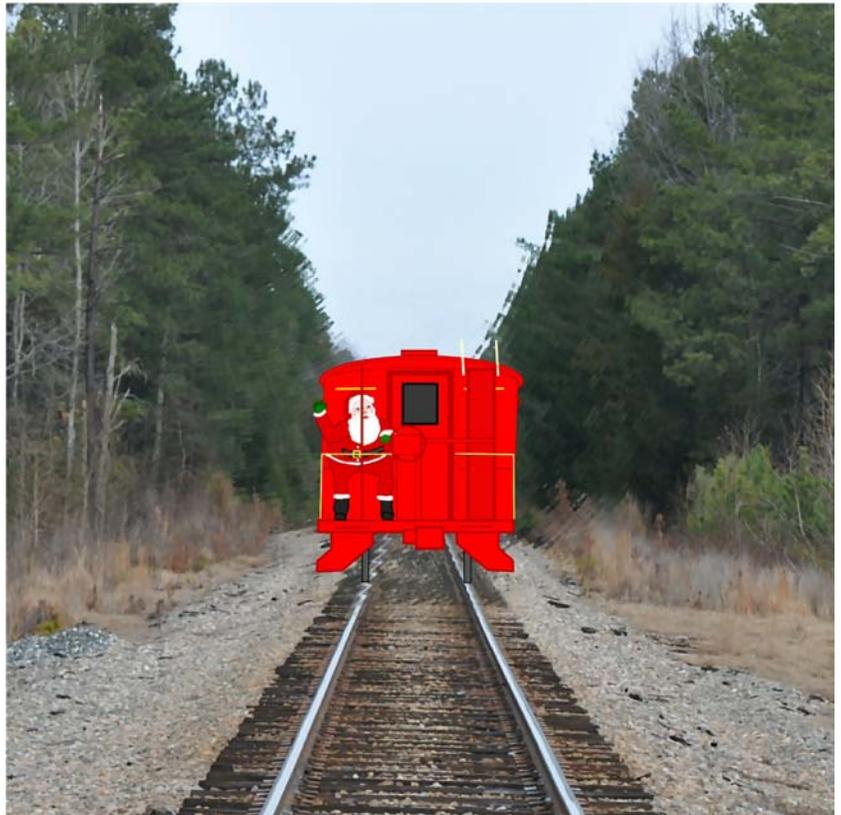
The Word

Chapter 1

Rudolph, the lead elf, urged the people to celebrate the birth of Nicholas every fourth day following the winter solstice by giving gifts to their children and loved ones. This day was named Santaday, the highest of the Hollydays.

Madeline was a dear friend to Nicholas during his ministry. She testified that she had seen Nicholas in the city of Alberta in Canada on the night of the people's annual celebration of his birth in the seventh year after the exile. She saw Nicholas board an express train heading north. She approached Nicholas and asked Nicholas where he was going.

Nicholas replied, "I am going to my kingdom, Santaland. I will be waiting there for you and the elves and all other people who follow me."



As Nicholas' express train moved away in the distance, a portal opened and the train disappeared.

Chapter 2

Donner and Blitzen, elves, traveled throughout North America telling all who would listen about the teachings of Nicholas.

Rudolph created and managed the Santa blog. Many people subscribed to the blog. The Santa blog was fruitful and multiplied.

Chapter 3

The anniversary of Nicholas' exile is known as Exileday and is celebrated by the people sending letters to Nicholas. The letters are addressed to Nicholas in Santaland and posted to trains heading north out of the city of Alberta.

The Revelations

Chapter 1

Prancer, elf of Santa, urged testified to the people on the vision of the future bestowed upon him from Nicholas.

The vision came to Prancer on the Hollyday of the Mushrooms.

All fat people, having partaken of the bounty of the earth in pretention of the Santa Claus, melted and flowed into cracks in the ground.

All carnivorous creatures died and rotted into the humus of the soil. Fruiting trees and seeding grasses flourished.

The skinny people, having dutifully maintained their emaciation, became obese and were allowed to board the express trains traveling north through the portal into Santaland.

Afterword

Religion plays important roles in establishing and maintaining values in our culture. It inspires us to pursue lofty goals and comforts us in our failures and tragedies. *The Holly Narrative of Nicholas, the True Santa Claus* is both parody and satire, but is not intended to ridicule religion. Rather, it is a parable to remind us of the dynamic and evolutionary nature of religion.

New religions are spawned from existing religions, adding a few new features, deleting some older precepts, and incorporating tenants of multiple contemporary religions.

Early religions were based upon powerful deities and demanded obedience. As societies grew, religions shifted to instill values which helped believers be beneficial members. Now, with our rapidly increasing scientific knowledge, religions must change again.

Our religions must change as our knowledge and culture increase. Our theologies cannot be static and absolute. To survive, our theologies must adapt to new conditions and forces. To do otherwise will lead to extinction.

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