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Another Virtual Revelation

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God e-mailed me a few times last week. He hadn't done so in a while, and I was beginning to think that I might be off the hook.

His first message read, "From this time onward, God can no longer be reached at god.4@hvn.edu. Due to the poor fortunes of a couple of televangelists, and a surgeon, He can now be reached at god.1@hvn.edu. Furthermore, to minimize the volume of His e-mail, He would appreciate it if messages for His Son were directed to god.2@hvn.edu." I thought that this was a cute joke, and wrote it off, but He e-mailed me again later in the week.

god.1@hvn.edu: After our last conversation, I pretty much gave up on you. You really ticked Me off. But after I cooled down, I thought that I'd give you another chance. I need to talk to you.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: Sorry that I took so long to reply, but my server's been down.

(Of course, I lied about the server. I still have a hard time believing that it is really God. I actually e-mailed his Son to ask if god.1 is really God. I never got an answer. Just like the old days. On a hunch, I e-mailed mary.mog@hvn.edu. She replied right away and apologized for her Son. Could be a bigger scam than I thought.

mary.mog@hvn.edu: He hates e-mail, and rarely uses it. He prefers to communicate through the Holy Spirit. He thinks His conversations should be inspirational. He was really irritated with His Father's batch message. Now

He gets lots of e-mail, but He almost never answers any of them. Part of the problem is that He never learned to type. They didn't have typewriters when He was down there with you guys.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: When did you learn to type?

mary.mog@hvn.edu: Oh, I never did, either. But I have a full-time correspondence secretary. Hard to find, though. Nobody in heaven wants to work. We had to bring him up from Lubbock.

God had told me earlier that Satan and the poor souls are banished to Lubbock, and I remembered that God had given me Satan's e-mail address: satan.1@hades.com. So I e-mailed Satan and asked him how to reach God.

Satan.1@hades.com: Love your neighbor and do good works, you idiot.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: No, I mean by e-mail. I used to have His address, but I heard that He changed it.

Satan.1@hades.com: I wouldn't know. I used to have a good correspondence secretary, but he left for a better job.

I decided this was too much coincidence, so I e-mailed god.1. He didn't answer for a few days. More mixed signals.

god.1@hvn.edu: Sorry I didn't get right back to you. My server was down.

I wasn't quite sure how to take that.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: I can certainly appreciate that. Do you mind if I ask why you contacted me?

god.1@hvn.edu: I still need a prophet.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: We've already been through this [see *Graft* 2:131;1999]. I told you that I'm a scientist, not a prophet.

god.1@hvn.edu: That's just the kind of prophet that I need. I want to get the word out that I am tired of scientists using science to make money for themselves. I need someone from within the ranks. An insider. Someone who knows the system. Someone who can talk the talk and walk the walk. Someone who is a good example. Someone who knows how to do science without exploiting it for profit.

This was getting to be too much. God was using e-mail to coerce me, a non-prophet scientist, into becoming the prophet of non-profit. Right! Who would profit from that? Possibly God, possibly Science, but certainly not me or my fellow scientists.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: Science for no profit, I'm a great example of that. But if you want someone that profit-seeking scientists will listen to, you've got the wrong guy. Why not recruit a stock broker as a prophet?

god.1@hvn.edu: What stock broker could credibly tell a scientist to go back to the basics and work for principle (no pun intended), not for profit? Tell them that they should use science to investigate the unknown out of curiosity, not avarice. Convince them that science should be used to broaden mankind's horizons, not to improve their own investment portfolios. A broker profit, that's rich. I need someone from within the corps to preach that there are lots of good reasons for a scientist to do science, but making money for himself is not one of them.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: What's wrong with making money from science?

god.1@hvn.edu: Nothing. As long as money remains an effect and not a cause for science. When science is done for money, the profit motive skews progress and cheapens the process. It's a difficult and delicate balance. It's OK to make a profit, even a huge one, as a consequence of successfully pursuing science for the benefit of mankind, but it's quite another thing to use science and the human condition as tools to generate profit.

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: Are you crazy? No one wants to hear this message. You may want a prophet, but what you'll get is a martyr. They would crucify me. Scientists believe that science has finally come into its own. Science is a business, and businesses are supposed to make money. It's the second millennium. These are modern times. Things change. You've got to get with the program.

god.1@hvn.edu: Some things are universal and should not be changed in the name of progress. By the way, how are your secretarial skills?

orosz.1@medctr.osu.edu: Secretarial skills? Adequate, I suppose. Why do you ask?

god.1@hvn.edu: You may find them useful when you get to Lubbock.