

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

By Jeff Dunne

© 2021 by Jeffrey A. Dunne

## CHARACTERS

GOD	You know, God.
VALENTINE	Saint Valentine is, well, saintly. And a little horny.
MICHAEL	Saint Michael is overworked, and rather stoic.
EDNA	As the woman who is actually responsible for keeping the universe running, she is a very practical, one might even say “down to earth” woman.
LAWRENCE	Saint Lawrence is a bit of the apathetic trickster.

## SETTING

This takes place around a heavenly table outside the temporal bounds of the universe.

SCENE

*(God, St. Valentine, St. Michael, St. Lawrence, and god's executive assistant Edna are sitting around a table.)*

GOD

Alright, next up on the block is... the downtrodden. Any takers?

VALENTINE

Downtrodden?

GOD

Yes, Valentine. The downtrodden. Abused, oppressed... You know, the—

VALENTINE

I don't think so. Seems awfully grim.

GOD

We can't all be the saint of the merry whoopie-makers, you know. Fine, fine. What about you, Michael?

MICHAEL

I don't know, my Lord. My plate's pretty full just now, what with the healers and the sick and justice and the bloody Church, which might I say has been getting into some rather sticky business of late, what with the crusades and—

GOD

Don't even start in on the crusades.

MICHAEL

But they're really starting to head south, if you know what I mean.

GOD

I'm not interfering. Not again. For all the crap I took after the flood, well, they're lucky I'm even listening to prayers anymore. Besides, that's what free will is about, right?

VALENTINE

What about Larry?

GOD

Yes, Lawrence has free will as—

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE by Jeff Dunne

VALENTINE

No, no. The downtrodden. Maybe Larry can take that on.

GOD

It's a thought. What's he got right now, Edna?

EDNA

*(Referring to a little book...)*

He's got school children... cooks... comedians...

VALENTINE

Oh, that's definitely a fit.

EDNA

*(Continuing...)*

The poor... the needy...

GOD

What do you say, Lawrence?

EDNA

*(Continuing...)*

Librarians... tanners...

GOD

Lawrence?

EDNA

*(Continuing...)*

Spoons... footwear... flightless birds...

GOD

Lawrence!

LAWRENCE

*(Jerking awake...)*

Yes?!

GOD

Alright then. Edna, put Lawrence down for the downtrodden.

LAWRENCE

But I... what?

GOD  
Next up is... courtly love.

LAWRENCE  
What? What did I miss?

MICHAEL  
Nothing. Go back to sleep.

VALENTINE  
I think I might have a go at that one.

GOD  
Be serious, Valentine. Hardly in your wheelhouse, is it?

VALENTINE  
But that's just my—

MICHAEL  
You've got to find a niche, Val. Like me.

VALENTINE  
But you're all over the place. Besides, I think they go together.

MICHAEL  
You really want to be known as the saint of courtly love and lepers?

VALENTINE  
Lepers are good people. They could do with a little courtly love now and then, what with them not being allowed into any of the courts these days.

GOD  
I don't know, Valentine. Edna, what else has he got?

EDNA  
*(Flipping pages...)*  
Lepers, and... beekeepers.

GOD  
Well, you are a bit light...

VALENTINE  
So? Can I have it?

MICHAEL

Seems a bit risky to me. Lovers getting confused and calling each other 'honey' or some such?

VALENTINE

Can't be worse than having healers, the sick, and toasted almond cookies.

MICHAEL

Hey. I earned that.

VALENTINE

What do you say, Your Divineness? Can I have it?

GOD

If you really want it, I suppo—

VALENTINE

Yes, definitely.

GOD

Alright. Edna, jot that down, will you?

LAWRENCE

*(A loud whisper to Valentine...)*

Hey, Val. What gives?

VALENTINE

What do you mean?

LAWRENCE

The sudden interest in patron sainting. You're usually the one sleeping through these sessions.

VALENTINE

I just... thought... it was time to pick up something new.

LAWRENCE

Something nude, you mean.

VALENTINE

I never. *(Beat.)* Alright, fine. Maybe that has a little to do with it. But I don't see anything wrong with it.

LAWRENCE

Didn't say there w—

VALENTINE

I mean, it's the closest you get to a little harmless porn up here.

LAWRENCE

I didn't say—

VALENTINE

So what if I want a little excitement? You can't hardly blame me. It's not like the lepers are doing anything interesting.

LAWRENCE

I didn't—

VALENTINE

And frankly the only time I hear from a beekeeper is when they get stung.

GOD

What are you two going on about there?

VALENTINE

Nothing, Lord. Just saying how happy I am to be taking on this new responsibility.

GOD

You certainly seem excited about it.

VALENTINE

Yes, my Lord.

LAWRENCE

I'd say he's certainly ready to rise to the challenge, as they say.

VALENTINE

I—

LAWRENCE

Ready to get his hands dirty, if you know what I mean.

VALENTINE

Do you mind!?!

LAWRENCE

Practically bursting with excitement.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE by Jeff Dunne

VALENTINE

I... You... Can we just move on, please?

GOD

You're sure that's the one you want?

VALENTINE

Yes. Now can we please move on?

GOD

Of course. Edna, what's the next cause on the list?

EDNA

It looks like... steamy tantric sex.

GOD

Alright, now who should we give that one to?

*(Valentine's eyes bulge out, his jaw drops, and he begins stammering quietly.)*

What about that Teresa woman? I bet she'd be willing to take this on.

*(Lights out.)*