

# A GUY NAMED JOE

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children churches and daddies  
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## GOD IS A GUY NAMED JOE

On Fridays and Saturdays,  
He sits in a honky-tonk.  
He's never liked country music,  
Booze or teased hair,  
But He's seen it all  
And drank it all in  
Since the beginning of time.  
So this place is as good as any,  
More relaxing than upscale places.  
And among cigarette ash and stale peanuts,  
He forgets for a while that He is  
Due at every church in the world.  
Forgets that some want to call Him  
Jesus, some Buddha, some Mohammed,  
And some just that sonofabitch.  
The bartender knows Him better than most do,  
Asks what He will have.  
"Some more of the same", Joe says.

## FREE WILL

All the good things  
In life are free,  
But you gotta pay  
For the consequences.

## PREDESTINATION

Yes, there are places  
To go and roads  
That take you there,  
But you aren't there Until you are there.

## NIGHT AND DAY

Seemed like a good idea.  
But people were supposed  
To notice dusk and dawn, Transition.  
Instead,  
They made  
Heaven and Hell,  
Law and order,  
Electric lights and war.  
They were supposed  
To sleep on things  
In order to understand them. Hell, that's why I  
invented Pillows and dreams.

## MAN AND WOMAN

Yes, I did use a rib.  
See, it was meant to be  
A “boner” in every sense.  
When men and women had sex,  
I wanted them to understand  
They were just “ribbing” each other.

## PRAYER

Talk to me.  
r will listen.  
But men and women Mumbling and feeling  
So holy about it  
Give me a break.  
Have a beer  
And cry in it.  
That's more real.

## HEAVEN

Sure, it's a nice place.  
But Gabriel, who is also  
A licensed real estate agent,  
Has had it listed for eons.  
Been no serious buyers.  
Maybe we need a swimming pool.

# SIN

They say I can't sin.  
But I could if I wanted.  
But why would I want to? That would involve  
Arrogance.

## CHURCHES

Are pretty  
Expensive.  
Candles, pews,  
Stained glass,  
And believers  
Only use them  
An hour or two.  
Why not put in  
Showers and tvs,  
Let the homeless  
Have a home?  
Ran the idea  
Past Christ,  
And He liked it.  
So did the Holy Spirit

## THE RICH

Don't blame me.  
I had it all,  
But they keep  
Taking and taking.  
Well, got a lawyer  
To get it back  
But he got one-third.  
So got another lawyer  
To get some of that back,  
But he gets one-third too.  
So I guess there  
Will always be rich assholes. Don't blame me.

## DIFFERENT COLORS

I like variety.  
Don't you like  
The flowers and  
The butterflies  
In all their glory?  
So what's this problem  
Some of you have  
With people being  
Like flowers and butterflies?

## WARS

One day the angels  
Were playing football,  
And things got out of hand.  
They started killing each other,  
Said it was over man and free will.  
All bullshit, if you ask me.  
Well, no more football here.  
Only Scrabble, and it's  
Supervised to make sure  
Nobody spells out violence.

## TEN COMMANDMENTS

Put them in stone,  
Made them big and heavy.  
They're harder to break,  
But were also supposed  
To be harder to throw at people  
Just don't throw stones, peoples.

## NUDITY

I see people without  
Buttons or zippers,  
Badges or insignia.  
I can take the sight  
Of some wrinkles and bulges.  
But when people are ashamed  
Of the plain naked truth,  
And even make it illegal -  
Well, that's just naked foolishness.

# LUST

Anybody worth his salt  
(No offense, Lot)  
Has to be lusty.  
No wimpy Christs,  
No wimpy lovers  
If you want it,  
Meaning life,  
Then you lust for it. Ain't too likely  
You would destroy  
What you really want.

## WAGES

Of sin are death.  
Sure, I said that.  
But keep it in context.  
What fool expects  
To be paid for sin?  
Now, work is different.  
The minimum wage  
Was supposed to be what  
It would take for  
A rich or lazy man  
To do what a poor man does.

## AUTHORITY

Not really having  
Anybody to answer to  
Except myself,  
I never did like  
Bowing and scraping.  
But I am God;  
Nobody else is.  
So I don't like  
People playing me.  
They get the voice all wrong Actually I'm a baritone.

## VIRTUE

Is its own reward.  
Didn't start  
Out quite that way.  
Used to be  
You got a gold star  
Up in the heavens.  
But nobody looked up there  
Or gave a rat's ass.  
Still, beatitudes  
Are better than attitude.

## THE EARTH

Was made to  
Work with, walk upon,  
Be close to, at least.  
But there are tall buildings Where people walk  
Above other people's heads.  
The sounds within them  
Are all babel to me.

## WAITING FOR HEAVEN

Is like  
Holding  
Your breath.  
Don't  
Hold your breath.

# MIRACLES

That  
Every Thing  
Is,  
And that Anything Is.

## CONFESSIO

Is good for the soul.  
But you are not telling me Anything I don't already know.  
But it is good for you  
To know that I know  
That you know I know.

## SERMONS

Usually put me to sleep. Figure I know  
Right from wrong.  
And if I didn't,  
I wouldn't listen anyway.  
But even what sounds so  
Right can be so wrong.

# DEATH

Is like a string Around your finger  
To remind you  
You didn't always Exist and never  
Really had to.

## COMMUNION

Totally great  
Being inside  
The Host and  
Then inside  
Gadzillions of people.  
But it hurts  
Like hell when  
They get in  
Separate cars and  
Drive to separate homes. Just tears me apart  
You might say.

# HUMILITY

Quite important.  
So I came up with  
Pissing and shitting.  
Figured that was a way  
To keep people down-to-earth,  
Or close to it.  
But some learned to pretend  
They didn't do either.  
I know better.  
Guess they don't.

## HOW MANY ANGELS

Can dance  
On the  
Head of a pin?  
Guess it depends  
On how  
Drunk they are  
Or how human  
They want to seem.

## STORIES

Tell a lot of them from  
This cozy bars tool.  
Not everybody believes them.  
Some say they are just parables.  
But the truth fits inside  
A story better than anything else.

# GOODNESS

Comes from me.

I guess that's true.

But I've had it so long, Sometimes I'm not sure If it or I came first.

But why debate?

Just have some goodness,

For goodness sake.

## HOT CHICKS

A lot of guys wonder  
If this one is hot,  
Or that one is hotter. Well, having seen Eve  
And all her daughters,  
I can tell you they all  
Are about 98.6° F.

## ANGER MANAGEMENT

Used to lose it  
Quite a lot:  
Floods, earthquakes,  
All that stuff.  
But got into this  
Hippie thing in the 60s.  
60 B.C., that is.  
Free love. Is there  
Any other kind?  
Even God feels  
Guilty now and then.  
Hell, I even crucified myself.  
But never again.  
Love, man. Love is all you need.  
And a good bubble bath.

## THE SOUL

Is what is left  
After you get  
Rid of all the crap  
Like height and weight,  
Cars and houses,  
Club memberships  
And cable tv.  
It's what makes us  
Like silence  
And each other.

## HEY, JOE

The bartender's name is Joe also.

Lot of good Joes in the world.

"Hey, Joe. Why do you think

They put little umbrellas in drinks?" "Could be so if the roof leaks,

The drinks won't get watered down".

Could be. Could be.

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