

## The Story of God: A Divine Comedy

Speakers: **God and Satan,**

Singers:

- 1. Lao-tzu and Yinxi (Taoism)**
- 2. Buddha and Ananda (Buddhism)**
- 3. Job, Bildad (Judaism)**
- 4. Jesus, Mary (Christianity)**
- 5. Rumi, Shams of Tabrizi (Islam, Sufism)**

**Introduction**

### SCENE 1.

**God:** Hello Satan, Where have you been?

**Satan:** My God! I thought you were a man.

**God:** I come in all shapes, sizes, colors, and genders.

**Satan:** You are supposed to be an old man with a beard!

**God:** I can look like anybody. Sometimes I look like a religion.

**Satan:** People go to war over religion. They kill for you.

**God:** No. They kill for an image of me. Sometimes I look like a nation.

**Satan:** People kill for their nation.

**God:** Yes.

**Satan:** They kill for you.

**God:** No. They can't see me.

**Satan:** Are you kidding? They paint you on the ceilings of cathedrals.

**God:** Satan; they paint you too. You have horns.

**Satan:** I know. I've been around a long time.

**God:** No. You were born with religion. What's your latest story?

**Satan:** People are at war. Do something!

**God:** You have heard my messengers on earth. Do they advocate war?

**Satan:** No. But people do not listen. That's *your* problem.

**God:** Listen to Laotze's friend Yinxi. People cannot see me.

### Song I: Lao-tzu and Yinxi

Yinxi (Bass) and Lao-tzu (Soprano)

***Who is the most high? The Tao has no name. No name? The Tao that is told is not the Eternal Tao. How can I know? I want to know. You need patience, Patience, and simplicity, compassion to know the Tao. What else to know? Opposites. Do all things have their opposite? Opposites make the world go 'round. What? All things evolve from them. What do you mean? You must meditate each day to know.***

***No. I'm working each day. Each week. Am I on the Path? If you don't change your direction, you will end up in the direction you are heading. What should I know? When you know what is beautiful, then you know what is ugliness. Yes. When you know what is bad, you know what is good "Yes" and "No" rise together. How do you know this? The Tao is an experience for you to know, not just a word. How can I learn the right direction? It is not easy. Why is it so hard? The road to the Tao means that you face the Truth by your experience. You may face pain and suffer'ing in the process. Why do I need to suffer to know? The way of heaven is ruthless. When autumn comes, no leaf is spared because of its beauty. Oh. What about this war? The***

**Emperor should use no force. This will only cause resistance. Thorn bushes will rise! War is not right? How can one rejoice in violence? I don't know. From violence comes a loss of strength. This is not Tao? Know that this is not the Tao. Achieve results without a war. What? All things evolve from love. What do you mean? You must mediate each day to know purity and unity. To realize and know the Truth Life is dangerous. People go to war to defend their country. This is not the way of the Tao! You must learn the Tao. Learn the Tao? Learn the Tao? Yes**

### **SCENE 2: GOD AND SATAN**

**Satan:** I have seen fear and hate everywhere I go --for thousands of years. You are losing this game on earth.

**God:** This is no game. This is evolution. People are learning their way.

**Satan:** Learning what?

**God:** I have given people free will. They have the power to stop war.

**Satan:** I don't get it. You are the boss.

**God:** The power of the universe is inside them. It is my gift to them.

**Satan:** The power of the universe is your gift to people?

**God:** They are in charge every minute. They can create and destroy.

**Satan:** You mean: You gave them the power to destroy themselves! That's crazy.

**God:** Buddha said: "It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles."

**Satan:** But Buddha did not even believe in you. He didn't believe in any thing.

**God:** Right. No *thing*. He became awake -- beyond all things. He found his own way.

**Satan:** But you created every thing.

**God:** Yes, from nothing.

**Satan:** My God, look at all this suffering.

**God:** Buddha overcame his suffering. Now he is no longer male or female. Listen to what we said to his friend Ananda.

### **Song 2: Buddha and Ananda**

**What must we do to live right? Purify your heart and cease to kill. Your wars will stop when you learn compassion. But people are angry. People seek peace by going to war Peace comes from "within" not from your war. With compassion all your fears will fade a way. I want to learn from you. Some day we will die. Neither fire nor death can erase good deeds. Fill your mind with compassion. My mind is filled with doubt. Help me find the Way. What is the way to Nirvana? It's not in the sky. It's all inside. If people live a pure life, nothing can destroy them. Nothing can destroy them! Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at some body With deep com-*passion*, all your fear will disappear from your mind. Remember that faith is nourishment. Faith, Faith. Faith is my nourishment. How did you find your way to Nirvana? I have found Nirvana by losing my whole self and all those earthly desires that cause rebirth, Thus: the reason my eyes are so bright my face so serene. What should be my goal? The greatest generosity is non-attachment. That is all. Tell me more so I can really know. The greatest achievement is selflessness. Selflessness! The greatest quality is service to all with a peaceful mind. What can we do in service for you? I want to create a kingdom of Truth -- to give light to those enshrouded in darkness, Now. Let us open gates to eternal life. Now!**

### **Scene 3: God and Satan**

**Satan:** Buddha failed. His followers still go to war.  
**God:** They are learning to live like the Buddha. It's not easy.  
**Satan:** They do not listen. Can't you stop Buddhists from killing people?  
**God:** People have free will. They must bring heaven to earth themselves.  
**Satan:** But they are your children. Look after them. Take care of them.  
**God:** They are not puppets. They must learn to live and love one another.  
**Satan:** You mean: love everybody?  
**God:** Yes. They must find humanity.  
**Satan:** Look at the Jews. Moses killed people.  
**God:** Yes. But he grew up in time. Remember Mt. Sinai?  
**Satan:** Oh. The Ten Commandments: Moses told people not to kill....  
**God:** Yes.  
**Satan:** But Jews are still killing people.  
**God:** Oh, if you only had the faith of Job...  
**Satan:** I took away all his property and covered his body with boils. Ha. A loving God would never let me do that.  
**God:** You did not know Job.

### **Song 3: Job among friends.**

**Oh. I am sick unto death. You sinned and you hate your self. You sinned and you drink inequity Oh! Death is near. You sinned. Oh my days pass without hope. Do not despise this chastening of the Almighty. Your tongue is crafty. Yes. No. Oh death is near. My God is with me. (You have secret sins.) I know God lives. I am right. I have done nothing wrong. (You are guilty before God.) Repent. God has broken me. If your soul were mine -- If you were me, I could heap words on you and shake my head at you. I am dying. (You are dying.) My body is covered with boils. Dying. My soul is bitter I'm heading to my grave. My eye is sore and foul from weeping. The Viper's tongue will slay you; your mouth is un-clean. God multiplies my sores without cause. God fills me with bitterness. My eyes will never again see my children. Never. How can the rush grow without the mire? I was at ease when God took me down. The arrows of the almighty are with me. Oh God. Did you make a promise to God? I gave my word to give my life with no qualms. God rewards those who are pure. He makes them wealthy. Evil is sweet in the mouth of the wicked Thou hast no wisdom. All your vain words must end now. I have not lost my faith. I still have my faith. My days are swift without hope. How long will you speak these things? A wicked man will suffer. The terrors of God are with me. Death is near (you) me. I curse my birth. You can not change anything You can-not make the earth move. You are full of talk. God's law is for all. That includes you. (You do not know how nature works.) You will bring me to dust again. (God is greater than you think.) I will be dead very soon. I have done nothing to deserve this. (God this knows.) Moses said: Do not kill. Moses said: Wrath brings punishments of the sword. I'm lost. You will face judgment day. Dear God: Why me? Oh Thou hath poured me out like milk and curdled me out like cheese. I will no longer see my children. God help me. I give my whole life to you. My Redeemer lives!**

### **Scene 4: Satan and God**

**God:** I knew Job would crash through the gate of hell. He won by his own faith.

**Satan:** You are a monster. I've watched you kill people with floods, and earthquakes, and hurricanes, tornados and diseases. People think Nature caused all these disasters. But it's you.

**God:** You do not know the Word. The universe is older than you.

**Satan:** What do you mean?

**God:** You were born with civilization.

**Satan:** And you are in people's mind, a projection of a father.

**God:** You cannot make me into a person, Satan. I am in all people. I am in nature.

**Satan:** Damn it. Who are you?

**God:** I am immanent and transcendent.

**Satan:** What! You cannot be both at the same time.

**God:** I am. I am self-creation.

**Satan:** Are you kidding me?

**God:** I am in all things.

**Satan:** You should tell the people that story.

**God:** My messengers tell them. Remember Jesus? He said people should not hide their light. They repress the power I gave to them.

**Satan:** Jesus made enemies. They tortured him to death.

**God:** I was there. He gave his life for humanity. Listen.

#### **Song 4: Jesus and Peter**

*Tell me about Jesus. What did he say to people in his day? He said: "Who ever learns the inner meaning of these truths will live forever in Eternity. Tell me about those truths. He said: "Those who want to rise above all things must descend below all things, for the way to the heights passes through the depths. Depths? The depths. You must pass through the depths? What did he say to people in his day? He said "You must lose your life to find Heaven. Lose my life! You may pass through the depths of despair and anguish. Why? That generates all the fires inside; those who have suffered and found life are blessed. This is hard to understand. Jesus said: If you say that the abode of the Gods is in the sky then the birds will arrive there before you. And if you say it's the sea the fish will get there before you. Then, where is heaven found? Know that heaven is inside and outside and you will know the outside by the inside. Tell me again When you find the light "within," you will know as you are known. What do you mean? Jesus said: "Unless you become like a child, you can not enter the kingdom of heaven. For your mind must be cleared of the falsehoods of this realm, if you are to be taught things that have Eternal truth. Listen. I must become a child? Jesus said: "I am the door to Eternal Life. I am the bed and so the per-son who lies on me will find perpetual rest. The one who believes in him will be able to view all things. The person who's able to see Him will be able to see all things? He is the Light Tell me more "I am the Way the Truth and the Life." The Way, the Truth and the Life. You must walk in his footsteps to reach the seat of the Eternal Life. Footsteps! Yes! Learn the meaning of this creation that surrounds you and you will receive the mysteries hidden here. For Eternal Truth is recorded in all that exists on earth.*

#### **Scene 5: Satan and God**

**God:** Someday, you will die.

**Satan:** You can't scare me. I've been around as long as you.

**God:** Did you see me create the sun?

**Satan:** No.

**God:** The Earth?

**Satan:** No.

**God:** But you saw Mohammed, the prophet of Islam.

**Satan:** Yes. He conquered tribes all over Arabia. He killed people and then brought them into one religion.

**God:** What did he say?

**Satan:** He said: "God belongs to the East and the West, Wherever you look is the face of God." That's a direct quote. [*Quran* 2:115] He said you are merciful and kind. But I tell *you* that Muslims still kill and torture -- like the Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Jews, and Buddhists. It's a mess down there.

**God:** Show me one of the worst followers of Mohammed.

**Satan:** The Sufis are the worst.

**God:** Why?

**Satan:** They dance. They write poetry.

**God:** What do they say?

**Satan:** They call you the Beloved. Shams Tabriz met Rumi on the desert. He said: "Our seeking is God's seeking."

**God:** That's really bad. Listen.

#### **Song 5: Rumi and Shams Tabriz**

**Let's talk about the Beloved. *Everyone is a shadow of the Beloved. What you seek is seeking you. Let's sing once more about the Beloved. Oh, at times we flow to Him like a dancing stream. Some times we are still water in his pitcher. (At times we boil in a point turning to vapor all in one.) Speak of the One. He is the knower and the known. He is the seer and the (He melts you down.) That is the work of the Beloved. Breathing into my ear and my Soul takes His fragrance. Let silence take you into the core of Being. (All this talk is worthless compared to just one whisper from the Beloved.) Why would anyone want to leave? (This is love.) To fly to a secret sky! Secret sky. Go beyond all ideas. Go beyond all ideas of what is right and wrong there is a field of Love. I'll meet you there. ) I'll meet you there.) I'll meet you there in that field where there is a community spirit you have never seen before. When the soul lies down in that field, Beauty unveils its exquisiteness in the solitude of nothingness. Nothingness. Since I saw you the whole world is fraud and fantasy. Your house has no limit, My soul has spilled into yours, blended into One.***

#### **SCENE 6: God and Satan**

**God:** Satan, those Sufi Muslims sound pretty good. What do you think?

**Satan:** I said: Muslims kill like Christians, and Jews, and Hindus and Buddhists. Your work on earth is a disaster. You're a total failure.

**God:** Satan, I'm inside you.

**Satan:** No! NO. Get out of me.

**God:** You have a concern for people. I can hear it. I can see it.

You are changing. You care about people. After all these years, you are changing.

**Satan:** No!

**God:** Tell me who was the worst among Hindus.

**Satan:** Mahatma Gandhi.

**God:** Why Gandhi?

**Satan:** He's another failure.

**God:** Listen. He speaks to his friend.

### Song 6: Gandhi

Love is the path to world peace. *We can't love the way you can love. Yes you can. Aim to purify your thoughts I cannot purify my thoughts without you. Think again My friend All humanity is just one family un divided. Each one of us is responsible for the other, Bapu. Where do we start to teach peace? To teach real peace you start with children and all their mothers and fathers. Love is the way to stop war. We need to organize a Peace Army. Shanti Sena, How can you tell the difference between the weak and strong? Forgiveness comes from the strong of heart. Do not lose faith in humanity. Do not worry about all the consequences. Aim to harmonize your thought in words and deeds and prayer. Bapu, how can we stop hating? Be the change that you wish them to be. My wisdom comes from the highest source. Now I salute that source in you. You must search for the Truth Everyday. I do not know how to search for the truth. The future depends on what we do today. I see tyrants out there. They all fail in the end. Think again. My friend: All humanity is just one family undivided. Each one of us is responsible for the other. Bapu: How do we pray for real peace? In your prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart. The truth does not damage a Cause that is Just. They hate our Cause. Hate cause can only be overcome by love.*

### Scene 7: God and Satan

**God:** Gandhi's life was all about "love in action."

**Satan:** Hindus don't listen to him. A member of his own religion killed him.

**God:** I know. I was there.

**Satan:** Hindus kill and torture -- just like the rest. It is terrible.

**God:** It's not *like* you to be concerned about people. Satan, you are becoming human. You're changing. Why are you so concerned?

**Satan:** Look at those nuclear bombs. You let people create them.

**God:** Yes. If people do not listen to my messengers, there *will* be hell on earth.

**Satan:** Millions will die a horrible death.

**God:** You are worried about people. Am I talking to Satan?

**Satan:** Babies are born crippled, deformed, and blind...

**God:** You care. Are you changing?

**Satan:** No. You are the beast. You caused all this.

**God:** Satan, I am in you.

**Satan:** Leave me alone.

**God:** You are like a human being.

**Satan:** I will never be human being.

**God:** You are an image in the human mind. People can drop you.

**Satan:** What? You need *people* to get rid of me? You're the Creator of the universe.

**God:** When they see me inside you, you will die.

**Satan:** What?

**God:** When people find their humanity, you will be history.

**Satan:** You mean I would die?

**God:** You heard to the wisdom of Lao-tzu...Right?

**Satan** Yes.

**God:** You saw the Compassion of Buddha...

**Satan:** Yes.

**God:** You looked at the faith and the suffering of Job.

**Satan:** Yes.

**God:** You saw the Love of Jesus and his suffering.

**Satan:** Yes.

**God:** You saw the Heart of Islam in Rumi.

**Satan:** Yes.

**God:** You saw the gentle power of Hindus in Gandhi.

**Satan:** Yes.

**God:** When people live like them, you will die.

**Satan:** No! They will never live like them. I cannot die! No one can kill me.

**God:** When people love their enemies, you're dead.

**Satan:** That will never happen. Ha!

**God:** It's up to the people.

**Satan:** NO!

**Chorus.** **You have heard my story.** Yes I did. **You heard the wisdom of Tao.** Yes I did. **You heard the compassion of Buddha.** Yes I did, **You heard the faith of Job!** Yes I did. **You heard the love of Jesus.** Yes I did. **You saw the heart of Islam in Rumi .** Yes I did. **You saw the gentle power of Gandhi.** Yes I did. **When people live like him you will die!** I don't want to die. I don't want to die. I don't want to die. No! No! NO! No. No. No. No. (*Audience.*) **It's up to us It's up to us. It's up to us. It's up to us. NOW It's up to us. It's up to us. Amen.**