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### DEAR REVEREND

A Play in One Act

By

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#### **CHARACTERS**

ADRIAN:Church bookkeeperPASTOR MITCHEL:Pastor of the Pentecostal churchHAROLD:Adrian's neighbourBODYGUARD  $\neq$  1:Pastor Mitchel bodyguardBODYGUARD  $\neq$  2:Pastor Mitchel bodyguardVOICE OF ALMIGHTY:One of pastor's bodyguardCHOIR & CONGREGATION:men and womenA WOMAN'S VOICE:The woman in the office

#### **SETTING**

A New Pentecostal Church anywhere in the world. world.

#### TIME

The present day. Friday evening between seven and nine in the evening.

#### <u>ACT I</u>

#### SCENE 1

UPSTAGE CENTRE THERE IS A WHITE CROSS AND A CENTRE STAGE PULPIT. DOWNSTAGE RIGHT THERE ARE THREE BLUE CHAIRS FACING THE AUDITORIUM; DOWNSTAGE LEFT THERE IS A TABLE DECORATED WITH WHITE CLOTH AND TWO BLUER CHAIRS. UPSTAGE LEFT, A BOOKSHELF.

LIGHTS UP WE SEE PASTOR MITCHEL ON THE PULPIT, PREACHING. ON BOTH HIS SIDE, STAND TWO BODYGUARDS WEARING LIKE GANGSTER.

A CHOIR, ALL WOMEN AND MEN, WEAR BLUE GOWNS STANDING IN THE FRONT OF THE CONGREGATION.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	When the Lord gives you everything, you say 'Amen! Is it an 'amen' enough?
THE CONGREGAT.:	No.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	'Beloved! One day, Emmanuel turned water into wine and stone to bread, you said 'Amen!'. When he gives you the daily life, you always say 'Amen!' Beloved! Do you think your answer 'Amen!' is enough?
THE CONGREG .:	(VERY LOUD) No.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	No, my brothers and sisters. You must pay back to the Lord what he gave to you with mercy. Well! Last night, the Lord had Revealed to me something very important. He said: "Oh, Mitchel! I am ordering you to build for me, a big temple, such as the one King Solomon dedicated to me. Dear brothers and sisters!

Commit to the Lord what you owe him is a very important commitment Give what you have, golden or money. Don't hire it because Lord knows how much you have in your pocket. He also knows how much vou saved in vour depository financial institution account. Commit everything to him and he will bless you. Hebrews chapter ten, verse twenty-two to twenty-five. says: "Let us draw near to Lord with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ... For he who promised is faithful Nol And let us think how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together.

as some are in the habit of exercising, but furthering one another and all the more as you attend the day approaching."

LIGHTS GO OUT. WHEN THE LIGHTS UP, ADRIAN, WEARS A WHITE SHIRT AND A BLACK TROUSER, SITS ON THE CHAIR

BEHIND THE DESK, DOING THE CHURCH BOOK. HE IS WHISTLING A CHURCH TUNE.

ENTER PASTOR MITCHEL, WEARING A CHIC COSTUME, A SHIRT WITH A BLACK COLLAR. ON BOTH HIS SIDE, TWO BODYGUARDS WEARING BLACK T-SHIRT AND BLACK SUNGLASSES.

## PASTOR MITCHEL: (EMBARRASSED) New technology, uh!

When they conceive and fabricate all those sophisticated things. Do they think that they are more intelligent than the Lord himself?

	When start using them, problems begin. What a foolish waste, eh!
	ADRIAN STOPS WORKING. HE LOOKS AT PASTOR MITCHEL.
ADRIAN:	What things, pastor?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Mobile phones, tablets, laptops, games
ADRIAN:	Really? How can I help you, Pastor Mitchel?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Nothing, Adrian! I don't need anything from a human being. My Lord is with me.
ADRIAN:	Stop it, pastor. I know you. When you start blaming things that mean something is wrong. Please, put your stubbornness behind you. Did not the Bible say that?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	All right! You got me. My laptop is freezing. Do you know someone who can fix it?
ADRIAN:	I have a friend who can check it for you.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	Great! Call him for me, please.
ADRIAN:	I will do.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Wait a minute. Is your friend a Christian?
ADRIAN:	What is that had to with being a Christian? So, you are telling me everyone who is willing to offer you service must be a Christian?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I think that a Christian man will never scam me.
ADRIAN:	How do you know that? Anyway, my friend even if he does not belong to any religion; he is a wonderful man without blame.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Without blame?
ADRIAN:	Okay. I admit that sometimes he can be very provocative, but he is very good.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You see, that is what I am talking about.
ADRIAN:	Do you want me to ring him or not, pastor Mitchel?

PASTOR MITCHEL:	That is fine. Let me pray the Lord. He will tell me if your friend is the best person for my laptop?
ADRIAN:	Do so. Since when you ask me for permission before you pray?
	PASTOR MITCHEL SPEAKS IN TONGUES. THEN HE STARTS PRAYING.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Dear Lord. You know better than me that human beings think they are beyond you by making technological gadgets happen. They become so arrogant, forgetting that you are the one who gave that intelligence. I am in trouble. My laptop is not working, and I want someone to repair it, but I can't find a Christian person to do it for me. That is the reason I am begging you to show me the way. I want you to tell me if I can that person and to change his views about the church. In the name of your son, Emmanuel. Amen.

ADRIAN:	I see. By the way, I did not hear you saying the name of my friend.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	There is no need for that, Adrian. Lord knows that, I was referring to your friend.
ADRIAN:	If you say so. What did the Lord say? May I ring him or not?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Well. He was hesitating, but he finally said yes.
ADRIAN:	Since when does God hesitate?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Adrian. The ways of the Lord are mysterious.
ADRIAN:	Do you want me to ring him or not?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Alright. You can call him.
ADRIAN:	Promise me that you will not offend him.

# PASTOR MITCHEL IS DODGES THE QUESTION.

ADRIAN:	Well, I won't ring him. You can take your laptop to another member of the Church. I heard that Joseph could repair very well. Try him.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh, him! I don't have confidence in him. The last time, I asked him to do it for me, but it was catastrophic.
ADRIAN:	So?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	So, what?
ADRIAN:	Should I ring him or not?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	We may proceed, but I don't want to be there while you are calling your atheist friend.
ADRIAN:	Pastor? You promised.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Sometimes people make promises, but they don't respect them all.
ADRIAN:	But, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I will see you later when my laptop will be repaired.

ADRIAN:	You are selfish.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	We live in a world of selfishness, my Adrian.
	PASTOR MITCHEL EXITS. ADRIAN DIALS A NUMBER FROM HIS MOBILE PHONE.
ADRIAN:	Yes, Harold. It's Adrian. I have a problem with one of the laptop here. Can you come, please? Yes, here in the church. Oh, Harold! Come on. The Church will not bite you. Perfect, I am waiting for you. IN A RUSH, PASTOR
	MITCHEL ENTERS.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Is he coming?
ADRIAN:	Why are you here? You said you would see when your laptop will be repaired.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shit.
ADRIAN:	You are swearing, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am sorry. What did he say?

ADRIAN:	He said, he will ask his Lord first.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What a son of a bitch. What God. He doesn't even have God.
ADRIAN:	Yes, he does.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What a sacrilege!
ADRIAN:	I don't know. Ask him when you will see him.
	PASTOR MITCHEL STARTS SINGING AND DANCING.
ADRIAN:	Is everything okay?
ADRIAN: PASTOR MITCHEL:	Is everything okay? Can I tell you something?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Can I tell you something?
PASTOR MITCHEL: ADRIAN:	Can I tell you something? Of course, pastor. Did you know that music
PASTOR MITCHEL: ADRIAN: PASTOR MITCHEL:	Can I tell you something? Of course, pastor. Did you know that music comes from heaven? I heard people saying that, but I

PASTOR MITCHEL:	No, Adrian. You need to change your way of thinking about the church. You must believe everything when it comes about the church.
ADRIAN:	I believe in God, pastor you know that.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I know, but you should believe that music comes from the heaven.
ADRIAN:	Are you telling me that have John Lennon, Madonna and Michael Jackson copied music from the heaven?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Obviously. It is pure plagiarism.
ADRIAN:	Wow! Who are heaven music celebrities then?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Good question. I have only one example to give you. It is King David.
ADRIAN:	Ah! I thought he used to live in Israel.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, but he did live in both Israel. The one in the Middle East and the one in the Heaven.
ADRIAN:	If you say so. You are the pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why do you say that?
ADRIAN:	It is new to me.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Every day, when I think about the marvels of the Lord, I am very happy. Oh! I forgot something. Did you know that was King David dancing for the Lord? I Samuel chapter 16: verse 16 says: "As a young man, he played the sitar.
ADRIAN:	As far as I know, he was playing the harp, and not a Sitar. And I have never heard that he was dancing. Was he dancing the Rumba? Let me think, Reggae?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Don't make a word of the Lord funny.

	Besides, you are wrong. It was a Sitar.
ADRIAN:	I thought you knew about it. It's all in the Bible. By the way, how do you know was he dancing?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	It's written in the Bible.
ADRIAN:	Sure! It's useless asking you for biblical evidence then. I am sure you have one.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	According to King David, Christians must dance in the church to please the Lord.
ADRIAN:	How can he obliges Christian to dance if he was not a Christian himself?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	King David was a full soul who accomplished good work for the Lord.
ADRIAN:	You did not answer my question.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh, the wonderful Kind David!
	ENTER HAROLD, CARRYING A LAPTOP BAG.

HAROLD:	Isn't it the guy who sent a general of his army to die so that he could commit the adultery with his wife?
	PASTOR MITCHEL LOOKS AT HAROLD WITH DISGUST.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO ADRIAN.) Who the hell is this guy?
HAROLD:	The one who will save your life.
ADRIAN:	Pastor Mitchel, meet Harold.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Harold!
ADRIAN:	He is the one who will repair your damn laptop.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(LOUDLY LAUGHS.) You are Talking like me.
ADRIAN:	You are the one who is teaching me that.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(LAUGHS AGAIN) What the fuck?
ADRIAN:	Mine was a D. word, not an F word.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What is the difference?

	(TO HAROLD) Do you believe in Emmanuel?
HAROLD:	I don't believe anymore in Emmanuel and his twelve Apostrophes.
	PASTOR MITCHEL AND ADRIAN LOOK AT HIM.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Apostrophes?
HAROLD:	Yes, I don't believe anymore.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Silly man.
HAROLD:	What is the difference?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, there is.
HAROLD:	Apostrophe is a punctuation mark, isn't it?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	So?
HAROLD:	It used to indicate possession.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	So?
HAROLD:	Example "Harry's book.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't understand:
HAROLD:	The book belongs to Harry.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	They belonged to Emmanuel.
HAROLD:	I prefer to say apostrophes.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	Apostles, you bastard.
ADRIAN:	He made a point, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO ADRIAN) What?
ADRIAN:	He is right.
HAROLD:	Am I?
ADRIAN:	Don't push it.
HAROLD:	Alright.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Emmanuel.
HAROLD:	Do you know what?
PASTOR MITCHEL &	z ADRIAN: No.
HAROLD:	I prefer apostrophes.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Are you challenging God?
HAROLD:	No, dear reverend. It is just the way I think.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Fuck. Oh sorry. (TO ADRIAN) How could you do that to me? I wanted a Christian to repair my laptop.
ADRIAN:	Pastor, you are swearing again.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh, sorry.
HAROLD:	Apology accepted.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am not apologising to you.
ADRIAN:	If I am not mistaken, your doctor's name is Dutt Sanjay?
HAROLD:	That guy is a Bollywood actor.
ADRIAN;	People can share same names. Do you know how many Jean-Marie Dupont are in Belgium and France? Thousands and thousands.
HAROLD:	Don't push it. I got it.
ADRIAN:	And if I remember that name is not Christian, right?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, but
ADRIAN:	There is no but. He's a Hindu.
HAROLD:	That is right.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO HAROLD) You shut up.
HAROLD:	Why?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	May I remind you that this is a discussion among
HAROLD:	Do you want to say, Christian, dear Reverend?

PASTOR MITCHEL:	What?
HAROLD:	I am here to fix your laptop.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	So?
HAROLD:	Not to be converted in the twelve apostrophes club.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What? I changed my mind.
ADRIAN:	What do you mean, pastor?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am calling someone else to fix my laptop.
HAROLD:	It's up to you, dear Reverend. Anyway. I am done.
ADRIAN:	You need to make peace.
HAROLD:	Peace is not a problem for me. I am a peaceful man.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Peaceful, my ass.
	HAROLD WANTS TO SHAKE PASTOR MITCHEL HANDS TO MAKE PEACE, BUT THE PASTOR CROSSES HIS ARMS AND LOOKS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

HAROLD:	Mister God's minister, you Not supposed to swear.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Who told you that? Even the Lord was swearing. Why not me?
HAROLD:	Really?
ADRIAN:	Are you gone, mentally, pastor?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What do you think he did when he chased those people who were trading in the temple? Can you chase people from somewhere without swearing?
ADRIAN:	Have you gone mental, pastor?
HAROLD:	I told you he is a mental case. What an attitude for a man of God?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO ADRIAN) Call me when this son of a bitch has gone.
ADRIAN:	Pastor?
	ANGRILY, PASTOR MITCHEL LEAVES THE STAGE. ADRIAN HANDS THE LAPTOP TO HAROLD. HAROLD PUTS HIS BAG ON THE FLOOR AND SITS.

	THEN HE STARTS CHECKING THE LAPTOP. ADRIAN IS DOING THE CHURCH BOOK. SUDDENLY, HAROLD STARTS SINGING, BUT LOUDLYWEARS HIS EARPHONE AND SINGS LOUDLY.
ADRIAN:	Do you mind lowering your voice, Harold? We are in God's house.
HAROLD:	What did you say? I can't hear you.
	HE CONTINUES SINGING LOUDLY.
ADRIAN:	(LOUDLY.) For Lord sake – why are you singing loudly?
HAROLD:	What did you say?
ADRIAN:	(LOUDLY AGAIN.) We are in God's house. You can't sing.
HAROLD:	I like singing. What is your problem? Besides, we are in a free country.
ADRIAN:	I know, but you also know that your freedom stops when from the other starts.

HAROLD:	I know. Declaration of human rights and the citizen of 1789 and Sartre.
ADRIAN:	I am happy you remember that.
HAROLD:	Look, I am practising for my music contest.
ADRIAN:	Well, Mister Music contester. I don't care. You need to stop it now.
HAROLD:	Why?
ADRIAN:	Firstly, I am deconcentrated, and secondly, this is a God's house.
	HAROLD POINTS HIS FINGER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE HEAVEN.
HAROLD:	Would he punish me?
ADRIAN:	Of course.
HAROLD:	Rubbish!
ADRIAN:	Not, it is not.
	HAROLD TAKES OFF THE EARS PHONE AND STOPS SINGING.

ADRIAN:	That is better.
	HAROLD APPROACHES ADRIAN THEN PUT HIS RIGHT ARM ALONG ADRIAN'S SHOULDER.
HAROLD:	I have a plan tonight, after ten.
ADRIAN:	A plan? What plan is it?
HAROLD:	My girlfriend has a very beautiful friend. She will introduce you to her friend.
ADRIAN:	Negative.
HAROLD:	Objection, your honour.
ADRIAN:	We are not in court, Harold.
HAROLD:	It is a kind of court. Say, yes. We are going to the club.
ADRIAN:	I don't do clubs, and I don't want any girlfriend.
HAROLD:	Why?
ADRIAN:	I am a born again.
HAROLD:	What's wrong with you, man? Okay, maybe in that century people were not

	allowed to have a girlfriend, but we are in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century. Do you remember?
ADRIAN:	Does not matter about the century. I am a man of principle. I decide not to have sex before I get married.
HAROLD:	Did I mention sex?
ADRIAN:	What do you think boyfriends and girlfriends do? Do they watch cartoons?
HAROLD:	Why do you think about the marriage?
ADRIAN:	Are you not interested in marriage?
HAROLD:	Not at all. I must enjoy my life first. Marriage is like a sweet pie. When you get in you are starting regretting. Marriage is a complicated business. People who are inside wanting to quit.
ADRIAN:	You are wrong. Marriage is one of the temporal estates which Lord already instituted in Paradise.

	"A man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to him a wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis chapter two, verse twenty-four.) This institution by Lord makes marriage holy and inviolable. " What therefore Lord has joined together, let no man separate" (Matthew chapter nineteen and the verse six. Marriage lasts until one of the parties involved dies (Roman chapter seven, verse two to three.) Where these principles are confessed and observed, marriage enjoys God's blessing, even though, because of human weakness, mutual love and the continuation of life together at times under severe strain.
HAROLD:	(LOUDLY LAUGHS) Look at you, huh? You are saying It's like on the stage performance.
ADRIAN:	Anyway, why are we having this conversation in the house of God?
HAROLD:	Adrian, Adrian, Adrian. Wake up.

	You don't even believe the lord has a house.
ADRIAN:	Maybe you are right, but we are in the church, aren't we?
HAROLD:	Churches are built by the culprit human beings who try to take advantage of the weak people, especially women.
ADRIAN:	Have a minimum of respect, Harold.
HAROLD:	Do you believe in that?
	ADRIAN HESITATES TO ANSWER.
HAROLD:	(LOUDLY LAUGHS) That is what I was talking about.
ADRIAN:	No chance to convince me, Harold.
HAROLD:	I am not trying to convince you. I want you to open your eyes. You deserve to enjoy your life. You don't need to wait for the marriage to enjoy your life.
ADRIAN:	I want it to be legal.
HAROLD:	You are not serious, are you? Find a girlfriend and enjoy your life.

#### ADRIAN STANDS AND THEN STARTS WALKING ON THE STAGE **ADRIAN**. You can't change the way I think. I am Christian, and I am devoted to God I don't intend to violate Lord's law Lord's law? HAROLD. Are you listening to yourself? What law? Are you listening to yourself? You speak like Moses. People transgress laws every day. Sometimes laws are meant to be bypassed. Look! You need a break. Have some fresh air and meet someone. Look Just give it a try and see what will happen? If you don't like her, you are free to move on She is sweet as honey. You know, having a girlfriend provides you with energy. ADRIAN. What energy?

HAROLD:	You will become emotionally stable.
ADRIAN:	Look, Harold! A woman is one of the very dangerous human being. It's because of Eve; we are suffering today.
HAROLD:	How can you be so misogynistic?
ADRIAN:	She gave the forbidden fruit to Adam.
HAROLD:	Stop telling yourself stories. Why didn't say no? She didn't force him.
ADRIAN:	Yes, she did. You know how they are.
HAROLD:	It has been just a sex story.
ADRIAN:	That is very outrageous. They were married.
HAROLD:	Who preceded their marriage? A White or a black mayor?
ADRIAN:	Stop blaspheming in the God's house.

HAROLD:	You are missing something good.
ADRIAN:	Like what?
HAROLD:	Kissing cuddling some different stuff. You see what I mean, right?
ADRIAN:	Didn't you say it wasn't because of sex? Unfortunately, I do not have enough time for that.
HAROLD:	Let me tell you a little story.
ADRIAN:	Oh my, yes. Made up stories as usual?
HAROLD:	No. That is a true story, I swear.
ADRIAN:	I don't believe you when you swear to God.
HAROLD:	Not to God! I swear in the name of my grandmother.
ADRIAN:	Go on then.
HAROLD:	One day, a guy was every time ill. Check-up after check-up, no doctor could heal him. And then he decided to consult a Chinese doctor.

	The Chinese doctor asked him if he was sexually active, he said no'. 'What a shame', said the doc. 'That is the cause of your illness.' He prescribes him some secret drugs, advising him to hire a prostitute for all night. You're excited now, aren't you?
ADRIAN:	No.
HAROLD:	You are not normal, man. All right. The same evening, he went to pay a visit to a prostitute. In the following day, he returned to visit the doctor and said: 'I feel good'.
ADRIAN:	(LAUGHING.) I have never heard a silly story like this. What are you trying to do to me? So, it was all about sex.
HAROLD:	What?
ADRIAN:	Asking me to go to the club with you.
HAROLD:	Come on! Open your eyes, Adrian.

ADRIAN:	I don't want to be Rudolf Valentino.
HAROLD:	Who is that guy, again?
ADRIAN:	I thought, you know everyone.
HAROLD:	Can you tell me who that guy is?
ADRIAN:	He was a very handsome actor, who liked to have sex with all women, even the married ones.
HAROLD:	Where does he live?
ADRIAN:	He died years ago.
HAROLD:	Oh! Did he?
ADRIAN:	Yes.
HAROLD:	Shame. He should be alive. Don't take everything in the religious viewpoint.
ADRIAN:	I am a Christian, Harold. I must.
HAROLD:	All right! I saw your friend, the pastor with a girl.
ADRIAN:	What did you say?
HAROLD:	Last night, I saw your dear Reverend with a beautiful girl at the cinema.
ADRIAN:	You must be kidding me, right?
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HAROLD:	No. Sometimes the people you think they are saints, they are not in reality.
ADRIAN:	Maybe she was a church member.
HAROLD:	Do pastors kiss their church Members in their lips? As far I know they kiss on the cheek. I heard him saying; 'Good things are made to be tasted.'
ADRIAN:	You must be lying! Pastor Mitchel is My childhood friend. I know him. He can't do such things.
HAROLD:	<ul> <li>Well! People can change.</li> <li>If only you had seen that that girl!</li> <li>She had everything a woman should have had.</li> <li>(DESCRIBING GESTUALLY THE GIRL.)</li> <li>She is the kind of girl who can make you forget everything.</li> <li>She has everything perfect; attractive legs, beautiful breasts, lips, eyebrows, cheeks, butt, waist</li> <li>Oh my God!</li> </ul>

ADRIAN:	Stop, Harold. Show some respect for your God.
HAROLD:	Your pastor is a con artist.
ADRIAN:	I know him better than you.
HAROLD:	Yes. You already said that. It was not the first time for me to see him with a woman. I saw him coming from the hotel with a girl who could be his daughter.
ADRIAN:	No. I don't believe you. I know my pastor better than you.
HAROLD:	Come on! No one knows anyone better. Don't be like a mother who always To her son's school teacher; 'I know my son better than anyone.'
ADRIAN:	Bible says, do not judge.
HAROLD:	Oh! That is church member talk. Church people also judge everyone, but when it comes to the pastor, you say 'do not judge.'.
ADRIAN:	Let's not pay attention to the small talk.
HAROLD:	Are you listening to me? I told you I saw him

ADRIAN:	Okay. Did you call him?
HAROLD:	What for?
ADRIAN:	To be sure if it was him.
HAROLD:	I know him very well. He is always wearing a nice suit. How can I forget that arrogant person who shows off every time?
ADRIAN:	Maybe it was not him. Look. Give him the benefit of doubt doubt like in the court. A man is presumed innocent until one proves his guilt. Do you remember
HAROLD:	You watch too much Television, mate.
ADRIAN:	It is your fault. Like I said you should have called him.
HAROLD:	I know that for you he may be a saint, but trust me, he is not. He is not an honest guy, Adrian.
ADRIAN:	He is not a bad man. Otherwise, I would know that.
HAROLD:	Growing up in the faith, reading the Bible every day, attending church every Sunday, busy childhood life, no girlfriends. How awful!

	My father was a Pentecostal Church pastor. You can't imagine what I have been through. You sit there, and you don't see that you are becoming just like an alcoholic or a drug addict. I am happy today because I quit the church and put it all behind me.
ADRIAN:	Whatever you say, I am not quitting the church, Harold.
HAROLD:	I want to save you before it becomes too late.
ADRIAN:	I will surely not consider myself being addicted to something. I go to the church and listen to what the Bible says.
HAROLD:	Religion makes people do such crazy things. Remember what Karl Marx said? 'Religion is the opium of the people!
ADRIAN:	That one was a foolish guy.
HAROLD:	Do you know the story of the esoteric sect, the Solar Temple?
ADRIAN:	No.

HAROLD:	What do you mean 'no'?
ADRIAN:	Because I don't know.
HAROLD:	All the members of the sect committed collective suicide organised by their founding father Joseph and Luc Jouret.
ADRIAN:	You said yourself it was a sect.
HAROLD:	It doesn't matter whether it is a sect nor a well-known religious group. All of them have the same objectives, maintaining their supremacy over others. They're all hypocrites and cheats. Most of them have a false modesty and piety like Moliere wrote in Tartuffe. Having sex with married, non-married girls, including small boys. Think about the Vatican and the priest scandals? To deflect public outrage, they think it is better to sin in private, not in public, but sin, they commit.
ADRIAN:	I am a Pentecostal.
HAROLD:	What difference does it make, Pentecostal, Catholic or others?
HAROLD:	Think back to what you told me one day!

	Your family were very religious, and you suffered a lot because the way they were acting with hypocrisy. We have something in common.
ADRIAN:	People react differently. I admit that we have a similar problem, but that can't make me become an atheist. I can't live without God. The bible has rules, and I intend to follow them without asking inappropriate questions. My father wasn't also an example for me, but church helped me to become an honourable soul.
HAROLD:	<ul> <li>Honourable soul? Maybe your father was not like mine.</li> <li>At a young age, we had regularly to attend the church.</li> <li>It was compulsory Werther you like it or not.</li> <li>A not attendance had some consequences, a punishment, the deprivation of meals.</li> <li>My stepmother treated me badly, accusing of being responsible for everything which was happening in the house.</li> <li>Were grown-up with the idea that 'Lord said you must do everything our parents ask you.</li> </ul>

	You should not doubt God's Word, otherwise, the Lord will send you to hell. I realised today it was a kind of child abuse- disguised. I am still asking myself the the question, why some some religious behave badly in the name of God? That is the reason, Friedrich Nietzsche said 'Lord is dead.
ADRIAN:	I know. He used that phrase in a figurative sense, conveying the idea that the Enlightenment had killed the possibility of a feeling in any God has ever existed.
	Others, such as proponents the most potent form of the Death of God theology has used the phrase in a genuine sense, signifying that the Christian Lord who lived at one point, has ceased to exist. However, we have the evidence that God exists, and he is alive.
	I recognise that fanatics exist, but it is no my place to judge them.
HAROLD:	Don't let your pastor turn you into fanatic. You are clearly an intelligent man.

ADRIAN. Are you sure it is the only reason you hate church? HAROLD: No. Another reason is church means GHHC. ADRIAN. What is that? Gossip, hatred, hypocrisy and HAROLD. competition. That is the reason people enjoy gathering here. (LOUDLY LAUGHS.) That is why ADRIAN. do you hate your father? HAROLD: Yes ADRIAN LOOKS AT HAROLD'S BAG. HE OPENED IT. HAROLD TAKES IT BACK. What is it in your bag? ADRIAN. HAROLD: Oh! I forgot that I want to show you something which will change your mind about the religion. ADRIAN. How me your bag. What else are you carrying in your bag? ADRIAN WANTS TO TAKE IT AGAIN, BUT HAROLD KEEPS IT STRONGLY.

ADRIAN: (LAUGHING.) Maybe you are hiding employment service forms.

### BOTH LAUGH

- HAROLD: No, I don't do the employment service thing. I am a businessman.
- ADRIAN: I saw you enter there.
- HAROLD: It wasn't me.
- ADRIAN: Yes, it was.
- HAROLD: It wasn't. That means it was not me.
- ADRIAN: It was.
- HAROLD: It wasn't.
- ADRIAN: Okay. What products do you sell?
- HAROLD: (WHISPERING ON ADRIAN'S EAR.) It's a secret.
- ADRIAN: What kind of secret?
- HAROLD: What part of secret don't you understand, Adrian?
- ADRIAN: Oh, Harold, please don't give me that.
- HAROLD: (WHISPERING.) I offer services.

- ADRIAN: (WHISPERING ON HAROLD'S EAR AGAIN.) What services?
- HAROLD: (WHISPERING.) I'm....an escort.
- ADRIAN: (LAUGHS LOUDLY) What? Are you an escort boy? What a shame that would be, eh?
- HAROLD: Not out loud, Adrian, please. People will hear you. It is a very good job.
- ADRIAN: A job? It's a con job, mate.
- HAROLD: It is not. I entertain women and give them joy and all the pleasure they need.
- ADRIAN: Are you serious?
- HAROLD: It is better than getting money from poor people in the church.
- ADRIAN: It is crazy the way you hate the church.
- HAROLD: I don't hate the church, but people who pretend to be pious.

HAROLD OPENS HIS BAG AND TAKES AN INTERNET PAPER.

- HAROLD: Let me read it for you.
- ADRIAN: Is it in English?
- HAROLD: Of course, yes.
- ADRIAN: I can read it by myself.

HAROLD HANDS A PAPER TO ADRIAN.

- ADRIAN: A Christian priest busted for raping girls.
- HAROLD: Did you see?
- ADRIAN: I am reading. Yamata, Kyoto Christian... He's Japanese.
- HAROLD: So?
- ADRIAN: Why didn't you say so?
- HAROLD: What do you mean? Have you got problems with the Japanese?
- ADRIAN: No. ... hmm, just... they are not proper Christian.
- HAROLD: What do you mean they are not proper Christian? Are they not human beings?
- ADRIAN: I did not say that. Just... Hmm... Hmm... They are not proper Christian that is it.

HAROLD: What?

ADRIAN: They practice the Shintoism.

HAROLD: What's Shinto?... Whatever!

- ADRIAN: Shintoism comes from Shinto. Shinto is the original natural spirit of Japan. It is a set of...
- HAROLD: (INTURRUPTING.) Can you stop lecturing me, Mister lecturer? The article says: 'Christian priest'. A Christian is a Christian. A Christian can be Japanese, Chinese or Burmese.
- ADRIAN: (CONTINUE THE READING) 'Christian cult leader Tamotsu Nagata, the suspected rapist of several elementary school age girls was arrested on Wednesday, police said. (To Harold.) As I said, he is just a Japanese Christian.

HAROLD HANDS HIM ANOTHER ARTICLE.

- HAROLD: What about this one?
- ADRIAN: You are ready for anything to make me accept your viewpoint.
- HAROLD: (READING) 'The Catholic Church abuse cases are a series of allegations, investigations, trials and

convictions of minor sexual abuse Crimes committed by Catholic priests, nuns and members of Roman Catholic orders against children as young as...

- ADRIAN: I know that one because when we were children, we had a priest in Our neighbourhood. When we see him biking, we were following him, saying Good morning the priest who like shagging.
- HAROLD: Then?
- ADRIAN: He was answering us without stopping his bike: Did I shag your mum?
- ADRIAN: A priest who was sleeping with children.
- HAROLD: Wow! That's horrible. Do you mean the priest who shags boys?
- ADRIAN: This is a church. Stop saying those words.
- HAROLD: Why? Everyone says that.

## HAROLD: (SHOWING HIM ANOTHER NET DOCUMENT.) This guy does not belong to the Roman Catholic. He is pure race protestant. Gregory Ivan Hawkins, 54, is the pastor...

ADRIAN: How do you know that?

HAROLD: Read it, please.

ADRIAN: (READING.) Gregory Ivan Hawkins, 54, is the pastor... of Zion Plaza Church in Tulsa Okla.
He was charged in July the 23rd, 2013, with four counts of led to molestation two counts of assault involving the misuse of a teen relative.
(TO HAROLD.)
Okay, you made a point. I will read it later.

HAROLD'S MOBILE PHONE IS RINGING.

HAROLD: Excuse me for a moment. It sounds like I need to answer this call. (ANGRILY ON PHONE) Why? What made you change your mind? Tired, eh? I don't believe you. You should call me at around six o'clock. What are you up to? Are you sure there's nothing else?

HE HANGS UP THE PHONE. HE APPROACHES ADRIAN.

ADRIAN: Why are you so upset?

HAROLD: He's not going to the club tonight.

- ADRIAN: Who?
- HAROLD: My girlfriend. She is not coming with me to in the club tonight.
- ADRIAN: Maybe something else came up.
- HAROLD: Or maybe she found someone else. Women change their mind like the weather.
- ADRIAN: Have a seat, Harold. Don't make yourself depressed. Anyway, what makes you think like that? Has she cheated on you once?

HAROLD: No.

- ADRIAN: What is the problem, then?
- HAROLD: Just, hmm... I love her so much.

# HAROLD SITS AND CONTINUES TO REPAIR THE LAPTOP.

ADRIAN: Trust her and think positive. Everything will be good. Do you need some advice?

### HAROLD: (LAUGHING) Advice from you?

- ADRIAN: Yes, why not? Don't even give one hundred per cent of your love in a girlfriend. Give her sixty per cent and keep forty. So, when she decides to leave you, you will not suffer a lot.
- HAROLD: Where did you learn that?
- ADRIAN: I saw it on the television.
- HAROLD: Son of a bitch.

BOTH LAUGH.

- ADRIAN: Take a glass of wine, drink and forget about that this evening. You will see tomorrow everything will good.
- HAROLD: Shit, you are incredible.
- HAROLD: Now you are talking.
- ADRIAN: I will try.
- HAROLD: That is what I was talking about.
- ADRIAN: Shit. You know what, Harold? Try to read the Bible sometimes.
- HAROLD: Oh no, Adrian! I read that a lot.
- ADRIAN: It is good for your spirituality.

HAROLD: What spirituality? I meditate all the time. Isn't it the spirituality? I need some fresh air, not spirituality. Well, your pastor's laptop is updated.

ADRIAN: (LOUDLY.) Pastor Mitchel, your laptop is ready.

PASTOR MITCHEL: (OFFSTAGE) I am coming.

ADRIAN STARTS READING AGAIN, THE INTERNET PAPER.

ADRIAN: Gregory Ivan Hawkins! Yamata Kyoto! Emmanuel.

ENTER PASTOR MITCHEL.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Yamamoto? Are you learning Japanese now?

ADRIAN: No. We are talking about those bad pastors in Japan.

PASTOR MITCHEL: What is this again? Japanese cannot be pastors. They do something else such as Kendo, karate.

ADRIAN:	Kendo and karate are sport, not religion.
PASTOR MITCHEL	: It is their religion.
ADRIAN:	Come and read.
	ADRIAN HANDS THE PAPER TO PASTOR MITCHEL.
ADRIAN:	You, pastor. There are too many questions without enough answers in the religion.
PASTOR MITCHEL	What are you up to, Adrian? Are you losing your faith?
	(AFTER READING.) Rubbish!
ADRIAN:	Pastor!
PASTOR MITCHEL	Oh, sorry! Bible always answers every single question.
ADRIAN:	Give me some answers after you read this.
PASTOR MITCHEL	: Shit!
ADRIAN:	Pastor! You can't swear.
PASTOR MITCHEL	Oh, sorry! Don't you understand that your neighbour wants to put in deep shit with the Lord?

ADRIAN:	Pastor!
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh shit! Sorry again.
HAROLD:	(TO ADRIAN.) Why is saying Sorry, all the time? That is awful.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	<ul><li>(TO HAROLD.)</li><li>You, shut up</li><li>(TO ADRIAN) All</li><li>those articles are fake.</li></ul>
ADRIAN:	Why can't you envisage the possibility that they are authentic?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Maybe it is just kind of racism.
ADRIAN:	That is what I thought when I first, read the article. (HE HANDS ANOTHER PAPER TO PASTOR MITCHEL.) Read this one.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Japanese again? I have never heard about Japanese Christians in my life.
ADRIAN:	Well! You are wrong.
	ADRIAN'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS.
ADRIAN:	(ON THE PHONE.) No, I haven't seen anyone yet.

	I know, but I don't want to get married at the age of twenty-five years like you. No. I don't need a post pack. I will let you know when I am ready. No, I don't want to get married right away. I am telling you I don't necessitate a post pack. I will choose myself my wife when I am ready. I don't need your money, dad. Church? Yes, I am still attending. I will speak to you later. Yes. Call me in half an hour. I am very busy now. Yes, I know that.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Who was it?
ADRIAN:	My dad.
HAROLD:	Oh! What does he want?
ADRIAN:	He wants me to find a woman. I am even surprised he called me.
HAROLD:	Don't tell me that I did not warn you.

ADRIAN:	I know. (TO PASTOR MITCHEL.) I need to give him answers.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Well! You can call on God. I might confess that at any time I have some doubts, I call on God. He loves you, Adrian. The bible says: 'Everything you
ask	will be given to you.
	It is the word of the eternal of the armies
HAROLD:	Are you kidding?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why?
ADRIAN:	Do you mean as a pastor, you have his number?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, of course.
HAROLD:	Give me strengths!
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO HAROLD.) Shut up.
	HE STARTS TALKING IN TONGUES. WHEN HE FINISHES, HE TAKES THE PHONE FROM HIS POCKET.
	The Lord is just calling me.
	(ADRIAN AND HAROLD 57

LOOK AT EACH OTHER.) WHEN ADRIAN WANTS TO ASK HIM SOMETHING HE STARTS SPEAKING ON PHONE.

### PASTOR MITCHEL: Yes, Lord. It is your servant. Yes.

(HE WALKS TO THE CORNER OF THE STAGE.)

I recognise that Adrian is a bit stubborn, but I will try. Yes, my Lord. I will tell him. Amen!

HE STOPS TALKING.

ADRIAN & HAROLD: We did not hear your phone ringing.

- PASTOR MITCHEL: Lord always operates with miracles.
- ADRIAN: What did he say?
- PASTOR MITCHEL: I will ring you soon.

HAROLD: Oh what next!

PASTOR MITCHEL: (TO HAROLD.) Man of little faith.

	Don't be distracted by your friend. Talk to God. Tell him everything you need.
ADRIAN:	What do you want me to tell him?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Tell him everything you want. Use your brain.
ADRIAN:	My brain? Very encouraging!
HAROLD:	Do you believe that guy?
ADRIAN:	I don't know.
HAROLD:	What do you mean, you don't know?
ADRIAN:	I mean I don't know.
	PASTOR MITCHEL'S PHONE'S RINGS. HE GOES AGAIN, TO THE CORNER OF THE STAGE. THEN, HE EXISTS.
HAROLD:	Your pastor is a mental case.
ADRIAN:	Maybe, maybe not.
HAROLD:	All right. I have some calls to make.

HAROLD EXITS ADRIAN STAYS ALONE ON THE STAGE HE CONTINUES DOING HIS BOOK. ENTER A GUARD WHO PRETENDS FORGETTING SOMETHING UNDER THE PULPIT. HE HIDES A FUN BEFORE HE TURNS IT ON THEN TAKE THE MICROPHONE. SUDDENLY, THERE IS A LOOK LIKE ALMIGHTY BANG, IT IS A KIND OF A HUG CLAP OF THUNDER AND THE STAGE ARE LIT WITH A BLINDING LIGHT

A WILD GUST OF WIND SWEEPS EVERYTHING FROM THE TABLE...

ADRIAN DROPS TO HIS KNEES IN TERROR AND PUTS HIS HANDS OVER HIS HEAD, STARTS SWEATING PROFUSELY AND HIS HEART IS RACING.

ADRIAN:

Who is that?

VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Don't be afraid, Adrian. I am the one you are looking for. Go and sit back down. I am your God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the last.	
ADRIAN:	Are you real? Are you the same who appeared to Moses?	
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY: Yes, I am.		
ADRIAN:	May I see you?	
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	No man sees me, and lives. My face shall not be seen. Even Moses did not see my face.	
ADRIAN:	It's been a long time since you did not appear to people.	
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	I do appear, but indirectly. Sometimes I send someone else. For example the apparition of Virgin Mary	
ADRIAN:	What about Joan of Arc?	
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Who was that one?	

ADRIAN:	Don't you know her? Have you ever heard about the Hundred years war?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	(IMPOSING VOICE.) Oh that one! I remember her. Was she the one they throw in the water?
ADRIAN:	No. She was burnt alive.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Oh yes. That is very sad. Who did such horrible thing?
ADRIAN:	I thought you knew everything.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	I did not say I have forgotten about her. Sometimes I can forget some details. It is not a big deal. Let me think. Oh, yes. I appeared to her once.
ADRIAN:	But you did not prevent her being burned alive.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	I could not help her because she blasphemed.

ADRIAN:	Against who?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Okay! Maybe angels gave me false information.
ADRIAN:	I have another question for you. Why don't you prevent all crimes which happen in this world?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	I recognise that people are not happy thinking that don't do anything about those crimes, especially committed by religious. But as you know everything has its moment.
ADRIAN:	I know you are the Almighty, the Master of the universe. But in our country elders say adults can also dance in the sound of drums played by the young. Don't you mind me giving you some ideas, do you?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Of course, not. You can.
ADRIAN:	You know, Mister Almighty, you have all the power, can't you help

	help them to stop what they are doing?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Then I created Adam and Eve, I gave them a free will to accept or not what I say.
ADRIAN:	You mean, kind of democracy.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	No. More than that. It is the theocracy.
ADRIAN:	Theocracy is the dictatorship disguised. That is what some countries are.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	My theocracy is different. I give people the opportunity to express themselves as I did to Adam and Eve.
ADRIAN:	I believe you, dear Almighty, but people continue to blame you because they suffer all the time.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	I know that. Blaming me for the abuses and all misery is easy.

	I am God of patience and the most theocratic of all
ADRIAN:	They blame you because you created the world. If the economy and the health system of a country collapses, the president is the one people must blame. Have you got a government?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	Naturally, I have a government composed of angels. They are like my ministers.
ADRIAN:	Who is your premier minister?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	My beloved son Emmanuel is the premier minister.
ADRIAN:	If he is your beloved son, why did you make him killed?
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	The prophecy had to be respected.
ADRIAN:	Prophecy? You could avoid him that kind of suffering.

VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	It was a sacrifice and the only way to clear humans of their sin.
ADRIAN:	I believe you could find another way to proceed.
VOICE OF ALMIGHTY:	What would you do in my place?
ADRIAN:	How should I know? You are the Almighty.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(OFFSTAGE) Are you talking alone, Adrian?
	SUDDENLY THE VOICE STOPS.
ADRIAN:	(LAUGHING LOUDLY AND REPEATING.) " I only appear once." Hum! He truly believed he could fool me.
	ENTER HAROLD.
HAROLD:	Who?
ADRIAN:	No one.
HAROLD:	I heard you talking with someone.
ADRIAN:	I was on the phone.

HAROLD:	Oh, okay if you say so.
ADRIAN:	I had some business with
HAROLD:	(INTERRUPTING) What kind of business was that?
ADRIAN:	The kind of business which is not yours.
HAROLD:	I see. I need your help, Adrian.
ADRIAN:	What do you want, now?
HAROLD:	I am suspecting my girlfriend of cheating on me.
ADRIAN:	It is normal. Does she know you do escort?
HAROLD:	No.
ADRIAN:	They always know.
HAROLD:	What do you mean?
ADRIAN:	Women always know when a man is cheating. Did you interrupt my business for that?

HAROLD:	Stop, Adrian. What business, Adrian?
ADRIAN:	If I tell you, you will not believe me.
HAROLD:	All my ears are for you.
ADRIAN:	I was talking with God, the Almighty.
HAROLD:	(LAUGHING LOUDLY.) Are you serious?
ADRIAN:	Yes, I am.
HAROLD:	No. You are just kidding.
	HE SITS.
	Can't wait. Shoot.
ADRIAN:	Nothing to shoot. What makes you think that your girlfriend is cheating on you?
HAROLD:	Don't dodge the question, please!
ADRIAN:	Harold!
HAROLD:	It's a kind of intuition.

ADRIAN:	Intuition?
HAROLD:	My intuition is always right.
ADRIAN:	Oh, okay if you think so.
HAROLD:	You see. I believe it so strongly.
ADRIAN:	Sometimes the intuition can be wrong.
HAROLD:	I don't know. Sometimes her phone is turned off. When I get her finally, the Only excuse she gives me is that 'It was on silent mode'.
ADRIAN:	You are just jealous, Harold.
HAROLD:	Jealous? No.
ADRIAN:	You can't admit it. You know what?
HAROLD:	Women do that most of the time.
ADRIAN:	How can you be a misogynist?

	Men do that too. Most of the time when they are with someone else, they turn the phone off.
HAROLD:	Please tell me what I can do.
ADRIAN:	I can't believe the master of women is asking my advice.
HAROLD:	Please!
ADRIAN:	That's fine. The only way is to trust her.
HAROLD:	You are not helping me.
ADRIAN:	I don't know what to say.
HAROLD:	How can you be so unhelpful Adrian?
	I am sure it is because you read too much into the Bible.
	ENTER PASTOR MITCHEL AND HIS BODYGUARDS.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO ADRIAN) I heard you talking to yourself.
ADRIAN:	Not at all. I was talking with the Almighty.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(PRETENDING) Do you mean God, the Almighty?
ADRIAN:	Yes. You told me he will call me and he did.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh, yes. I did. Are you Sure, you are not not lying to me?
ADRIAN:	Why should I lie?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Maybe you want to impress me.
ADRIAN:	Impress you for what, pastor?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Do you mean Lard like God in the heaven? The one who appeared to Moses appeared to you?
ADRIAN:	Yes, his voice. Even Moses has never seen him. No one can see him, my friend.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Maybe it was in your dream.
A lot of people	
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	dream of talking with kings, queens, presidents, celebrities They don't.
ADRIAN:	Do you remember what you told me? 'Ask, and you will be given'. That is what I did.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I was joking.
ADRIAN:	(IRONIC) Dear Church minister, don't joke with Lord's plans.
HAROLD:	Lord's ways are always impenetrable.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shut up. I am not talking to you. (TO ADRIAN.) If the Lord wants to speak to someone, it will be me and not you.
ADRIAN:	Why is that?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why?
ADRIAN:	Why, what?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why did he talk to you?
ADRIAN:	You gave the number, do you remember?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh yes, but why you?
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ADRIAN:	Well, this time he preferred me. That is maybe because I am a good guy. He wanted to tell me lots of things, but Harold interrupted us.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Will he come back?
ADRIAN:	You know better than me he never comes twice. You need to read your Bible very well, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Hmm!
HAROLD:	Oh! Reverend Pastor is jealous.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Jealous? No.
HAROLD:	Why did your face change like that, dear Reverend?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	It is not your business.
ADRIAN:	Don't be jealous my friend. One day, he will talk to you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Do you think I believe you?
ADRIAN:	Are you playing the Apostle Thomas?

HAROLD:	Yes, he is playing the apostrophe Thomas.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shut up. You don't even know who was what man?
HAROLD:	Yes, I do. The one the other apostrophes said he did not believe in Emmanuel resurrection. He was not wrong you know.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am even worse than him.
ADRIAN:	Man of not much faith.
HAROLD:	(TO PASTOR MITCHEL.) Dear reverend pastor. You told him to call on God, didn't you? You always say 'Ask, and you will receive'. That's what he did.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Stop calling me dear reverend.
HAROLD:	You are a dear reverend.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	This is a discussion among Christians. It is not your business. Anyway, I was joking when I told him that.

HAROLD:	(IRONIC.) Dear Church minister, don't joke with the Lord's plans. His ways are impenetrable.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO HAROLD.) You shut up. I am not talking to you. (TO ADRIAN.) Tell me. What did you ask him?
ADRIAN:	I asked him about the hypocrisy of the religious.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why did you ask God such stupid question
ADRIAN:	Do you think hypocrisy is not a sin?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Not really.
ADRIAN:	You are not serious, are you?
HAROLD:	Did he give you any answers?
ADRIAN:	It did not enlighten me on some of my doubts. He was always blaming Satan Being responsible for what is happening in the world.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Do you see? He told you

	himself the world is under Satan's influence. The duplicity of the evil is too complex for Christians, like us. Satan is a real strong being. The Lord is good. He loves you and gives you the opportunity to accomplish everything you desire.
ADRIAN:	Do you think?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You don't believe in Satan power, do you?
ADRIAN:	No. And I don't want him always to be a scapegoat.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	It is not because he is a God of love, he can't get angry. It happened in the past.
HAROLD:	Rubbish! If the Lord is good and love, he should be hefty enough to deal with Satan and all the evil in the universe. He must be evil himself, to have the capacity and do nothing about it. Do you know what? I'm not finished with him yet. I'd like to ask him some questions.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO HAROLD.) Shut up! Are you challenging God?
HAROLD:	I am not challenging him. I always challenge those who serve him with hypocrisy.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What do you mean? I am not Hypocrite.
HAROLD:	I did not say your name. I am sorry, guys. If you excuse me I'm going to leave between you specialists of God.
ADRIAN:	Stay, please!
HAROLD:	I don't need to stay here.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Let him go this son of a bitch.
HAROLD:	Who are you calling the son of bitch?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You.
	HAROLD APPROACHES PASTOR MITCHEL AND WANTS TO GRAB HIM ON HIS SHIRT. PASTOR MITCHEL'S BODYGUARDS INTERVENE.
HAROLD:	I'm not going anymore. I'll stay right here.

ADRIAN:	You are becoming so naughty, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Emmanuel, when he was furious, he scattered people who were dealing in front of the temple.
ADRIAN:	For God's sake! You are not Emmanuel. You are pastor Mitchel.
	PASTOR MITCHEL STARTS JUMPING.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Out from here, you evil spirit! Lord, bless this house. Bless my brother Adrian, let them not fall into this trap.
ADRIAN:	I don't even recognise you anymore.
PASTOR MITCHEL: ADRIAN:	What are you talking about? I am talking about your way of life. You cannot encourage people by acting like criminals.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	(FURIOUS) He will break him the way he did Egyptians when they enslaved Israel.
HAROLD:	Break the Egyptians? Look, if we ask the
	Egyptians, certainly 78

	they will give us a different version of the story.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	The Bible is the only a book which tells the truth.
HAROLD:	Everyone tells stories in his way. What about the Koran, the Tanhak, the Tipitaka, the Vedas and the Kojiki?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shut the f
	ADRIAN LOOKS AT PASTOR MITCHEL.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Sorry. I meant shut up.
ADRIAN:	It is the same, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Lord does not recognise those books.
HAROLD:	Why?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	They have rejected his son, Emmanuel.
HAROLD:	Did they?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Everyone must accept his son, Emmanuel, but they don't.

They consider him as a simple 79

	prophet. That is awful. Sending him to the earth was an expiatory sacrifice, the lamb who must free the world of its sin. And the salute comes from him.
HAROLD:	Like a father, who has two Children, but only love one.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Lord likes testing his people.
HAROLD:	You mean he enjoys testing people? And yet your Lord is partial.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	On the fourteen seventy-three before our era the Israelites encamped in the plains of Moab. They were hanged on Moses' lips. A difficult mission awaited them on the other side of the Jordan: Lord wanted them to defeat the seven Canaanite nations, strong nations, who occupied the Promised Land. The words of Moses, however, were reassuring: "Lord will leave them to you, and you must beat them. "Israel should not enter into an alliance with these nations, for they 80

	deserve no favour. – Deuteronomy chapter one, verse one and the chapter one, verse one to two. Yet Lord spared a family from the first city that Israel attacked. The inhabitants of four other cities have also benefited from the protection of God. Why? What does the Lord say about the remarkable events that brought these Canaanites to life? And how will we imitate God?
HAROLD:	That is ridiculous. Does he like playing with people's lives? I can't believe that. Observing people dying.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	He created the life for a purpose, not for destroying people.
HAROLD:	If he created a life for a purpose, why end it before it can fulfil that purpose?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	He recognises that he allowed the evil, but it does not
	mean he did it. Human beings 81

need to be punished. They are all like children. You should shake them a little before they listen to you. HAROLD: Including you! PASTOR MITCHEL: Stop it. Otherwise, I will break your neck. ADRIAN. Can't you two behave like adults? I am fed up to be your baby all the time PASTOR MITCHEL: He's corrupting you. My God! Can't you see that? ADRIAN: I don't need your help. I am big enough to take care of myself. HAROLD OPENS ANOTHER BOTTLE OF WINE HE IS POUR ONTO PLASTIC CUPS. HAROLD: I suggest peace now. Let's forget everything for a while Cheers

PASTOR MITCHEL STANDS 82

AWAY FROM THE BOTTLE OF WINE.

- ADRIAN: Chill out! It is just a drink after all.
- PASTOR MITCHEL: Do you know that God's servant does not have to drink alcohol?

ADRIAN: I am not sure about what you are saying, pastor. you are wrong.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Am I?

ADRIAN: Give me your Bible. I will show what the Bible says about the matter.

> PASTOR MITCHEL REFUSES TO HAND THE BIBLE TO ADRIAN. ADRIAN GRABS IT. HE OPENS THE BIBLE.

ADRIAN: The first letter of Paul to Timothy says, 'No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.' And you know that during a party, Emmanuel turned water into wine. So, what is the problem if you are Emmanuel' followers?

Wine contains alcohol since

the world is the world.

HAROLD. Rubbish! Wine contains alcohol since the beginning of the universe. Tell me, if the wine did not contain alcohol at that time, how come people were sometimes drunk? PASTOR MITCHEL: In another letter of Paul to Timothy says ' They must not drink the alcohol ADRIAN. Who says that? PASTOR MITCHEL: Leaders of the church ADRIAN: Can you, please, give me the chapter? PASTOR MITCHEL: (HESITATING) Hmm...Hmm... I will give it to you another day. ADRIAN: The chapter says that 'Deacons likewise must be dignified, not addicted to too much wine.' You see, all your pastors omit that willingly. PASTOR MITCHEL: We don't.

ADRIAN:	Yes, you do.
	84

PASTOR MITCHEL:	You are misinterpreting the Holy Scriptures.
ADRIAN:	Let me tell you a little story. It happened at a wedding party in the North of France. While the pastor was there, everyone one had to drink orange or apple juice. No one was dancing because the music was religious.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Stop lying, Adrian.
ADRIAN:	I am not. When the pastor left the party, it was a stream of alcohol, and then the music changed rhythm. It was kind of when the cat is away; the mouse will dance. Is it not an example of the hypocrisy which occurs in most of your church? Are you sure the Almighty approves of this kind of attitude?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	That is it a lie.

ADRIAN:

I did not finish yet. He took off

	his clothes and lay on the bed. Some minutes later, the woman, her husband and some friends came in. They found him naked, they started beating him, and then they sent him out naked in the street. Some Indian people gave him some clothes. The husband took the the bottle of wine and whisky to the pastor. Do you know what happened? The pastor did not even take a reprehensive decision. He protected his member.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	How do you know that?
ADRIAN:	I have my sources.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	How come I have never heard that story?
ADRIAN:	You are a pastor. They wouldn't tell you that.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You don't need to stick with that guy in criticising the Almighty's servant who
ADRIAN:	What is saying is true. You mercilessly raise poor
	members' money to make 86

yourself rich.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	That is not fair, Adrian. I am your friend. You can't accuse me like that. You are one of us.
ADRIAN:	Well! I am not anymore.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You should rebuke yourself.
ADRIAN:	If I don't tell you that, no one will do it. I am helping you and at the same time, I am giving you the opportunity to correct your vice.
	PASTOR MITCHEL'S MOBILE RINGS. HE HESITATES TO PICK IT UP.
ADRIAN:	Your phone, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, okay.
	HE PICKS IT UP.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, Sir. I understand. It is a matter of urgency. Give me fifteen minutes.
ADRIAN:	What is the problem?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Nothing important. 87

Just a little business.

ADRIAN:	Are you sure you are not hiding something from me?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I have never lied to you before, Adrian. I will not start today.
ADRIAN:	Hope that you did not put yourself in trouble.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Me, in the shit? No. It can't happen. I will be back. I must bless someone in my office.
	EXIT PASTOR MITCHEL.
HAROLD:	Why is he in a rush? I already told you, your pastor Is weird.
ADRIAN:	(TO HAROLD.) I can stake my life on it. He is not telling me the truth. I am sure that he is in trouble.
HAROLD:	He is hiding something. I am sure he has no honest plans. He is also a womaniser.
	Seriously were you talking with

God, the Almighty and the creator of the universe?

ADRIAN:	No. I was pulling his leg.
	I knew it was one of his
	bodyguard voice.

SUDDENLY HAROLD AND ADRIAN HEAR PASTOR MITCHEL'S VOICE FROM THE OFFICE.

PASTOR MITCHEL: (VOICE OFFSTAGE.) You will see the impossibilities being made possible. Every blockage the barrier will become technical unblock for you. Everything you are looking for, you will get it. I pray for you that the ticket for Dubai comes. Let it go. You will have everything you want. Say amen in the name of Emmanuel

HAROLD APPROACHES THE DOOR AND LOOKS AT THE HOLE. HE SEES PASTOR MITCHEL WITH A A YOUNG GIRL.

WOMAN:

(VOICE OFFSTAGE) Amen!

PASTOR MITCHEL IS

## SPEAKING IN TONGUES.

HAROLD:	Oh my God! That's too intense and spiritual.
ADRIAN:	What now?
HAROLD:	Come. The Reverend pastor is with a girl inside.
	ADRIAN APPROACHES HIM.
ADRIAN:	So, what?
HAROLD:	It is not allowed.
ADRIAN:	What do you mean not allowed? By who?
HAROLD:	By the church, of course.
ADRIAN:	They are just sharing God's word.
HAROLD:	By trying to kiss her? Wow! What kind of sharing?
ADRIAN:	He just wanted to bless her.
HAROLD:	Using his mouth?
ADRIAN:	Pastor Mitchel is a good lad. 90

	He does not seem interested in that kind of things.
HAROLD:	What kind of things?
ADRIAN:	You know what I am talking about. Stop pretending.
HAROLD:	Wait a minute! I know that woman. She is the one I saw with him at the movie. Adrian, come and look.
ADRIAN:	Maybe he is blessing her.
	BOTH LAUGH.
HAROLD:	Do you know her?
ADRIAN:	Yes, it is the sister Bernadette. She is in the choir.
HAROLD:	I told you.
ADRIAN:	Stop saying all the time you told me.
HAROLD:	That is because you did not believe me.
	WHILE THEY ARE WATCHING, PASTOR
	MITCHEL OPENS THE 91

DOOR. THEY QUICKLY LEAVE. PASTOR MITCHEL ENTERS THE STAGE. HE IS SWEATING.

PASTOR MITCHEL: (EMBARRASSED) Oh my God! The devils who possessed this woman was very strong. In the name of God, they all left.

> ADRIAN AND HAROLD LOOK AT THE PASTOR MITCHEL WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.

PASTOR MITCHEL: What?

ADRIAN & HAROLD: Nothing.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	What do you mean, nothing?
	Why are staring at me?
	Have you never seen someone
	is sweating.

ADRIAN: You, tell us.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Tell you what?

ADRIAN: We saw you trying to kiss that woman.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Oh that! I was blessing her.

HAROLD: By trying to kiss her?

I was just tempted by Satan.
: Oh! Tempted by Satan.
So what?
Couldn't you bless her here in the church?
Because in the office it is powerful.
: Powerful! Oh, that!
Yes, powerful.
(TO HAROLD.) Maybe we could give him the benefit of the doubt, Harold.
Do you think?
THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.
: Oh yes! It could do.
Guys! That kind of girl can tempt everyone. Satan tempted even Emmanuel.
: We know, but not in that way, pastor Mitchel.
pastor writerier.
Dear reverend pastor, you know

	ADRIAN.)Is that your friend still here?
ADRIAN:	It is not him the problem. We need to talk, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What do you want to talk about?
ADRIAN:	What is the mortal sin of refusing the Lord's word and committing the fornication?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why this question?
ADRIAN:	You know why I am asking this question.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't know what you are talking about.
ADRIAN:	Come on, Pastor Mitchel! You know that very well.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	If you need something, I told you I am ready to help.
ADRIAN:	I don't want anything from you, pastor Mitchel. I want the truth.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am your friend.
ADRIAN:	You can't corrupt me. 94

	I refuse to be an accomplice. One day, all the money you receive from the church members will put you in trouble. Everything will blow up on you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't do anything illegal. Second, of the Corinthians chapter nine and verse six says 'But as to this, he that sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he that bountifully will also reap bountifully'.
ADRIAN:	How come most of the pastors are cons? They use this kind of verses to con their members. Pity for those members who give ten per cent of their salary every month.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't con church members. Besides, members freely give money to the Lord.
ADRIAN:	Does the Lord need the money? Look at you, pastor. A television channel
	which supposes to be for the

	church community belongs to you. You have a nice car bought with the church money. I also heard that you own hotels in different countries. You show off yourself when you send some packs in the third world.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I do what the Lord asks me to do. What exactly is the problem?
ADRIAN:	Have you no shame when you receive money from poor people? You oblige them to pay ten per cent of their money. Let me do the calculation for you. Hundred forty-seven pounds, time ten, divide two hundred.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	It is only fourteen pounds seventy pence. So, what is the problem? May I remind you that most of them have three to five children and they receive child benefit and child tax credit?
ADRIAN:	They also give money every Sunday.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Adrian! They only give one

pound every Sunday.

HAROLD: Only one pound a month? Do you think it is not enough? How many members do you have?

PASTOR MITCHEL: Mind your own business.

HAROLD: Think, Adrian. Dear Reverend, tell Adrian the way you enjoy the church money. Tell him about those young girls you take to the movie and to the the restaurant. Tell Adrian about kissing girls in public.

ADRIAN: Is he telling the truth, pastor?

PASTOR MITCHEL: Don't listen to him.

ADRIAN: Answer my question. Is he telling the truth?

PASTOR MITCHEL BOWS HIS HEAD.

ADRIAN: All these years, I thought I knew you. Tell me about the

> three and a half million you 97

	collected for the church complexes? I heard that you build luxury flats with that money.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Eh Adrian! It is me, pastor, Mitchel, your friend. I did not change.
ADRIAN:	People should give voluntarily. And the money should be kept in the church community account for expensive and helping members. You put it in your pocket. Look at your car, your dress and your jewels. You even have bodyguards. Did Emmanuel have bodyguards?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Yes, his apostles. Didn't you read that Peter cut one of the soldiers' ears?
ADRIAN:	I also know that Emmanuel did not like it.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't approve all the bad actions of my bodyguards. They are there to protect me. There are lots of competitions in our world.
ADRIAN:	You mean in the world of false 98

## church ministers?

PASTOR MITCHEL: I am not one of them.	
I hold a degree in the	
Bible, and my ministry	
comes from Nazareth.	

HAROLD: And from there you have learned the way to scam members, particularly women.

PASTOR MITCHEL: I am a respectable pastor, but I need to eat, pay my rent and my expenses.

HAROLD: Do you know what? I need some fresh air.

HAROLD LEAVES THE STAGE.

ADRIAN: Ah!

PASTOR MITCHEL: (TO ADRIAN) Would you denounce me?

ADRIAN: No. You will do it by yourself.

PASTOR MITCHEL: No way!

ADRIAN: Yes, way.

PASTOR MITCHEL: I will lose everything, my members, my church, my television channel.

ADRIAN: Lord will appreciate it.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	We are in the jungle, Adrian, don't you see? You must eat people before you be eaten.
ADRIAN:	Oh my God! Harold was right. I defended you when he told me that you are not the one I thought you were.
	You are a heartless person.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Are you even listening to your gay friend?
ADRIAN:	You are not even able to understand what I keep telling you. Harold is not a gay. He is far honest than you.
	He is an evil spirit and a womaniser.
	Are you not? After Harold saw you with a girl, I tried to find some information. The girl's name is Bernadette. Everyone knows that you go out with her. She is not the only one. Rumours say you are sleeping
	with more than five young

	women from the church. Do you know the silly thing? They started being jealous of each other.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't have time for gossips.
ADRIAN:	Small talk? I wouldn't be so sure if I were you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	They are all liars. Some members of my church want to put me down and take my place. Be sure my friend, it won't happen. I am God. I am like Moses. I transmit commandments, and they obey.
ADRIAN:	That is what I was talking about. Everything is about you. You think you are the centre of everything. That is too bad for A man who claims to be a God's servant.
PASTOR MITCHEL: I am a human being, you know.	
ADRIAN:	Your church members trusted you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Many times, I gave you the 101

	opportunity to join me, but you have never accepted.
ADRIAN:	You know me, pastor, Mitchel. I am not like that. I don't have the money, but I will not do such things.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You are a very stubborn man I have ever known.
ADRIAN:	I am not a stubborn person. I want to be honest.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Honest people don't become rich.
ADRIAN:	Thank you, God's servant.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why thanks me?
ADRIAN:	You've given me the answer I was looking for.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What answer?
ADRIAN:	To become rich, you must con people. Whatever the means. Well! Being a church minister gives you the opportunity to ruin the most vulnerable.

I now understand the reason 102

	why do Lord permit bad people to get everything.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am not a bad guy. You are wrong. I see myself as a 'conduit of God'. I help them to find passion, to cure impotence and infertility, help them to hold an advanced career and I make them even wealthy.
ADRIAN:	That is why you use magic to impress your members?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Come on, Adrian. Join me.
ADRIAN:	No. All my life I always try to do the right thing and do as many good works for people as possible without needing anything in return. But it seems like no matter how much good I do, I only receive bad karma in return. Other people I know who do bad things are prospering, and I am still where I was five years ago. They get a lot of money, and they don't care who they hurt to get it. I hope that they
	will receive their punishment 103

one day.

PASTOR MITCHEL:	Maybe not in this life, but next time around, they will be born as a dew worm or some such and some guy will come along and use them as bait on a hook.
ADRIAN:	It's a joke for you, isn't it? It is one of the reasons; I am asking myself some questions about Lord and the religion.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shortly, everything will be fine.
ADRIAN:	When? In the paradise? I can't recognise you anymore. Where is gone this friend who was ready to help when people had problems?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am the same person. I suggested to pay for you your booking fees so you can work with me, but you refused. You are an intelligent man, Adrian. Stop your madness. You can't change the world, Adrian. The world will remain as it is.
ADRIAN:	I am not trying to change the world. I am just trying to stop people like you for taking Advantage of poor and vulnerable people.

Two years ago, a ten-year-old girl was sent back to Africa accused of witchcraft. I asked vou if vou were involved, vou said you were not. PASTOR MITCHEL: Have you been investigating me now? ADRIAN. I want my friend back. PASTOR MITCHEL: It is too late I can't give up on everything I worked for. ADRIAN. For God's sake, you did not work hard for that You are simply stealing money from your members. PASTOR MITCHEL: I would take a stab at someone else, but coming from you, I am very disappointed. ADRIAN. I am not the one you to blame. You need to blame yourself because you chose this path. I can't understand why the religion, in general, is full of hypocrisy. People who see themselves as religious hold some values, but fail to realise what those values mean

PASTOR MITCHEL: Do you believe you hold the 105

monopoly of morals? ADRIAN. You are the pastor. I heard talking about your judicial setbacks with your solicitor That is strange you are hiding it from me Everything is fine. Why do PASTOR MITCHEL: I hide something to you? PASTOR MITCHEL'S MOBILE STARTS RINGING INCESSANTLY, BUT HE IS NOT PICK UP ADRIAN. Why don't you answer your phone? Any trouble my dear pastor? PASTOR MITCHEL No PASTOR MITCHEL TURNS OFF THE CALL ADRIAN: Why can't you pick up the call? You are a pastor. You suppose to show a good and irreproachable example. PASTOR MITCHEL: For what are you blaming me? I serve my Lord every day. ADRIAN: By flirting with the church 106

	members? For not being tolerant? By being a hypocrite?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why am I listening to you, anyway?
ADRIAN:	Do you think I was born yesterday? It is true, I did not want to believe it when I heard everything, but now my eyes are opened.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I can't get it anymore. You are becoming crazy. I will be back when you finish your frenzy. Damn it! I already told you they are all gossips.
ADRIAN:	Gossips, huh!
	PASTOR MITCHEL IS RINGING AGAIN. HE PICKS UP AND EXITS. AT THE SAME TIME ADRIAN'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS TOO.
ADRIAN:	Yes. Not only is he sleeping with church members, but he is also taking the advantage of the church money.
	I heard that he built more than 107

two villas there.

THE VOICE:	Yes, I can confirm that he has lots of assets in here.
ADRIAN:	I know he is human and can be weak, but he needs to give an example. That is why lots of people don't believe in the religion anymore. No. I am not becoming an atheist. I will always trust in God. I hate all those pastors who work for money and forget the principle of honesty. I am talking to him, but he denies all the facts. I am not quitting God, but I will quit the church.
ADRIAN:	Pastor Mitchel! I am quitting.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Pardon me?
ADRIAN:	You heard me. I am leaving.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	May I wait for you tomorrow?
ADRIAN:	I said I quit your church. I don't want to work for you anymore.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	You have no right to do this to 108
me. You can't quit the Lord.

ADRIAN:	I am not quitting the Lord, but your church.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why?
ADRIAN:	Don't do like you don't know what is happening, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	At least this son of a bitch is gone.
ADRIAN:	Can you hear yourself what you are saying?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	He is doing everything to separate us. Can't you see that?
ADRIAN:	No. You are doing everything to separate us. Not him. You are exactly like Gregory Ivan Hawkins, Yamata Kyoto
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Gregory Ivan, Yamamoto. What is it all about?
ADRIAN:	Yamata and not. Yamamoto. Yamamoto is a karate master.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Oh! I did know that. 109

HAROLD:	I thought you knew everything.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Did I ask you something? The Lord did not find it useful to reveal to me that information.
HAROLD:	Very funny.
ADRIAN:	I was saying, those Japanese are like you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What do you mean:
ADRIAN:	They don't respect God. They abuse their church members.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	So, what? We are all human beings. We can make mistakes. We pray every day because we want to stop making mistakes, but it is not easy. Now can we change the conversation?
ADRIAN:	Why? That is bothering you?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	We need to chat about something positive like Lord blessed our church.
	We now have three and a half 110

million in our account ADRIAN. Is it the only thing which interests you? **PASTOR MITCHEL:** Of course, not. How can you say that? ADRIAN. Lord servants don't have to act like that You know what. I need answers. **PASTOR MITCHEL:** The Lord loves you, Adrian. Through the Bible, he provides enough answers. Maybe you should talk to your father. The bible says 'Everything vou ask will be given to you. I know God exists. **ADRIAN**. Your behaviour puts me in doubts That is the reason I started asking myself some questions. Why can't he stop his servants committing sexual crimes and abusing women. PASTOR MITCHEL: Are you blaming me for

111

something?

ADRIAN:	Are you blaming yourself for something? You said you did not abuse that woman in your office. So, what is your problem?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't like the way you said it.
ADRIAN:	Why?
	ENTER HAROLD.
HAROLD:	I told you. They all act weird.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shut up. (TO ADRIAN.) I will kill your gay friend.
HAROLD:	(DISTANT) I heard you. I am not gay.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	He is not a gay. I already told.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Why is he corrupting?
HAROLD:	Is he your dad? (To the PASTOR) Remember! I am still repairing your stupid laptop.
	Stop being weird. 112

PASTOR MITCHEL:	(TO HAROLD.) Get lost.
HAROLD:	Why?
ADRIAN:	Yes, why?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't like him.
ADRIAN:	Why? What did the Bible say about your neighbour?
ADRIAN:	Fine. I am quitting.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Because you asked him to leave.
	ADRIAN GOES TOWARDS THE EXIT. PASTOR MITCHEL FOLLOWS HIM.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Please, Adrian. Don't go. We can have an arrangement.
	ADRIAN STOPS NEAR THE EXITS AND LOOKS AT PASTOR MITCHEL.
ADRIAN:	What arrangement?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Please for our friendship's sake, sit down a bit.
	I can help you to find a good 113

	job. I have good friends who can help. You will get a good salary. I need you in the Church, Adrian. Please, stay.
ADRIAN:	Thank you very much for the offer, but I can't. I don't have any more time for the church. I must concentrate on my studies.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I will pay for your studies.
ADRIAN:	No, pastor. Do you think all is the money? Emmanuel can take my place. He's a good guy.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I don't have any confidence in him.
ADRIAN:	(IRONIC.) Didn't Emmanuel say you must trust each other?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	He worked for me sometimes ago, but he wasn't honest.
	I need an honest man like 114

	you.
ADRIAN:	What I am doing here is illegal.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Lord will understand because you are doing his work. Your Lord must be put in the first place. ( <i>Pause</i> ) What I am offering you will help in your studies. I am sure you need something. PASTOR MITCHEL TAKES MONEY FROM HIS WALLET.
ADRIAN:	I can't, Pastor Mitchel.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Please Adrian!
ADRIAN:	No, pastor.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Of course. Money is the power.
ADRIAN:	My last advice as a friend is for you must give up.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Give up? I already told you, I can't do that. After what I have been through building this church, you are
	asking me to stop. What do you want to do after that? 115

ADRIAN:	Find a proper job.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Do you want to do a kitchen porter, cleaning? Are you asking me to give up on all my privileges?
ADRIAN:	Then one day you will be in trouble. And don't come to me.
	PASTOR MITCHEL MOBILE PHONE RINGS. HE CHECKS IT AND EXITS.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Don't go yet, please. We need to discuss.
HAROLD:	Where is he going again? What's wrong with him?
ADRIAN:	He is a busy pastor, you know.
HAROLD:	I don't understand why do religious people act like witches.
ADRIAN:	What do you mean?
HAROLD:	This guy has a hell of a Jeep. It must have cost a fortune. Where does he get the money from?
ADRIAN:	I don't know. Ask him. 116

HAROLD:	Why do you keep saying 'ask him'?
ADRIAN:	You are always asking me questions about him.
HAROLD:	You said you know him better.
	ENTER PASTOR MITCHEL.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	I am in the shit. I am in the shit. I am in the shit.
	ADRIAN AND HAROLD LOOK AT EACH OTHER.
ADR. AND HAR:	How shit?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Very deep shit!
ADRIAN:	I told you. I told you. I told you.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Stop repeating every time, you told me. Have you ever made a mistake? You suppose to help me.
ADRIAN:	How can I help you after 117

# hiding things from me?

PASTOR MITCHEL:	Don't take it seriously, Adrian.
HAROLD:	Oh! Come on, dear Reverend.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Shut up. It is not your business. You, better take care of your escort business.
HAROLD:	Who told you that?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	My little finger! I like my little finger.
	HAROLD LOOKS AT ADRIAN.
HAROLD:	(TO ADRIAN.) I will kill you.
	a.
ADRIAN:	Sorry.
ADRIAN: HAROLD:	Sorry. (TO PASTOR MITHEL.) Okay. How come your little finger didn't prevent you from being in deep shit? You know what? I'm happy you're in deep shit.
	(TO PASTOR MITHEL.) Okay. How come your little finger didn't prevent you from being in deep shit? You know what? I'm happy you're in deep shit.
HAROLD:	(TO PASTOR MITHEL.) Okay. How come your little finger didn't prevent you from being in deep shit? You know what? I'm happy you're in deep shit.

know Emmanuel.

HAROLD: Well! You can ask Emmanuel to help you out when you go to

prison.

PASTOR MITCHEL: Lord will be with me. By the way, I want to confess something.

ADRIAN & HAROLD: What?

PASTOR MITCHEL: I lied to you.

ADRIAN & HAROLD: Oh, yes? About what?

PASTOR MITCHEL: The voice of the Almighty was my bodyguard. It was just a trick.

ADRIAN & HAROLD: We knew that.

PASTOR MITCHEL: How?

ADRIAN & HAROLD: (IN FRENCH.) Les voies du Seigneur sont impénétrables.

PASTOR MITCHEL: You, sons of a bitch. Let me confess another lie.

ADRIAN & HAROLD: What again?

PASTOR MITCHEL: It was me you saw with the girl in the movie.

HAROLD: (TO ADRIAN.) I told you. 119

ADRIAN:	You were right.
ADRIAN & HAROLD:	So, why are you telling us that?
PASTOR MITCHEL:	Well. It is like I am confessing, and the Lord will forgive me.
ADRIAN:	ALL LAUGH. Eh, Harold.
HAROLD:	What?
ADRIAN:	Don't think I am quitting the church. I am just leaving that one.
PASTOR MITCHEL:	What are you talking about?
ADRIAN:	I already told you, pastor.
HAROLD:	All the churches are the same. You do exactly like a crocodile that flees the earth when the rain falls and shelters in the water.
DASTOD MITCHEL	you con of a hitch

PASTOR MITCHEL: you, son of a bitch.

# PASTOR MITCHEL 120

#### ACCESSES THE PULPIT. THE CHOIR IN THE STAGE SINGING.

### BLACKOUT, LIGHTS UP.

## CURTAIN