

THE DIVINE GAME

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EXT. MAIN ST., BOSTON - DAY

A man dressed in business attire, CHRIS (32), is walking down the crowded sidewalks of Main Street. Three PREACHERS are holding signs and try to grab Chris' attention.

PREACHER 1

Have you heard of our Lord and savior?

Chris ignores them and continues walking.

CHRIS

(muttering)

I don't need any of that bullshit.

Chris begins walking by a construction site. Four stories above him, a large gust of wind makes a CONSTRUCTION WORKER lose his balance and almost fall off a scaffolding. He catches himself, but knocks a CINDER BLOCK over in the process.

The cinder block lands on Chris' head. He lays on the ground. Nearby PASSERSBY turn their attention to Chris.

PASSERBY 1

Oh my God! Is he ok?

PASSERBY 2

Someone call 911!

INT. GODS' GATHERING ROOM - DAY

With his eyes shut, Chris is sitting at a table in an all-white room. His head shows no signs of injury. He opens his eyes.

Chris looks surprised as he sees four large glowing FIGURES, the Greek god ZEUS, the Egyptian god RA, the Norse god ODIN, and the BUDDHA, sitting at the same table as him. They are playing a BOARD GAME with a map of the Earth as the board.

Zeus slams a card on the table with a big smile on his face.

ZUES

Thank you, Odin. I will be taking
an eighth of your followers and a
quarter of Ra's.

Odin slams his fist on the table. Ra glares at Odin.

RA

You set him up for that, Odin...

ODIN

How was I supposed to know he had
that card? Besides, I would've
taken half your followers next
turn anyway.

RA

I knew that trying to work with
YOU would be a bad idea.

Buddha calmly raises his hand. The other gods look at him.

BUDDHA

It seems our sore loser has yet to
greet our newest arrival.

All the gods turn towards Chris, who is still in shock.
Chris stares at the gods.

CHRIS

What the hell is this? Where am I?

ZEUS

Welcome to the Gods' Gathering. I
am sure this is quite a shock to
you. Here we... ugh. I do not want
to give this speech when I am
winning.

RA

No one likes a lousy winner... Here
we gods play a board game in which
we compete to gather the biggest
religious following to determine
the fate of one of the many
different versions of Earth.

Chris stares blankly at Ra with his mouth open. There is a long, awkward pause.

BUDDHA

And you are here because when a god loses, one of their followers is killed and brought here.

CHRIS

You gotta be shittin' me. Some idiot here lost the game so I gotta die?

ODIN

Those are the rules. We decided that having one of our followers die when we get eliminated would be a great way to raise the stakes.

CHRIS

You mean to tell me our lives are just part of some game to you assholes? And one of us could end up being your losing bet?

BUDDHA

I know it is not the most considerate game, but please. You have to understand how different reality is for us.

ZEUS

Look, Jesus just got knocked out. He's over there in that room. Now beat it. I have a game to win.

Zeus points to a door in the far corner. Chris, seething with rage now, stares at the door before getting up and walking towards it.

INT. JESUS' ROOM - DAY

JESUS is standing in front of a counter, looking over notes and muttering to himself.

Chris, enters and closes the door behind him. Jesus doesn't acknowledge him. Chris clears his throat.

CHRIS

Hey, asshole. Thanks for bringing me here against my will.

JESUS

Oh, I'm sorry, my child. I hadn't realized how long I was in here. Welcome to the Gods' Gathering. Here we-

CHRIS

Save it. I already heard the whole thing from the others.

Chris walks up to Jesus and looks him up and down.

CHRIS

Why the hell am I here? I didn't believe in you.

JESUS

Well, not when you died. But you were raised Catholic. Sometimes the elimination rule can get a little messy and ignores conversions.

Chris explodes with rage.

CHRIS

Are you kidding me? This is completely unfair. I gave up all that religious crap when I was in high school. You're telling me I got completely fucked just because my parents believed in that shit and you suck at that game?

JESUS

Hey! I don't suck at the game. I happen to have the most wins.

CHRIS

I don't give a shit how many times
you've won. I just want my fucking
life back.

Chris starts looking sad and stares at the floor. Jesus
reaches out to Chris, but Chris slaps his hand away. Jesus
sighs.

JESUS

Look, after a follower arrives and
we feel the impact of our loss, we
either send them to the afterlife.
But if you want, I can reincarnate
you. However, you won't remember
your previous life.

Chris looks up at Jesus.

CHRIS

I don't know. Give me some time to
think about it.

Fade Out

INT. TRANSFER ROOM - DAY

Jesus leads Chris into the transfer room. The room is empty
except for a large CAPSULE in a corner and a CONTROL PANEL
in the opposite corner.

Jesus and Chris walk up to the capsule, and Jesus raises
the lid.

JESUS

Have you made your choice?

CHRIS

Yeah... I wanna reincarnate.

JESUS

I understand. Please, get inside.

Chris shakes his head and smirks.

CHRIS

Well this has been some weird
shit. But thank you for at least
letting me get a chance to live
again.

JESUS

I'm truly sorry you got involved
with this. I hope you can enjoy
your new life.

Chris extends his hand to Jesus. Jesus shakes Chris' hand,
then tries to let go. Chris tightens his grip.

Chris pushes Jesus into the capsule, closes it, and runs to
the control panel. Jesus begins frantically pushing and
hitting the lid, but the lid doesn't budge.

JESUS

(panicking)

Chris! What are you doing? Stop
this!

Chris reaches the control panel and sees two buttons. One
labeled "Afterlife" and the other "Reincarnate". Chris
looks back at Jesus, smirks, and presses the "Reincarnate"
button. Jesus vanishes from inside the capsule.

INT. GOD'S GATHERING ROOM - DAY

Chris is sitting with his eyes closed at the table with the
other gods again.

ODIN

I guess Chris can take Jesus'
place until we can get him back.

ZEUS

How about we let him take his turn
first?

Chris smiles and opens his eyes.

CHRIS

Alright. How do I play?

END