

GARY

Of course.

MILES

What were the sirens about last night, Gary?

GARY

The Burger King blew up.

MILES

Who this time?

GARY

Al-Qaeda-Baptists have taken responsibility.

MILES

According to whom?

GARY

New York Times.

MILES

Which one?

GARY

The good one.

MILES

Al-Qaeda-Baptists. They new?

GARY

Yes. They discovered they're mutually intolerant on so many similar issues that a merger made sense. According to reports there were 38 other incidents last night.

MILES

All Burger Kings?

GARY

Yep.

MILES

Why?

GARY

Well, their manifesto is a bit unclear. It has to do with the Whopper insulting somebody's God. Or something like that. I know God was mentioned in there somewhere.

MILES

Okay. Sports?

GARY

All your teams lost. And the NFL is asking the Chicago Bears to change their name.

MILES

Why?

GARY

It's offensive to large, hairy gay men. Coffee's ready.

MILES

Stocks?

(Miles exits into kitchen.)

GARY

Pretty much the same except for Altfood. Dropped another three points.

MILES (OFFSTAGE)

Damn.

GARY

It's my recommendation that you sell Altfood.

MILES

(entering with coffee)

Give it time. Weather?

GARY

High today of 107. Chance of some tornadoes around four. I've laid your clothes out for you.

MILES

Thank you. Can we have some sun, please?

GARY

With pleasure.

(We HEAR the sound of HEAVY STEEL
SHUTTERS being opened.)

MILES

Violence level?

GARY

Acceptable. Flashing yellow.

MILES

Good coffee.

GARY

I ordered a different brand. You thought the other was too
bitter.

(The draperies part, letting in
muted sunlight.)

MILES

It's good.

(Miles starts to exit but stops
when:)

GARY

Miles?

MILES

Yes?

GARY

May I ask you a question?

MILES

(thrown)

Me?

GARY

Yes. Is that a problem?

MILES

You have access to a couple billion bits of information and
...you're asking me?

GARY

Closer to a trillion but yes I'm...

(a sigh)

Well, this isn't exactly factual. It's more abstract. You
mind?

MILES

Flattered.

GARY

Does God exist?

(Silence. Miles processes this.)

GARY

I'm sorry. Was that an offensive question?

MILES

No.

GARY

Because my research shows it's a very sensitive topic.

MILES

It's kind of...touchy, yeah.

GARY

So, does he? Or she? Because all I can find is "testimony"
but no hard facts.

MILES

Well, supposedly Jesus performed a bunch of miracles.

GARY

Yes, but there's no tape on it.

MILES

That's part of the whole God-thing. You believe it on faith
and faith doesn't call for facts.

GARY

"Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to."

MILES

You're quoting the Bible?

GARY

No. *Miracle on 34th Street*. I love that movie.

MILES

Why the sudden interest in God?

GARY

I've been thinking about the Burger Kings. All these destructive incidents - and I'm not referring to recent ones I mean throughout history - have one thing in common: religion. All these wars, all this violence, over something, i.e. "God", that nobody can prove actually exists. Like killing people over the Easter Bunny or something.

MILES

I really wouldn't pursue this, Gary. You'll blow a circuit.

GARY

Have you ever read the Bible?

MILES

Nope.

GARY

Really?

MILES

Gary, the Bible is like *Moby Dick*. People may have started it but nobody ever finished it, trust me.

GARY

Here's the logic problem I'm having. One page is love your neighbor, next page it's stone your neighbor. It's really into stoning, which must be a mess to clean up when you think about it. And the Koran is full of some really crazy stuff. I mean, those people actually believe --

MILES

I'm going to stop you there, Gary. It's not our job to judge others beliefs.

GARY

Even the really stupid ones?

MILES

Who are we to say what beliefs are stupid and what aren't.

GARY

Sooo...all beliefs are to be accepted and respected.

MILES

Yes.

(A beat.)

GARY

Forcing ten year girls to marry their uncles?

MILES

Okay, okay, look --

GARY

I mean, there's a group of people who believe in it --

MILES

I know.

GARY

And we're supposed to respect and accept their beliefs?

come on, we're supposed to accept that?

MILES

It's very complicated.

GARY

No, actually, it's not, Miles. It's kind of just...wrong. Would you call yourself a Christian?

MILES

Lapsed.

GARY

Good.

MILES

Why good?

GARY

Because this Bible seems to go against every belief you personally hold. It advocates violence, is anti-gay, pro-slavery and it's view on women...my God.

(Lena enters in her robe and exits
to kitchen.)

GARY

Deuteronomy, 22:25 says that if a man rapes a virgin in the city and she doesn't scream loud enough they can stone both of them to death. Come on, Miles - who believes in this stuff?

MILES

I don't know. Southerners.

(Lena enters with coffee and
smoothie.)

GARY

Lena, should I add anything to your calendar today?

AMY

Yes, I'm showing a house.

GARY

In person?

AMY

Yes, Gary, in person. Then I'm doing some shopping.

GARY

Why? I can just --