A CENTRAL BANKER AT THE GATES OF HEAVEN

CHARACTERS

God – old man with a long white beard, hair, gown

Moses- God’s sidekick, a ‘yes’ man

Factory worker – overalls, workpants, boots, tools on belt

Central banker – executive type

The gates of heaven. Lots of traffic is heard in the background. Horns beeping. Some sirens. Men hawking their wares.

During the play, every time GOD gets angry, there may be thunder and lightning (T,L).

GOD

What a day, Moses! I’ve already sent 50 men and women to hell. Can’t be too careful whom I let into heaven.

MOSES

Sir, your judgment is impeccable. I always said your word is law.

GOD

But it bothers me Moses. How much my children lie and steal and just plain ain’t very nice.

MOSES

God, sir, it’s not their fault.

GOD

What! (T,L)

MOSES

Well, I only meant….

GOD

I know what you meant. You’re always trying to protect them. It doesn’t work, believe me. My children only learn by feeling the consequences.

MOSES

Master, you are the wisest.

GOD

Yes, Moses. You know, I invented money.

MOSES

Yes, yes, you’ve told me this… many times… many times… many times.

GOD

Yes. It was brilliant. Here were my people needing and wanting. There had to be something to help them buy food and drink and pay for college. So I came up with money. But man was not to charge interest, cause that ended with poverty, starvation, death.

(Factory worker walks in from stage left. He has overalls, workpants, boots, and some tools are hanging from his belt.)

WORKER

Is this the gate to heaven?

GOD

Yes.

WORKER

Are you God?

GOD

Yes, the real deal.

WORKER

Boy, am I glad I found you. Listen, you got to do something fast. I left my family in big trouble.

GOD

Tell me more.

WORKER

Well, it wasn’t my fault, I swear. I ended up with a decent factory job so I thought I’d get married and raise some kids. Make myself a good family.

GOD

Good for you.

WORKMAN

But things didn’t turn out great.

GOD

Oh, dear, tell me what happened.

WORKMAN

I got in trouble with the ‘banks’. (T,L)

(MOSES signals without success to shush the workman. Throughout the workman’s talk, God is having ‘apoplexy’.)

WORKMAN

I left my wife with a 30 year mortgage on our house. I bought high at 500 thousand. The interest rate was adjustable and after 3 years went from 3 to 7 percent! We were screwed. Then the real estate market tanked, and the house was only worth 200 thousand. (T,L)

To make matters worse, my wages were cut so we had to live on credit cards. Ran up a debt of 40 thousand at 26% interest. Best I could do, especially since the two boys were both in college and, boy, talk about being ripped off! Hundreds of thousands of college debt and no jobs for the boys in sight. (T,L)

So I need you to help me God. I left my family real sudden. My heart stopped, after my job was shipped out and given to someone in Vietnam, living on 20 cents an hour. (T,L)

GOD

Who were these banks? (T,L)

WORKMAN

Well, there was, Citibank, the bank with the most branches around the world. (T,L) Goldman Sachs, the one in our government. (T,L) Bank of America, Wells Fargo. Gosh, let’s just say the Too Big to Fail. (T,L)

GOD

Son, don’t worry. I care for my people and your family is, of course, included.

WORKMAN

God, what a relief to hear it.

GOD

Pass through my gates, happily.

(Workman walks happily into heaven.)

MOSES

A good man. God, you have many good children. God, you are so brilliant. Your wisdom lights up all our hearts.

GOD

Enough already…I’ve made my decision. (T,L) The next banker who comes this way…screw him… (T,L)

(In walks an executive, signs says, PRESIDENT, Wall Street Bank. Throughout the conversation, GOD pretends to be interested.)

GOD

Yes?

PRES

Hello. Glad to be here.

GOD

Your name?

PRES

Well…if you must know….

GOD

Why wouldn’t you tell me?

PRES

Well, you see, I don’t trust very many people. Most people are pretty fowl really. Not too bright. Make mistakes. Overweight. Yucky. Clothing too loud. Poor. Lazy. Trying to eat off the dole. Having all these kids they can’t support. Want this. Want that. Always wanting something. Disgusting.

GOD

Why are you here?

PRES

Well, you’re God, right?

GOD

Yes.

PRES

Glad to meet you.

GOD

Your name?

PRES

(whispers) zzzzzz zzzzz zzzzzzz

GOD

What?

PRES

(louder whisper) DUDLEY.

GOD

Dudley. Where have I heard that name?

PRES

Well, I try to stay under the radar, so to speak.

GOD

Well, tell me. Shed some light on your old God.

PRES

Well, I’m the president of a Wall Street Bank.

GOD

(T,L) Really? I haven’t seen one of you bankers here at the gates of heaven for centuries. (T,L) What’s happening with our money system down on earth, these day?

PRES

Well, I must say, I have everything to do with it, if I’m allowed to blow my own horn. Well, you see, now that I’m no longer… on earth, so to speak… I can let the cat out of the bag! Those stupid people don’t know how money works. We bankers created this game. We have hidden the rules for centuries, and kept the earth pure for God’s chosen people.

GOD

Ah, my chosen people. (T, L)

PRES

You, see, God, we always knew we must lead mankind away from their stupidity.

GOD

I’m so glad you have taken care of us all.

PRES

Yes, yes.

GOD

So what is this money system of yours? Mr… Mr. Dudley. What if I call you Mr. One Percent?

PRES

Perfect, God. Mr. 1% will do fine.

GOD

Ah, so Moses, Mr. 1% will tell about his money system. Proceed, please. I am so interested. (T, L)

PRES

You see, God, it started long ago when there wasn’t enough money and trade was expanding all over the place. The government issued gold and silver coin, but it wasn’t enough to buy all those dresses and teas and silks. More money was needed, so we international bankers invented our credit-money. We just wrote checks on our account or just printed bank notes with our letterhead and lent out our money. The stupid people accepted them. Oh, it was just delightful how we could create money.

GOD

So you created debt-money. (T, L) And did you charge interest for the use of your debt-money?

PRES

We pretended not to, or else the Church would have sent us to hell. But we had to make a profit, right?

GOD

I see.

PRES

But it gets better. We came up with a grand idea. Get a charter from the government, and have the government surrender their power to create money to us. So we got the Federal Reserve Law! Perfectly legal. It worked every time.

GOD

Worked?

PRES

Any government that gives us its power to create money -- that government must borrow from us with interest to make ends meet. That government will forever be in debt. The English were the first. Then it spread over Europe and now the United States. Today most of the world.

GOD

So the world is ‘In the dark’?

PRES

Well, you wouldn’t like a whole lot of people to know your angle. It’s so excellent! We make the borrower’s money out of thin air. And, if someone does leak it, our media covers it all up with the words “A conspiracy theory”.

GOD

But, it is a conspiracy, yes?

PRES

Of course. We conspire to confuse, threaten, and drive the world into thoughtless fear. We conspire for war -- we make the most money on war. Our economists are very helpful too. They keep the 1% controlling the 99%. Their theories always sound so very good, but are always proven wrong. No problem. We go to the next crisis with more convoluted theories. Meanwhile, we are changing the world.

GOD

What changes has your hidden debt-money system caused?

PRES

Let’s see. We now own about 50% of all the wealth. And then there is our FREE TRADE! Oh, it’s wonderful. Free trade agreements move jobs to stinking-poor countries, and people here fight to keep jobs paying lower and lower wages.

GOD

You 1% are quite good at all this, I must say.

PRES

You know, keeping the politicians glutted with our debt-money but ignorant of the money system has also been excellent strategy. It means they are true believers in AUSTERITY and PRIVATIZATION. And the citizens, oblivious to our bank debt-money system, blame everything on the government!

GOD

Blame?

PRES

Yes, you see, this is the absolute beauty of the game! Everyone blames everyone else – and no one sees the root cause of all this worldly woe. Blacks against whites; Republicans against Democrats; states against feds; unions against employers.

GOD

Enough. Enough. (T, L) Answer the next question, as if your afterlife depended on it.

PRES

Yes, God?

GOD

Are you doing the old Mesopotamia trick? You know – I will create the money for the loan but not the interest. The money to pay interest doesn’t exist?

PRES

Well… well… yes, yes, yes. How else will our debt-money be scarce? How else to have unpayable debt – to get the collateral!

GOD

Woe! Woe! Woe! (T, L) I’m getting a headache from all this thunder and crashing going on today.

(GOD makes a decision)

Moses, go into heaven and get me Abraham, Gerald, and Benjamin.

MOSES

Who?

GOD

President Abraham Lincoln, the creator of the Greenback -- government debt-free money.

Mr. Gerald McGeer.

MOSES

Who?

GOD

(shouts) Oh, my money history has been suppressed! (T, L) McGeer…. Capital M – c – capital G – e – e - r. The Canadian politician who studied Lincoln’s Greenbacks. He convinced the Canadian government to buy all the shares in the private Bank of Canada in 1938 and fund free higher education and public health care for all Canadians with debt-free money.

MOSES

No kidding!

GOD

Mr. Benjamin Franklin.

MOSES

Mr. Benjamin Franklin? The Ben Franklin with the newspaper?

GOD

Again, people are dumbed down. (T,L) Ben helped spread government debt-free money to all the English colonies in America. Each colonial legislature issued its own paper money and brought prosperity. The real cause of the American Revolution was Parliament forbidding the colonies’ debt-free money.

MOSES

That’s a new one for me. Okay, I got the three.

GOD

I am sending them back down to earth to help the very brave Mr. Dennis Kucinich, as he tries to educate the American people and all people about the NEED Act.

PRES

Oh, no, not the NEED Act!

GOD

Yes, Dudley, the NEED Act. The NEED act will take the power to create money away from the banks and return it to the government. The government will create debt-free money for sustainable jobs. AND! The NEED act is found in the Green Party’s platform – called ‘Greening the Dollar.”

PRES

My life is over.

GOD

Yes, Dudley. You are correct. You can just go to hell!

THE END