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AS TAKEN IN VAIN ONLINE

by naomi pitcairn



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Introduction Seeking Jesus 200

A librarian at the NY Public Library image collection once told me of an angry visitor who was frustrated that there were no actual photographs of God available. Alas, all any of us has to work with are unauthorized interpretations. These interpretations abound, and no one is qualified to certify a single one of them. The un-provable has always been fair game for artists and theologians and the internet is a medium that allows everyone to share their personal vision with the rest of us.

Every graphic in this book is a result of a search on Google Images. Here's how it happened: while doing research for another project, I stumbled upon some gun-toting Jesus imagery, delicious jewels of unwitting, ironic juxtaposition. As a rule, I tuck these kinds of treasures away in a computer folder somewhere, for later use in fun, little art projects, like a "pistol-packing Savior" Christmas card. Applying the "more is better" theory, I began wondering how many were out there.

We all know that online, one thing leads to another. I start Google Imaging "Jesus" paired with other descriptive words that pop into my head. And, row after row, they appear to me, a legion, of inappropriate, Jesuses doing things I could never have imagined in my wildest dreams because I'm not that sick. Because, please try to keep in mind as you read this book, that I did not invent alien, Republican, dog-faced, dinosaur-riding, chocolate, Lego, gangster-rap-loving, pervert, Santa Jesus. God is everywhere, used for every purpose under Heaven and back again. Which is not to say that I was not delightfully, ludicrously and fantastically shocked at society's freewheeling use of the mythology of a deity for its own peculiar, highly varied secular, political, cultural and psychological purposes.

I love that Jesus can appear, from seemingly nowhere, produced by a mere short string of words in a text box. That's all it takes to explore the vast and stormy sea of artists' conceptions, with no context whatsoever, other than my pristine, white, search engine window. It's so clean and so dirty at the same time. Just click and drag, or, if it's a really stubborn one, take a screen shot.

Looking to arrange my collection in some kind of meaningful order, I created sections and sequences. I designed part titles and borders, using other culled imagery figuring it was only appropriate to continue to appropriating, since this wasn't about my art, but instead, seemed to be turning itself into a sociological study in front of my very eyes. I revised and re-arranged as new insights and concepts aggregated on my screen. Sometimes it was really hard to know where to put a Jesus, like: in the Dog section or the Unusual Last Supper Guests section? Is it more relevant that a Jesus is a pastry, or that He's smiling at his own crucifiction?

A year passed and then another and another... as you read these words, I am probably thinking of a new Jesus to Google, although I hope not. This road to artistic perdition has been long, and indeed, I fear may never end. I've downloaded as many as 400 Jesuses in one day, and as I try to put the finishing touches on this final version I just made the mistake of Googling "Genie Jesus" and now I honestly don't know whether to be happy or sad.

Many of the strangest Jesuses were culled from smaller collections that other "bizarre, Jesus art" connoisseurs had already contextualized on Jesus blog sites and Flickr photo streams of their own. I am definitely not the only obsessed, freaky-Jesus-seeker out there, that's for sure. You can find these sites, if you want to, by Googling things like: "totally-fucked-up Jesus" or "Jesus of the week."

I did, (and do) feel guilty, about building so directly on their research, but there was no recourse but to download their entire collections. One for you, one for me, one amateur sociologist to another, anything, to amass the most comprehensive collection of outrageous Jesus iconography possible on earth, every last crack-smoking one I could grab. I do want to mention Sharp Iron though, who has my heartfelt admiration. http://sharpiron.wordpress.com/2010/10/20/jesus-avatars/

At a certain point, I felt I had gained a profound understanding of why Muslims don't sanction the drawing of Muhammad. It really does make sense on some level, NOT to try to portray God, as failure is a forgone conclusion. How could a concept as awesome as the ultimate creator be rendered in any way that wouldn't be a let-down? If you Google-Image Muhammad, you will see a lot of written symbolism (as well as a lot of Muhammad Ali and the other non-prophet Muhammads.) Most Islamic art is abstract and its beautiful patterns seem to reflect the divine far better than an attempt at portraiture. When you do see a Prophet Muhammad portrait, He generally looks to me at least a lot like, well, a lot like Jesus...

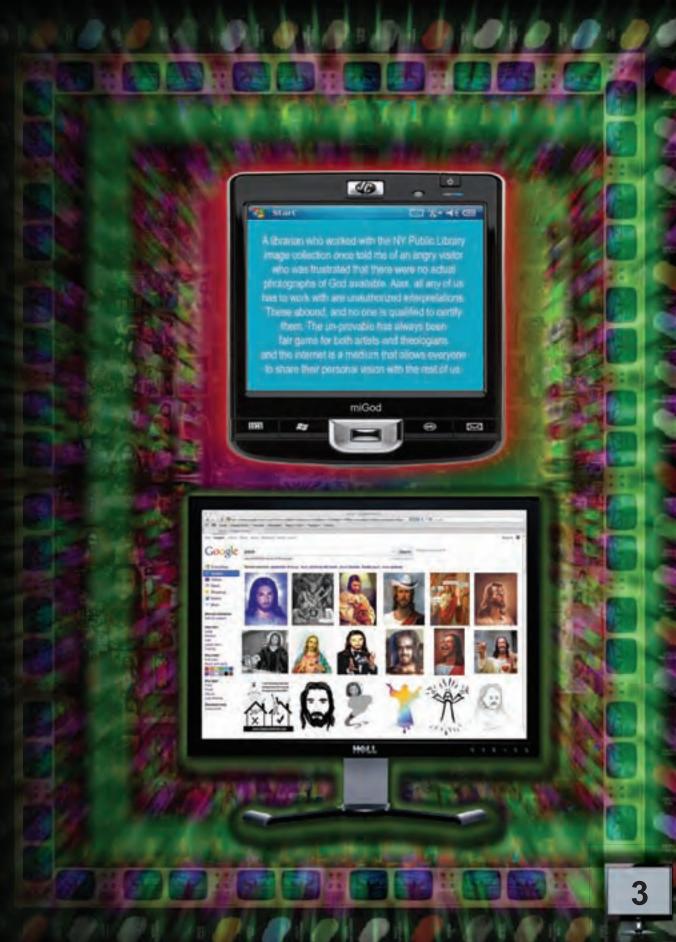
Do I think all Gods look alike? No, but Zeus, for instance, could pass for an aging Jesus, as could Odin, except for the eye. Various prophets also meet the criteria: long-haired, bearded, robed, conven tionally handsome, and conventionally masculine, generally looking either straight at you, or off into the distance, wearing a solemnly enlightened expression. I recognize this person easily, though I have no idea who they are.

This book is about the picture one sees when a whole lot of artists get together in one, massive, unsuccessful attempt at the impossible. What would Jesus think?



Naomi Pitcairn Oakland, California 2011





The main thing that Mary, manage to have in common is a blue head cloth, the most prevalent reproduction among more than a few fabricated fantasies of Her in everything from toast to toilets, fuzzies to fetuses, tits to turtles, a parade of profoundly pregnant portrayals of the world's most worshipped womb.

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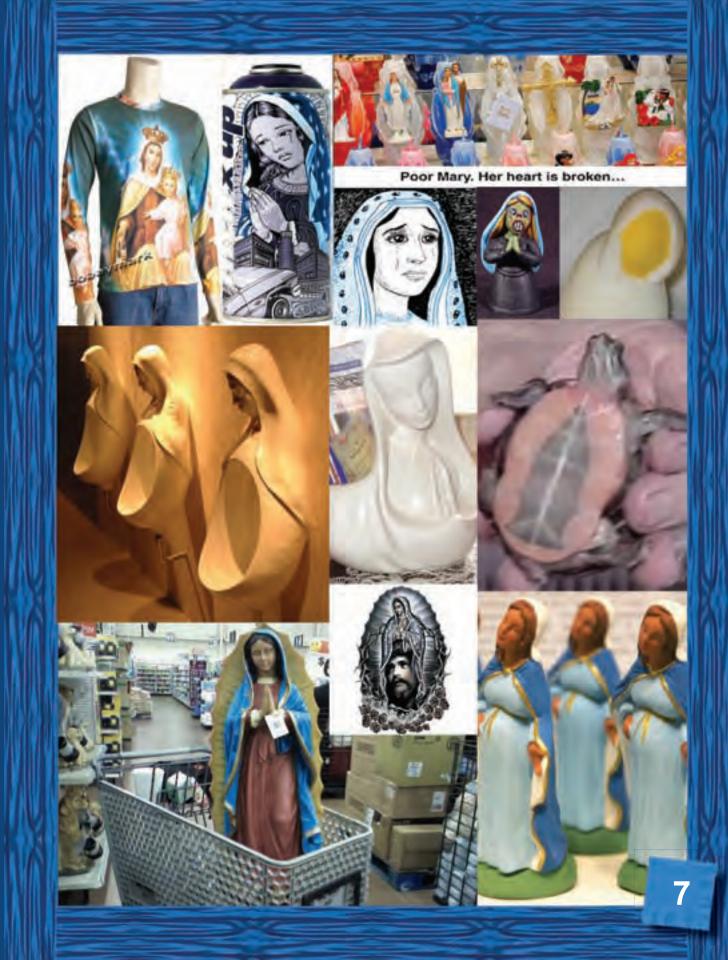
Baby

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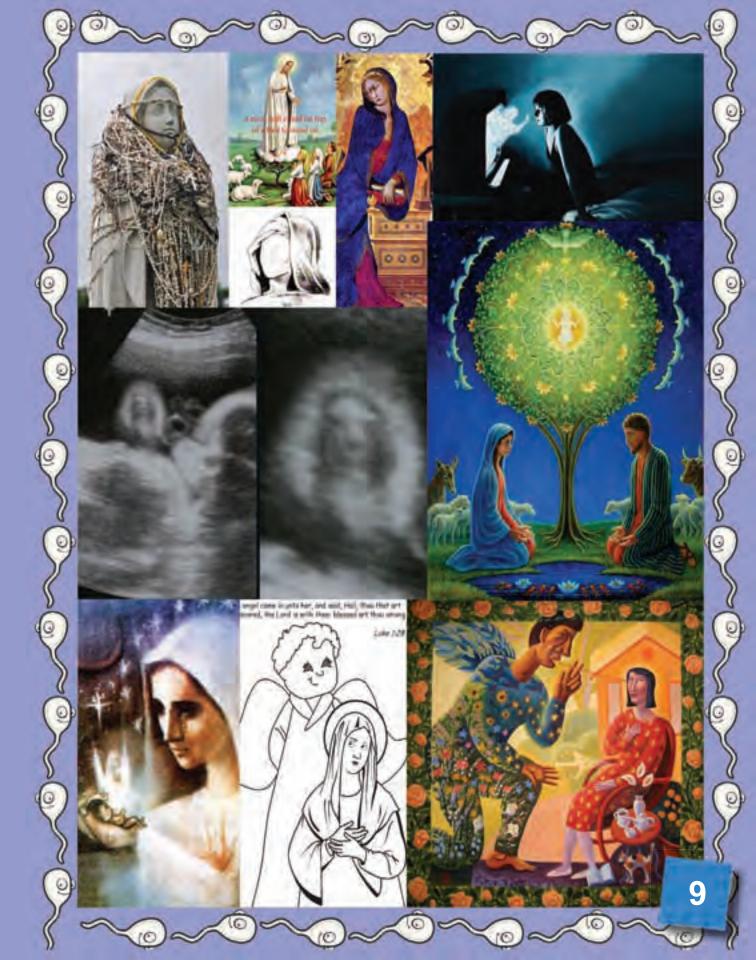
It's unlikely that Mary was glad To be having a kid with no dad Who of us would have smiled Ibout having God's child? Wouldn't most girls be frightened and mad?

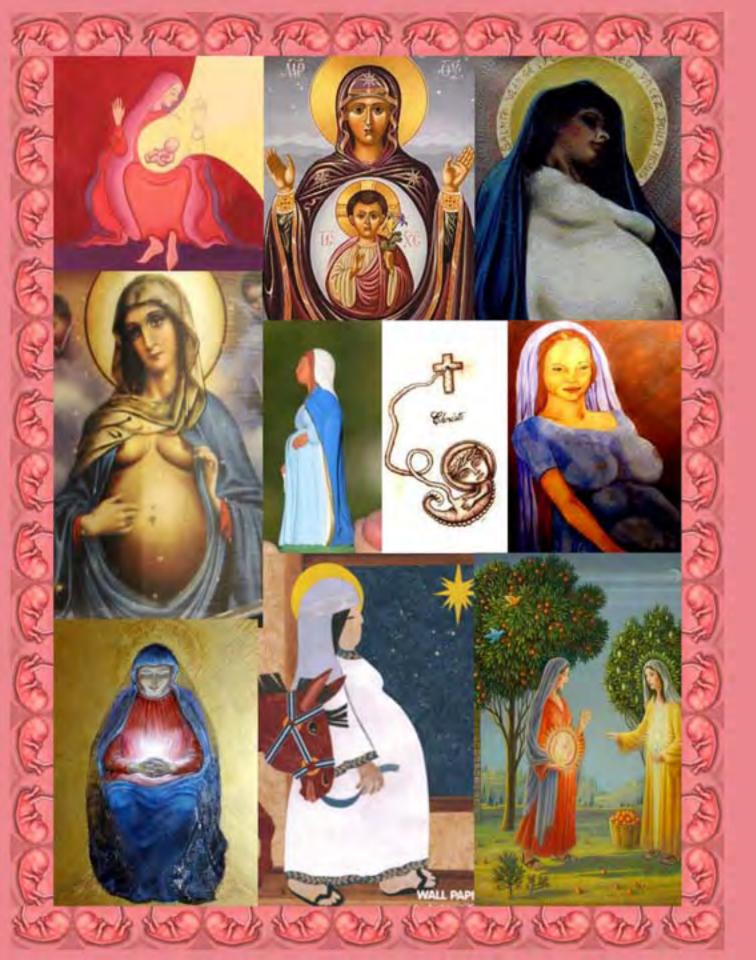
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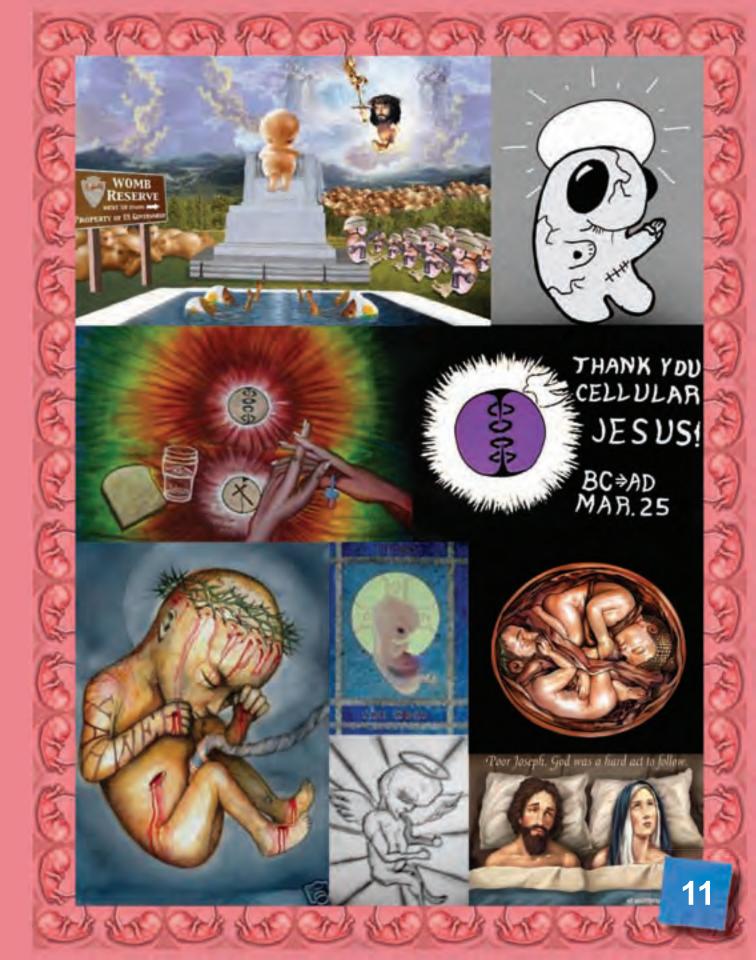












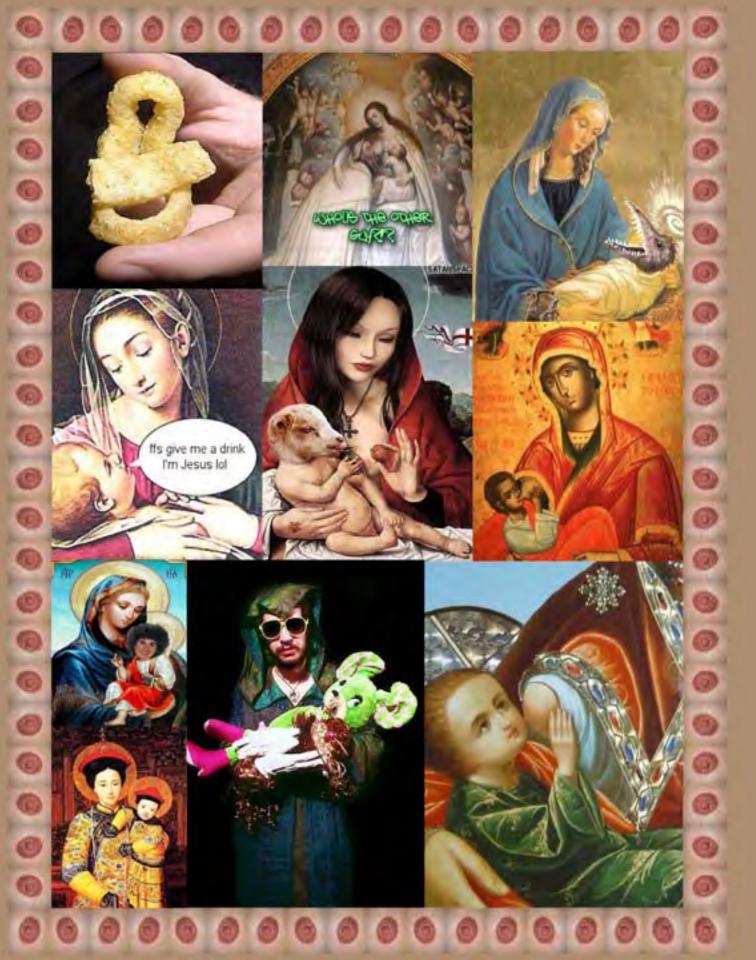
Behold, Princes of Peace, proudly presented as overdressed dolls, familiar, fried foods, pipe cleaners, pie and reconstructed cola cans, no medium being foo mediocre for modern mangers.

The faully was forced to downgrade As to where the Christ child would be laid It was not a hotel And It had a bad small They did not get a choice they stayed

Poor Baby Jesus











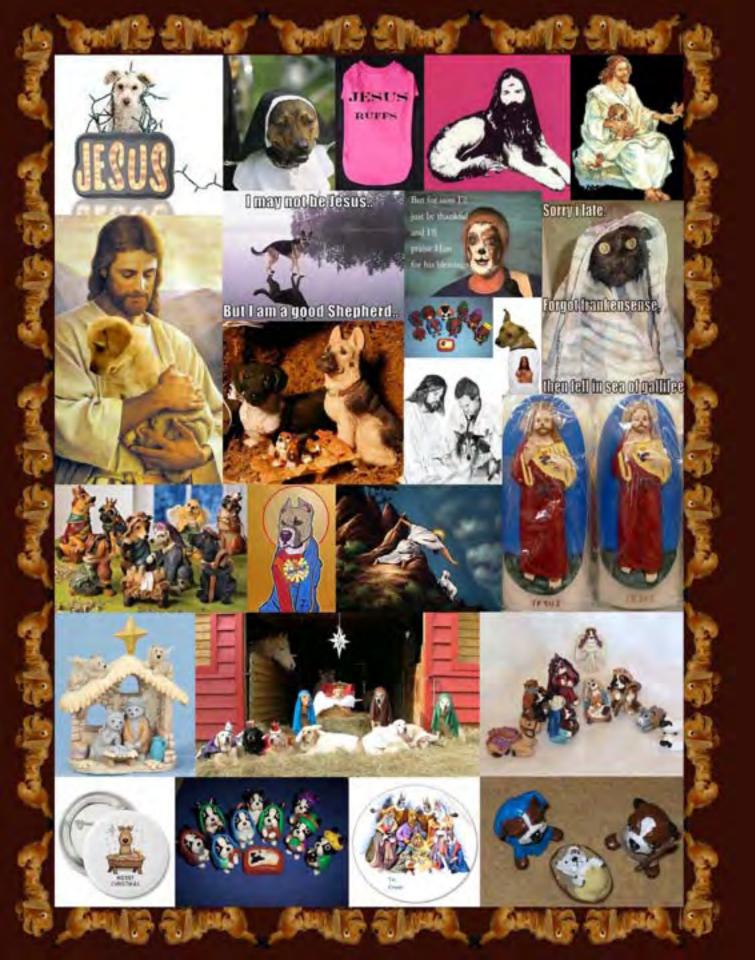


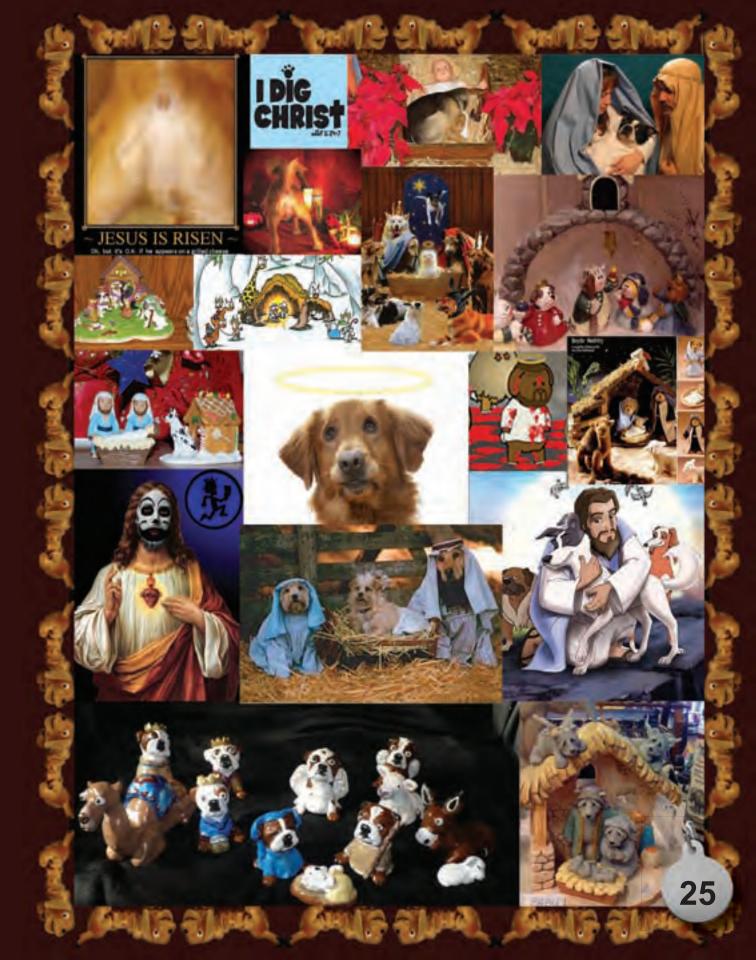
Careful camels, curious cows and discreet donkeys keep their distance as they graciously gaze at God, mewling in the middle of their manger while we wonder what is the motivation for depicting deities as decked out dogs? The donkeys, cows, camels and sheep A respectful distance they did keep Not inclined to be rude They abstained from their food So as not to disturb baby's sleep

21









Gift Bearers

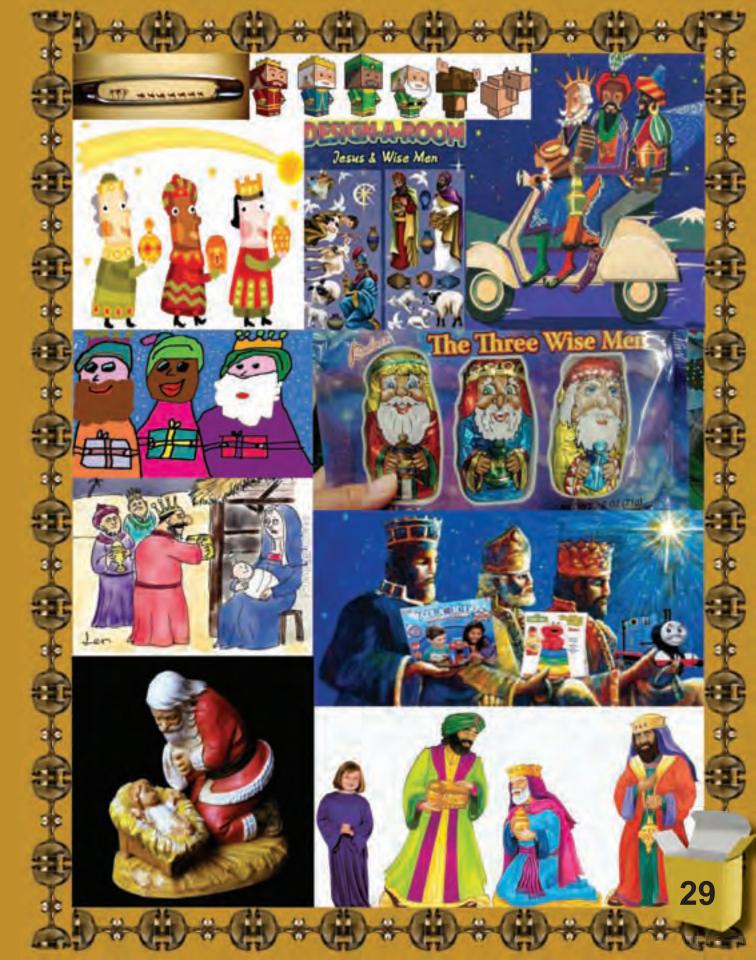
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Charuses of crudely constructed angels and merry midgets carol while whacky wise menmake dubious donations and somehow Santa manages to make it to the manger, wearing his warm, winter suit as he kneels in front of the frozen feet of the maked newborn,











Codly board games, pupped prophets, euto cutouts, divino dolles, cutdily Christ children make moral mercymaking for mighty amusement and hours of fundamentalist fun for plous players.

FAITH-BUILDING

FUN WITH JESUS

There are those for whom God's only Son Just exists for their personal fun And there's more than one game Bearing Jesus' name Reaping prophet profits by the ton

33













Who Would Jesus Look Like?

BLATANT BIAS IS BOLDLY EXHIBITED IN THE APPLICATION OF ANOMALOUS, ATTRIBUTES OF IDENTITY WHEN STATE-OF-THE-ART SCIENCE SUGGESTS THAT JESUS, BEING JEWISH, JUST MIGHT HAVE MANIFESTED A MORE NOTICEABLE NOSE AND LESS FAIR HAIR. There is nothing upon which to base Our conceptions of Jesus' face But there still is a need That can never succeed To put some kind of picture in place

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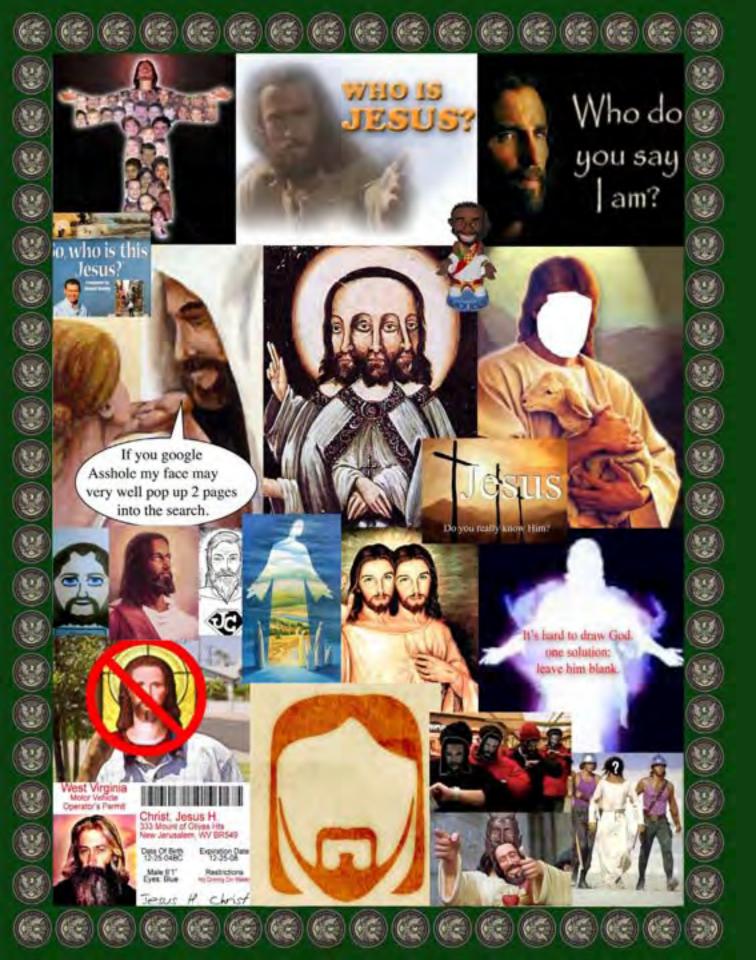
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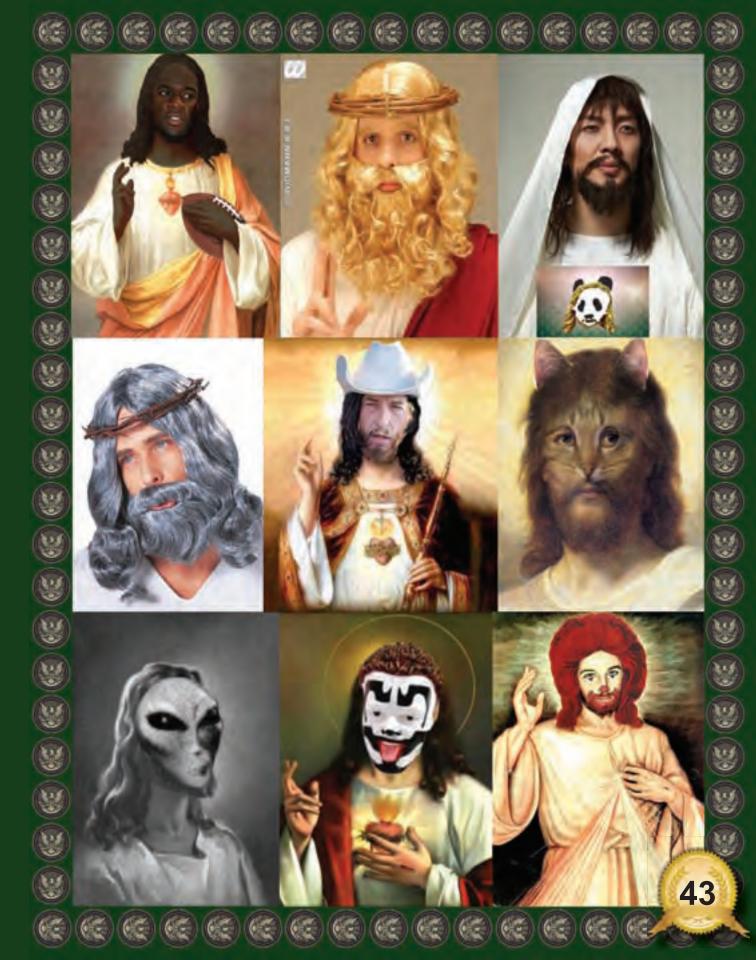
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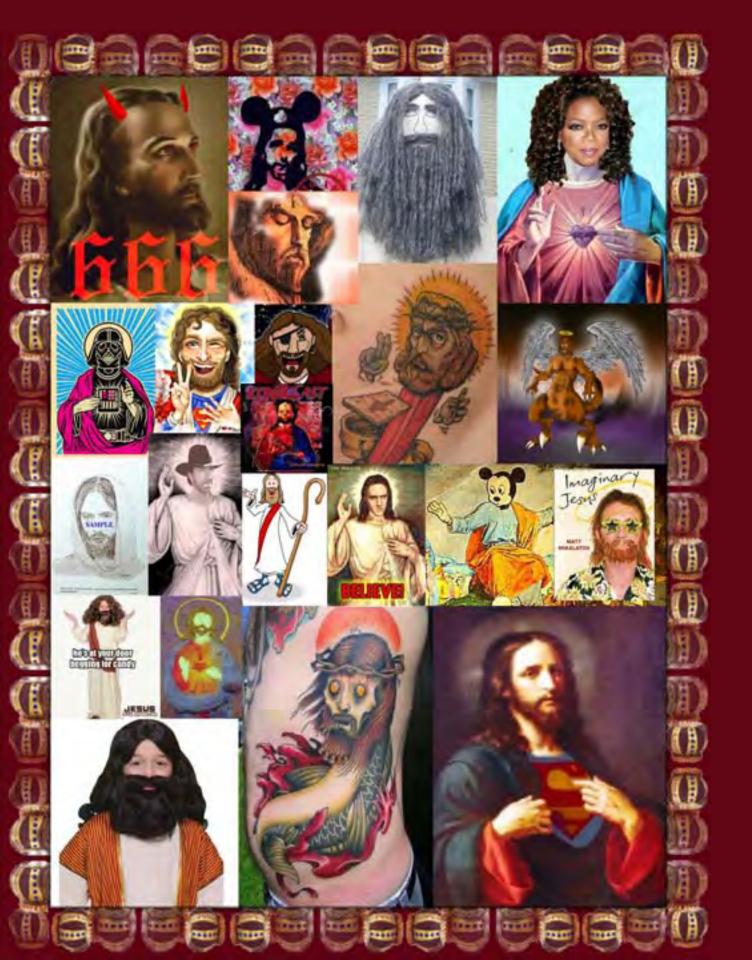
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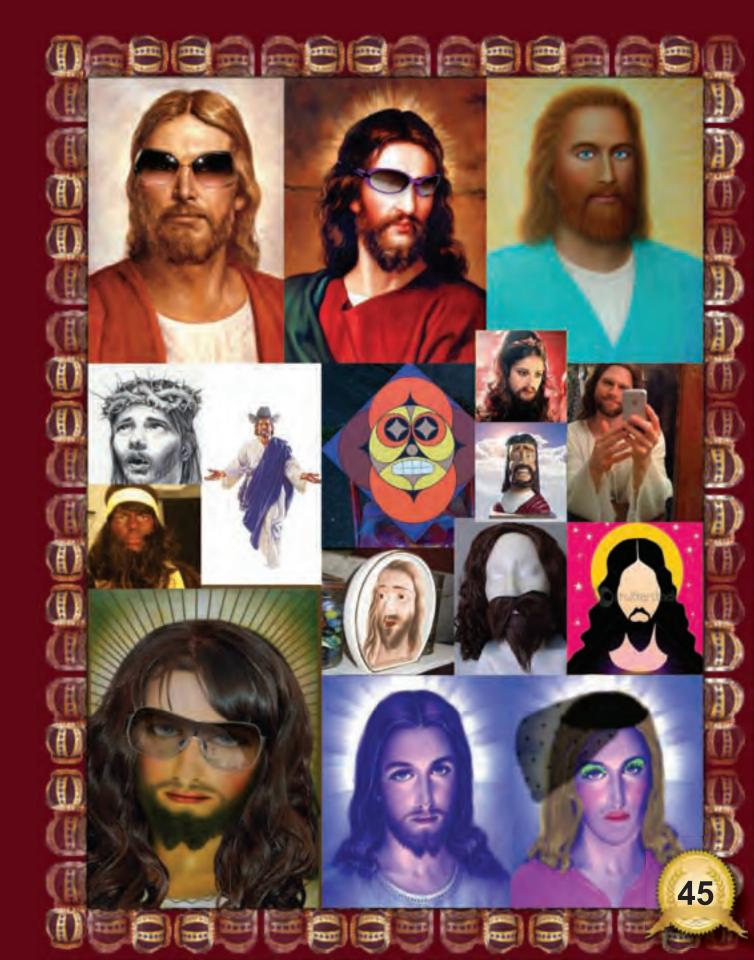
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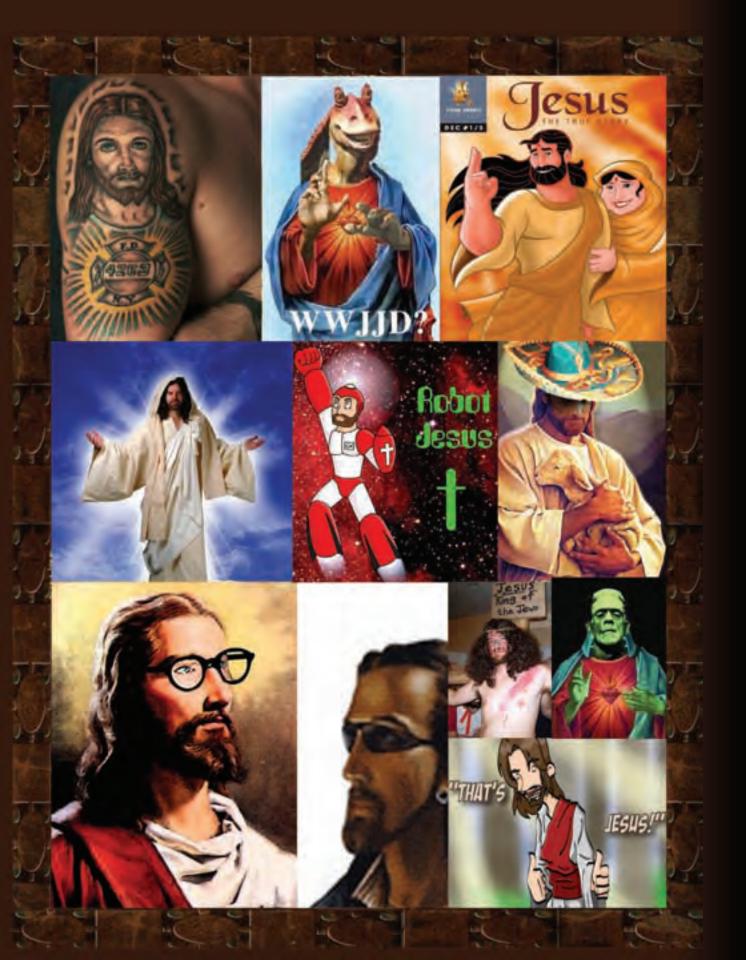
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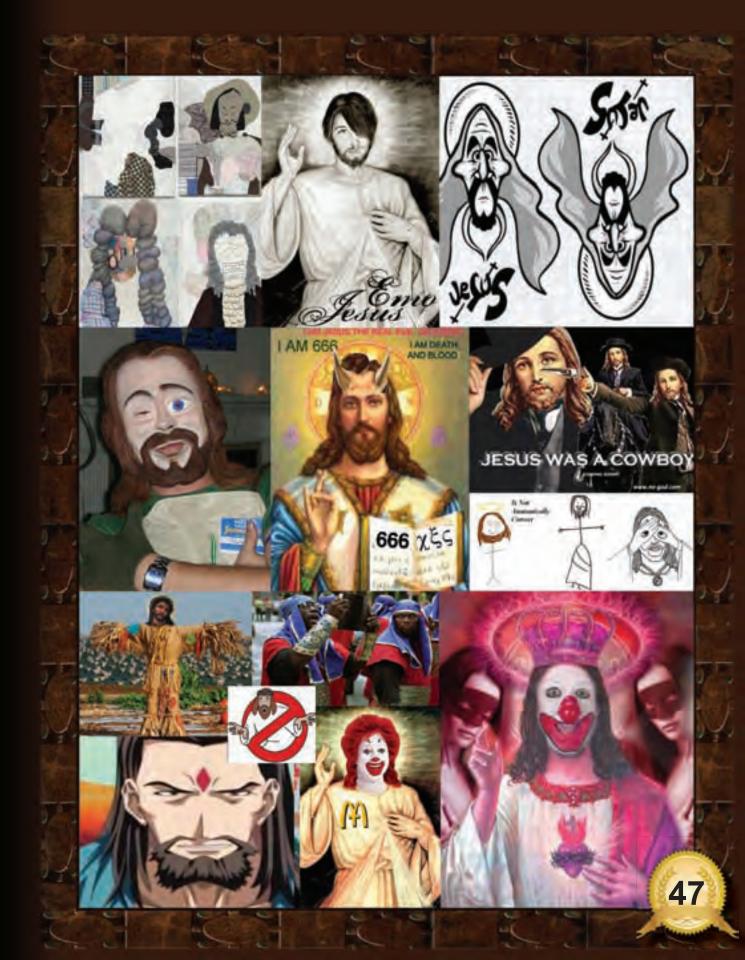


































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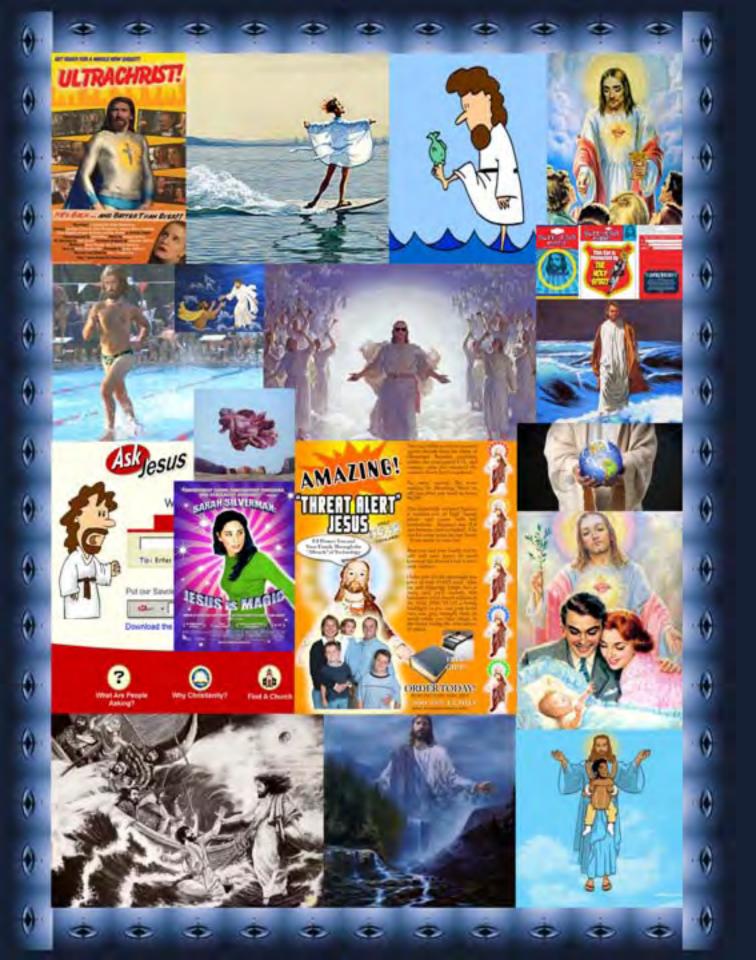
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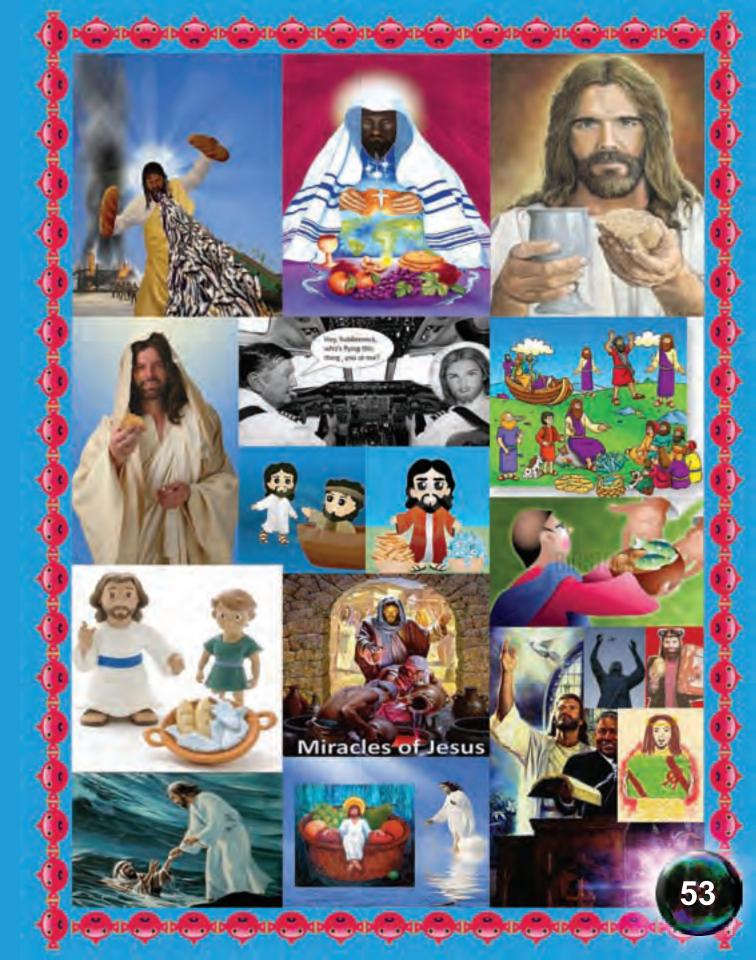
and sensational spectacles portend paranormal phenomena as uncanny as they are unearthly. Wading through waves. He strides across the sea to save some stranded sailors.











Savior of selective surgeries, solution for stressful situations, this heroic healthcare helper is good at getting general practitioners back on track when tricky troubles, try their all-too-human talents.

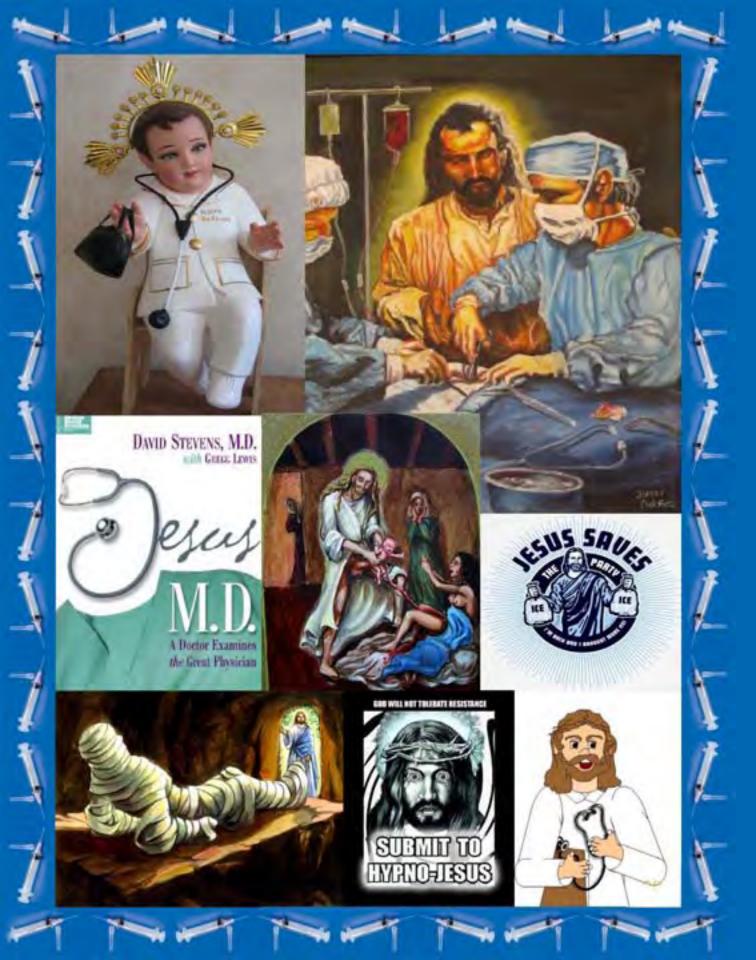
If as surgeon you are an upstart And you lack confidence in your art You should cut with great care All the while deep in prayer Asking Jesus to make you more smart

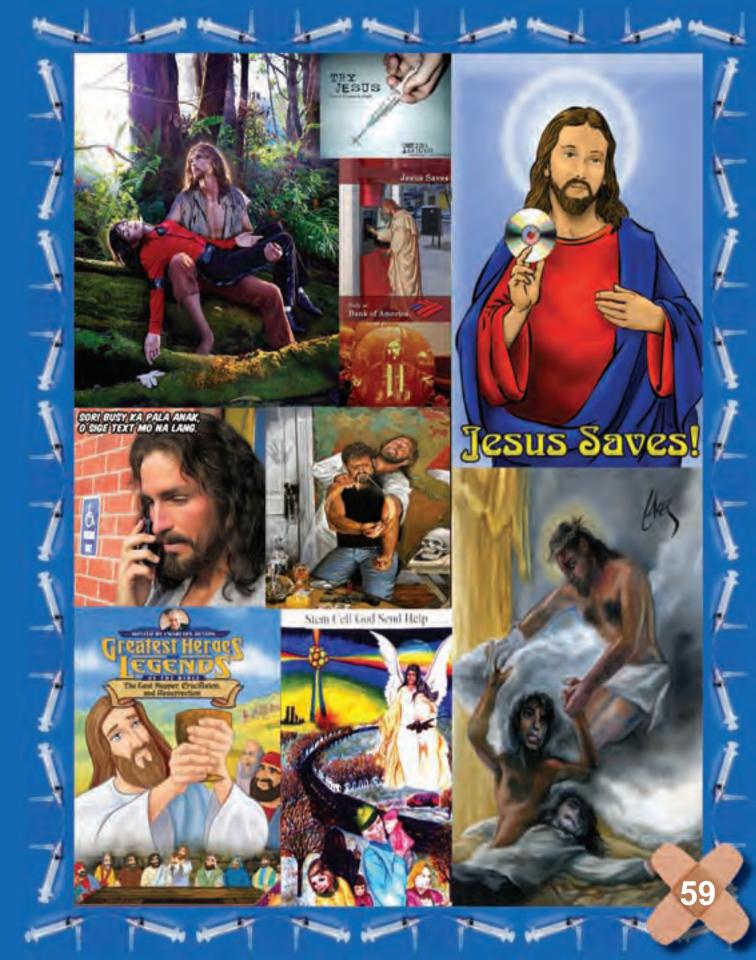
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DR.J









Prepare for upprecedented passion. The next Pages present salacious spankings, unlikely affairs, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, unlikely affairs, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, unlikely affairs, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, ^{bages} present salacious spankings, ^{bag}

Jesus Loves Me







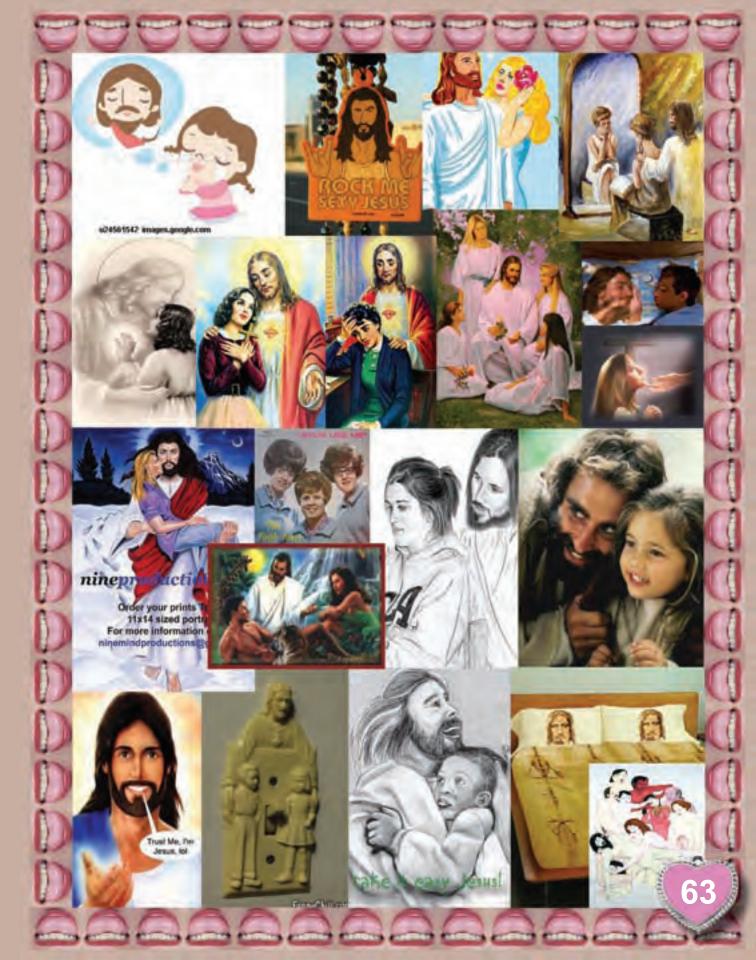
But sometimes if we're ready being bod or foolish and doing things we know pre wrong, the Land may take away his protection and let us get hurt or sick os punishment for being so noughty

Sametimes that's why we get sick, because the Lord is sponking us for being naughty. When we're sick we should pray and ask the Lord why.



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Jesus doesn't like condoms. Says so in the Bible.

























Jesus Fucking Christ





N ROD WEARIST

CORPORATE JESUS

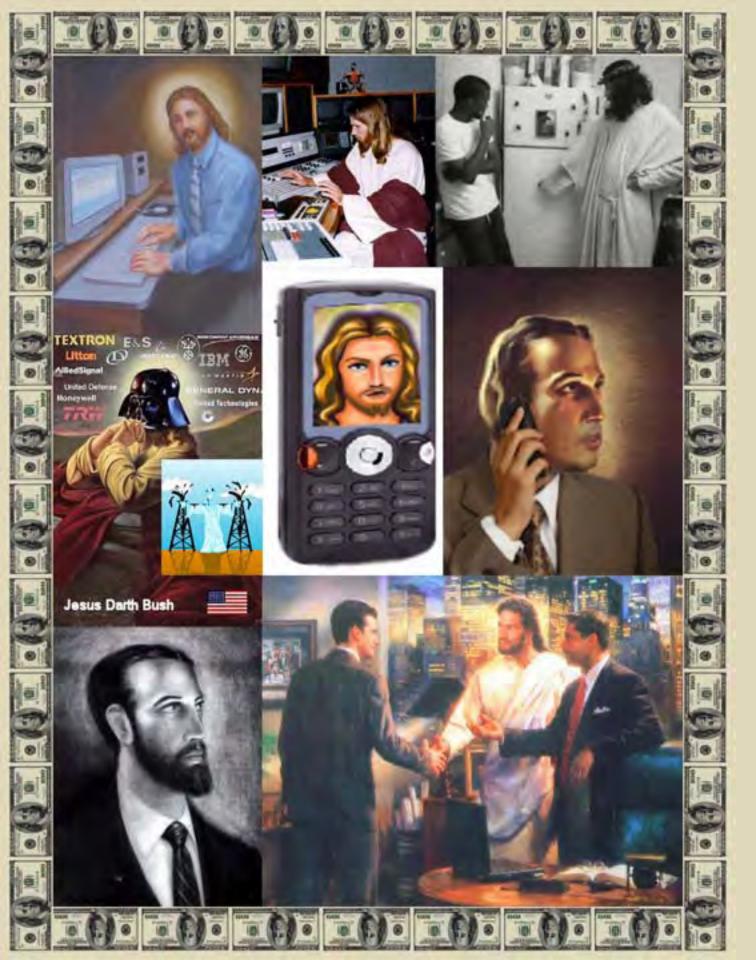
Greenbacks, give Jesus a run for his messianic money. Fiscally faithful, Godly greed and devout dedication to the dollar delineate a certain sect of selective sectarians and industrial imposters. Corporations are no one's allies Who on earth wants to work for those guys? Though it's easy to see How this economy Might force even Him to compromise

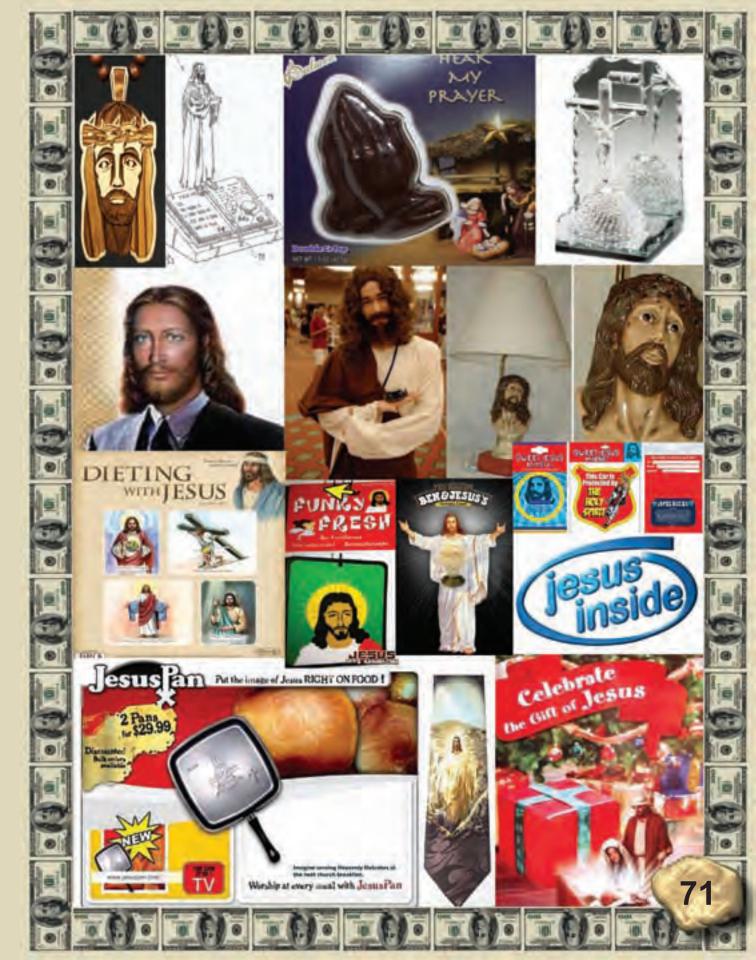
OFANNOR COAN

John W.Sn Secretary of the Treasury.

机管理正式和图

國民民國議中的共和共認識的主要的

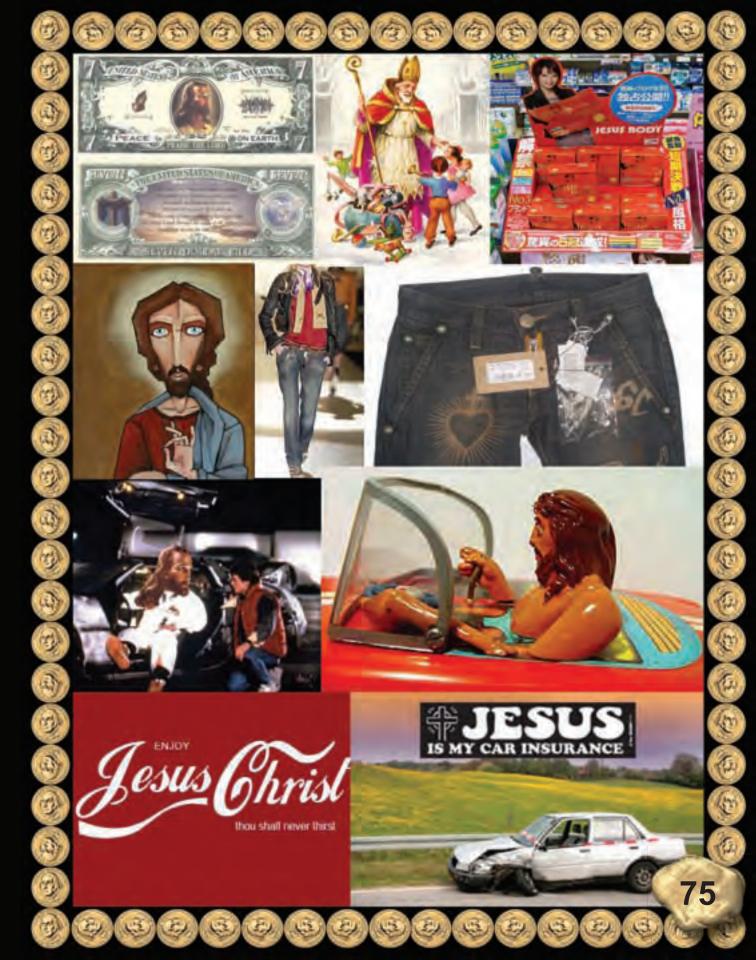
















We like it a lot when the Lord not only loves us, but also helpfully hates our enemies. Watch out when this rearful friend and fierce fighter for our every fantasy gets ferociously furious. In this next section Jesus Will fight And not always for what's true and right He flies into a rage And goes on a rampage Kicking ass with some unholy might



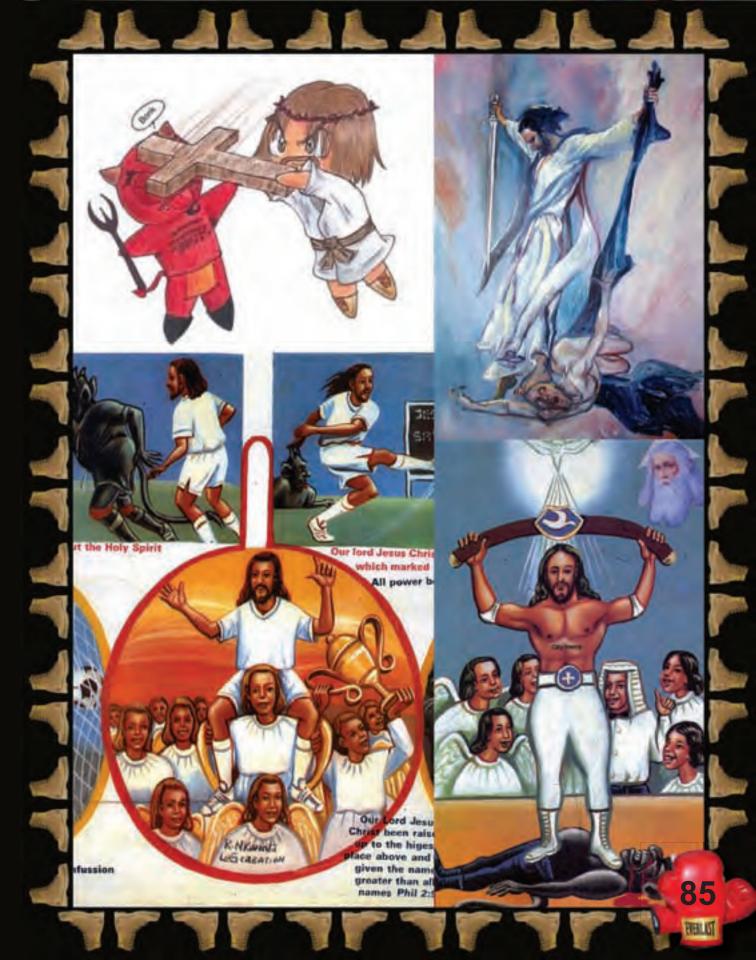












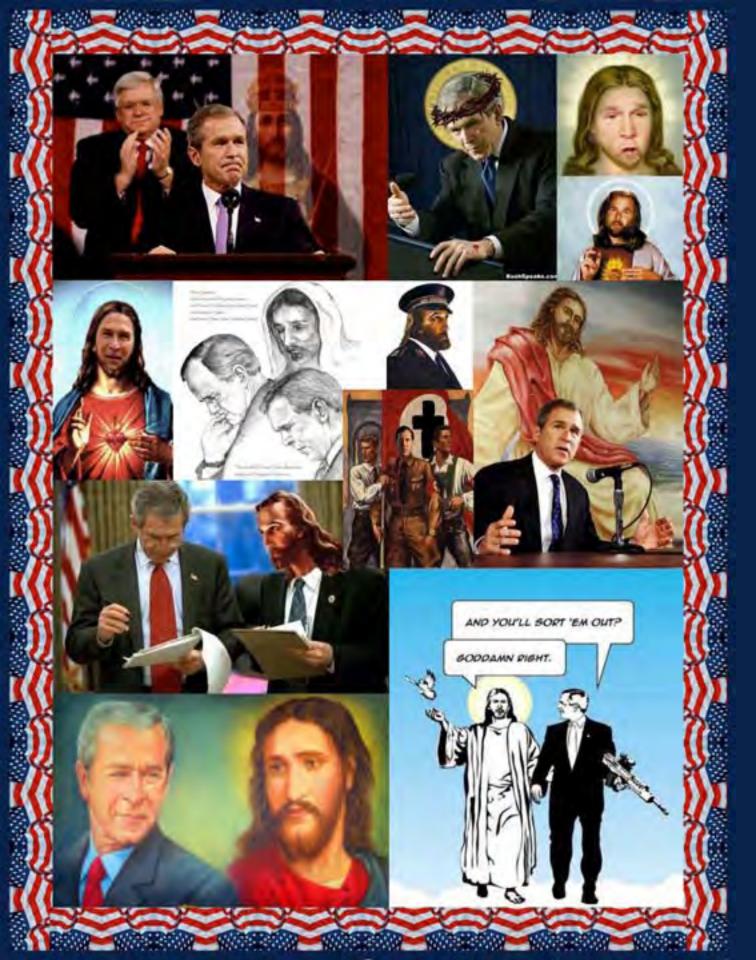
Preposterously patriotic, Presidential pal, and altogether unlikely American, Jesus acts aggressively again, killing kids, incinerating civilians and gunning for God knows what greater good.

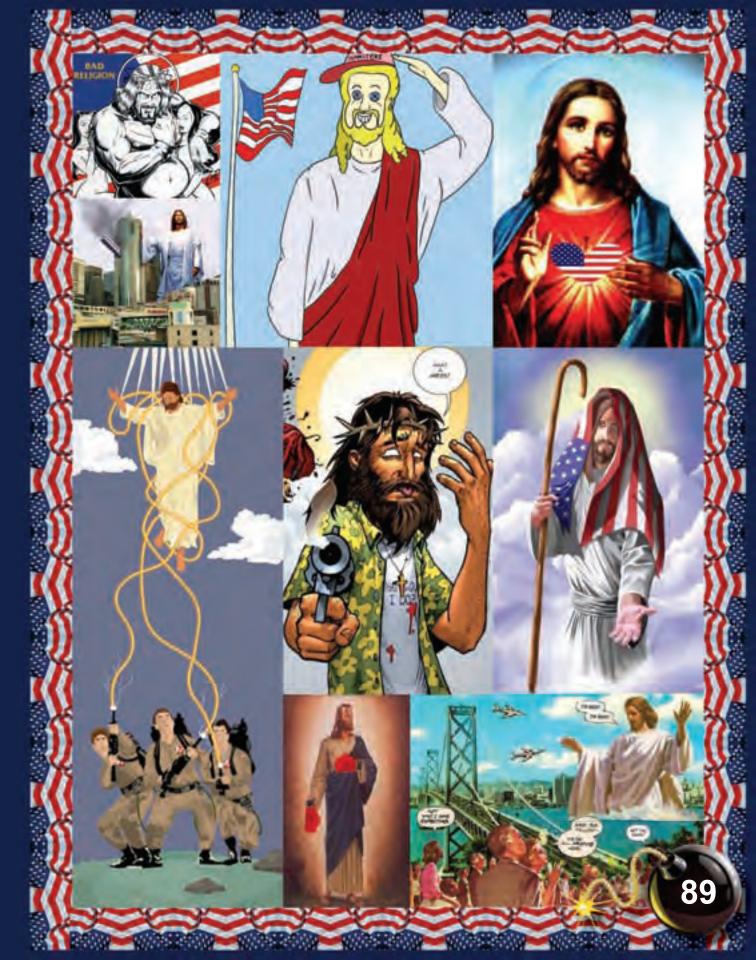
AMERICAN JESUS

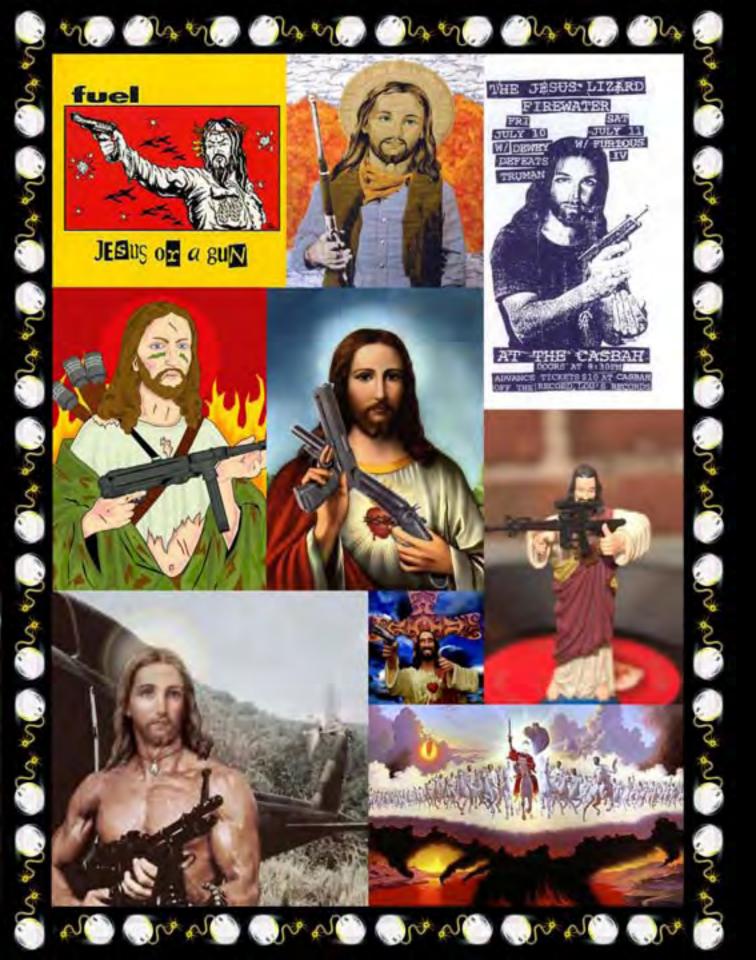
THOUGH AMERICA'S DRILLING OFF SHORE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH OIL, THEY WANT MORE WHICH THEY CANNOT AFFORD SO THEY LOOK TO THE LORD FOR TO SANCTION A MIDDLE EAST WAR

think w

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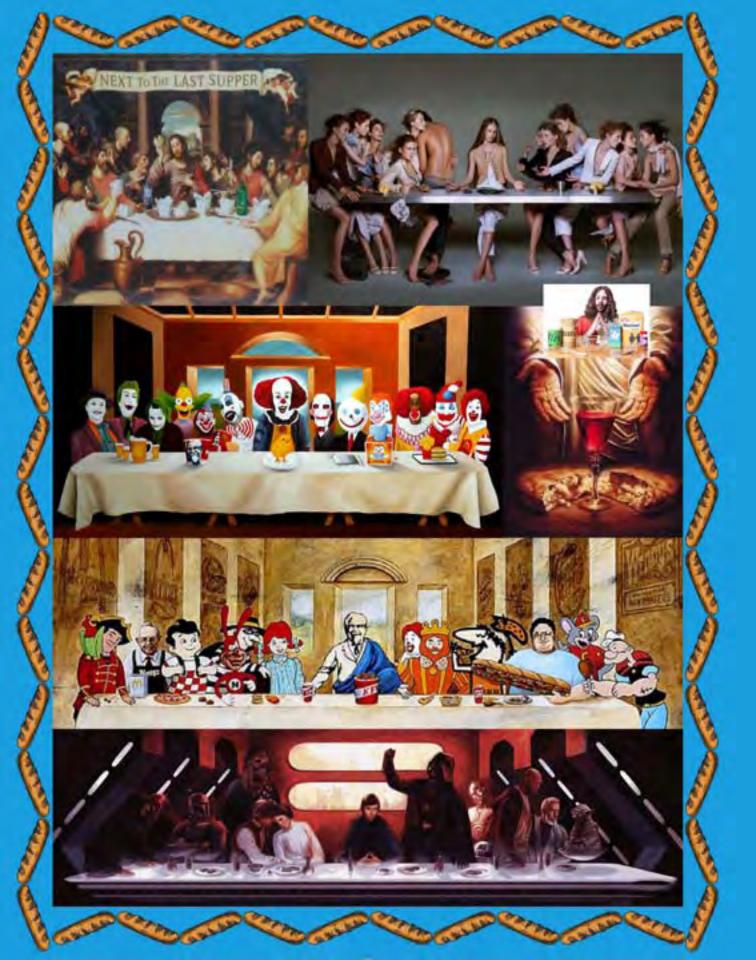


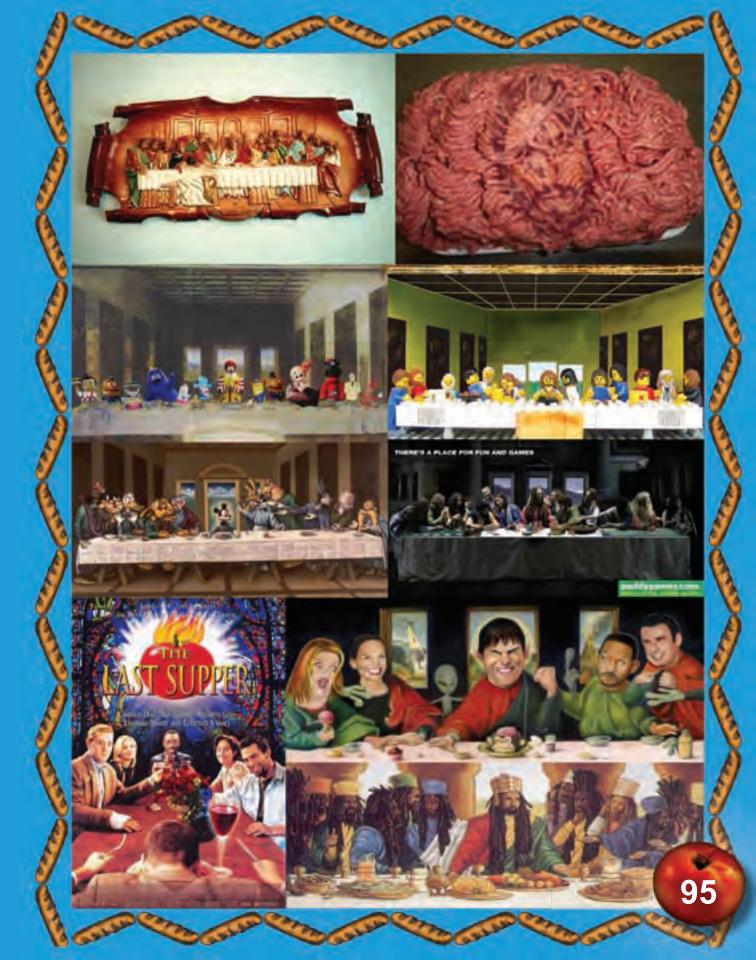




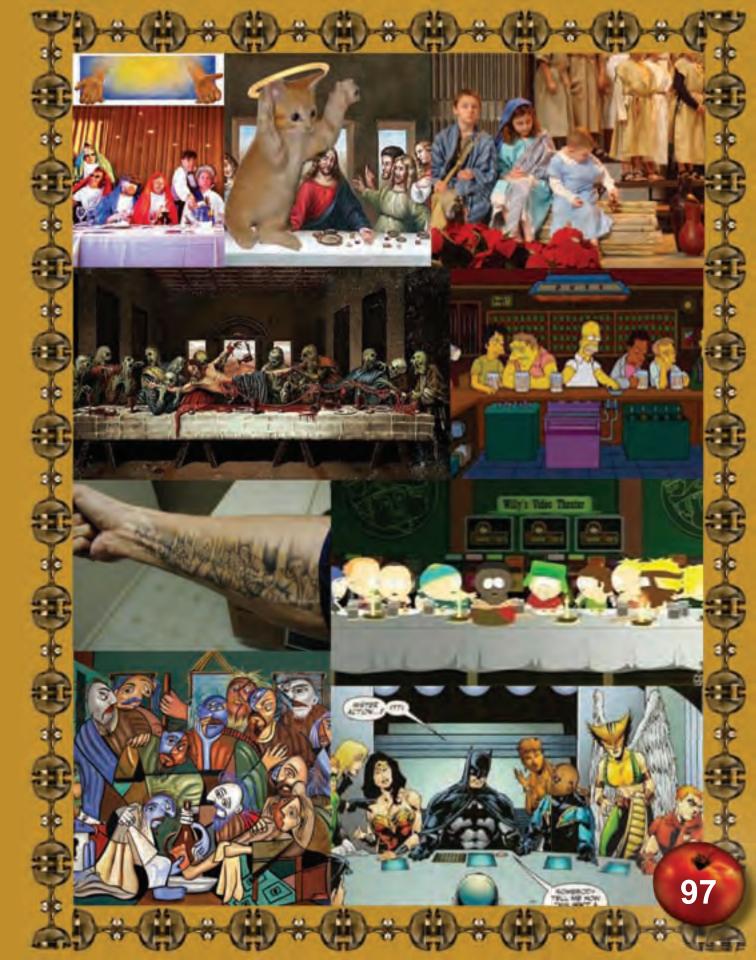
Christian cannibals celebrate and consume cocktails costumed as cartoon cats, scientologists, South Park-ers, tattooed table tipplers and mass media mascots, all making merry in a most imposterous manner.

At the dinner before His arrest Jesus offered His blood to each guest And not one stopped to think That it was a gross drink Or might be difficult to digest

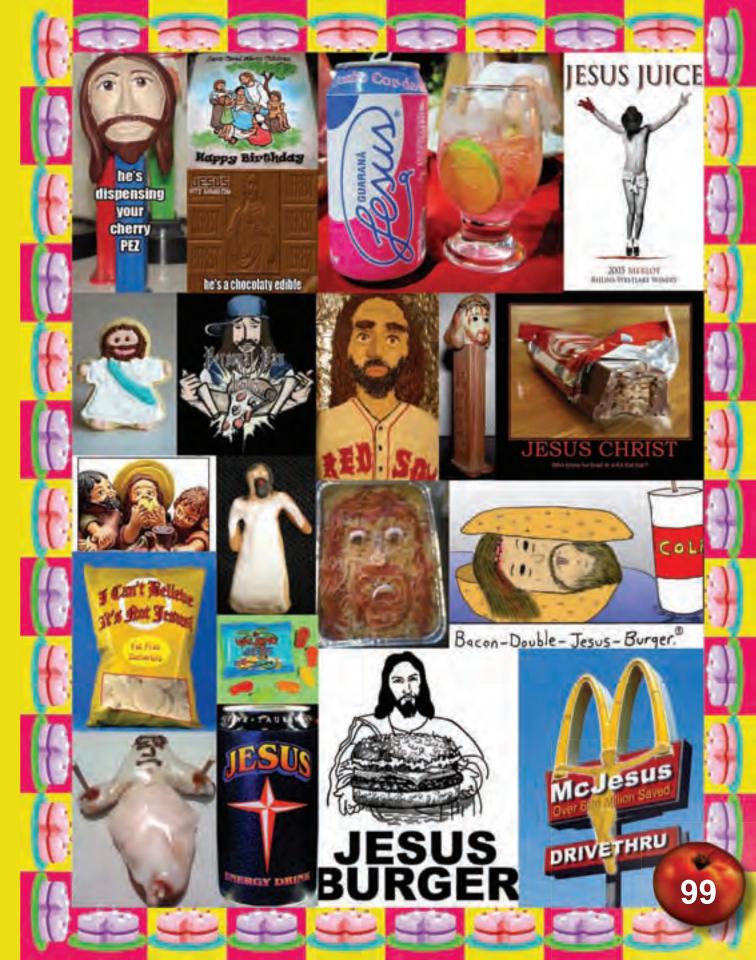










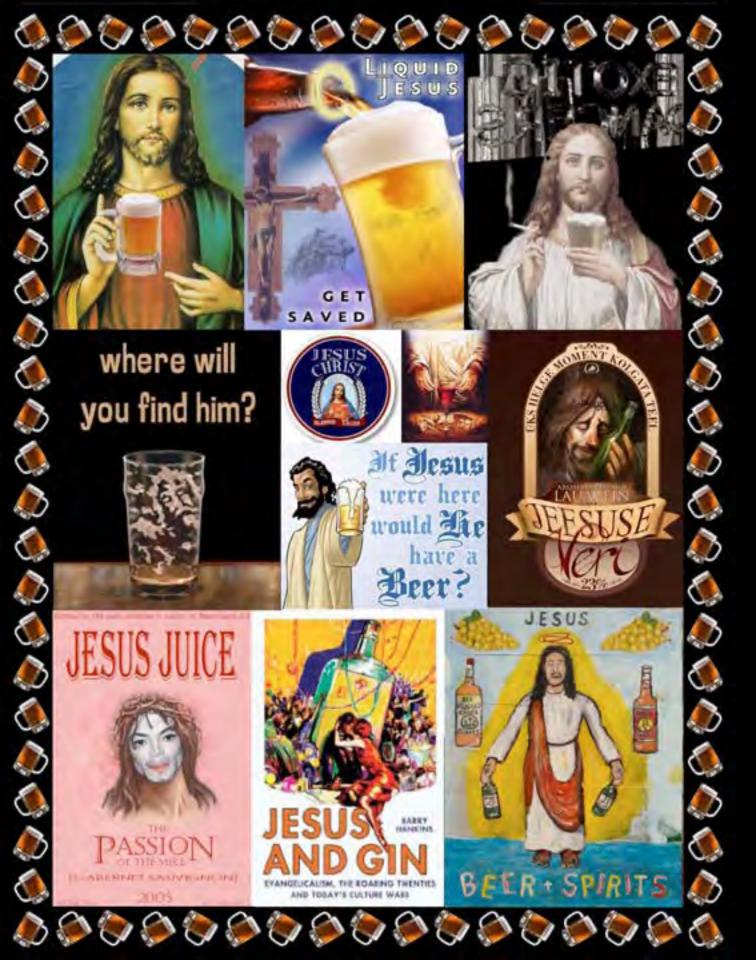


Holy hallucinatory helicopter! Imbibling beer and other boozy beverages, smoking sensemilla, popping pills, dropping microdot, consuming crack cocaine, delirious on downers, and shooting serious smack: a mirage of miscellaneous, mirific, mind expanding moments.

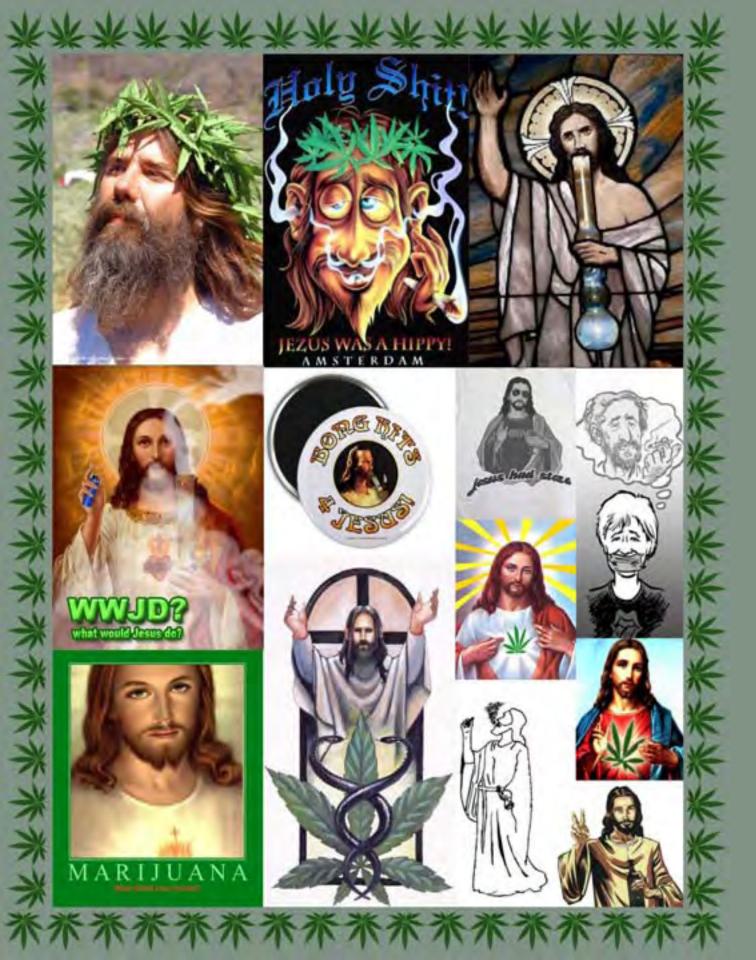
esus on Drugs

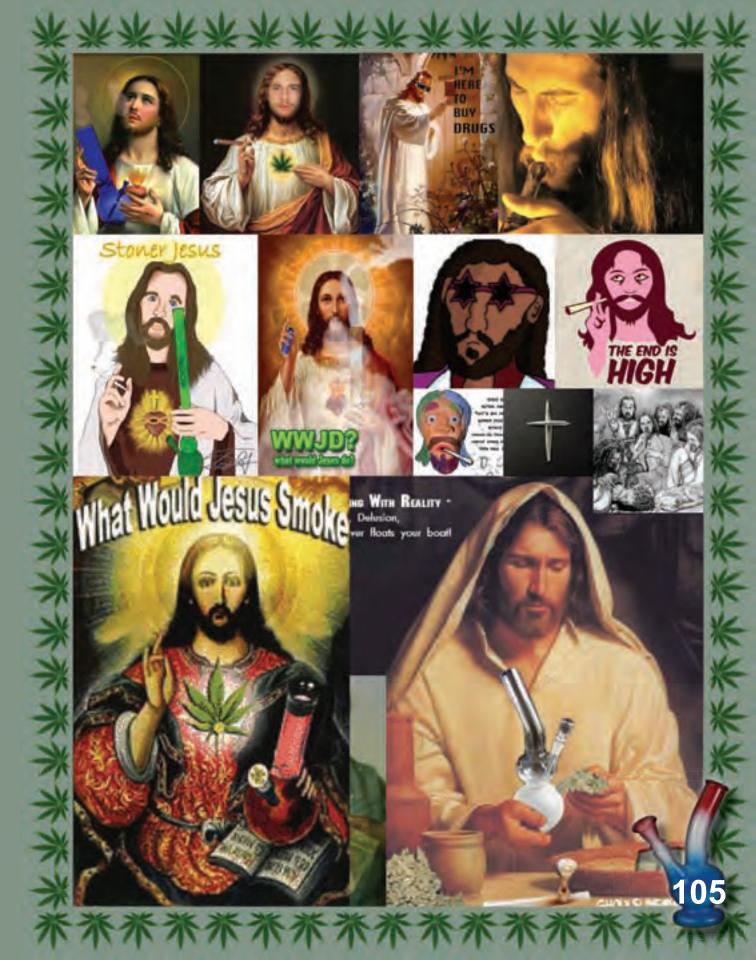
To portray the Lord as a crazed hippy 'S a notion that's markedly trippy You will see this exporting Injecting and snorting Maniacal, contured and zippy















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TO THE HOOK THEN

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HOLY SHIT

THIS WAS SOME IESUS CHRIST ACID

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IME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NO

Crooked Christ takes a crack at crime, Savior savorer of illegal iniquities, princely pimp, Godly gangster and proud prisoner, He's a holy, hell-raising hooligan, homie of villainous virtue.

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CRIMINAL JESUS

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HIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NO

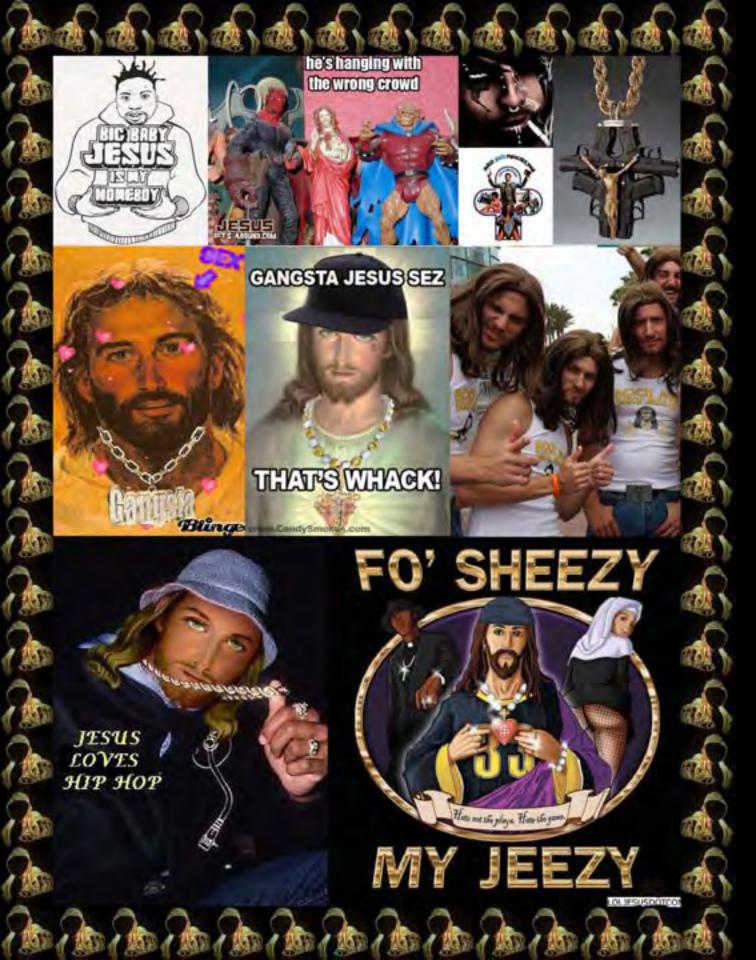
There are many ways to misbehave But now Christ becomes an outright knave Now that He's turned to crime I assure you this time He's not looking for someone to save

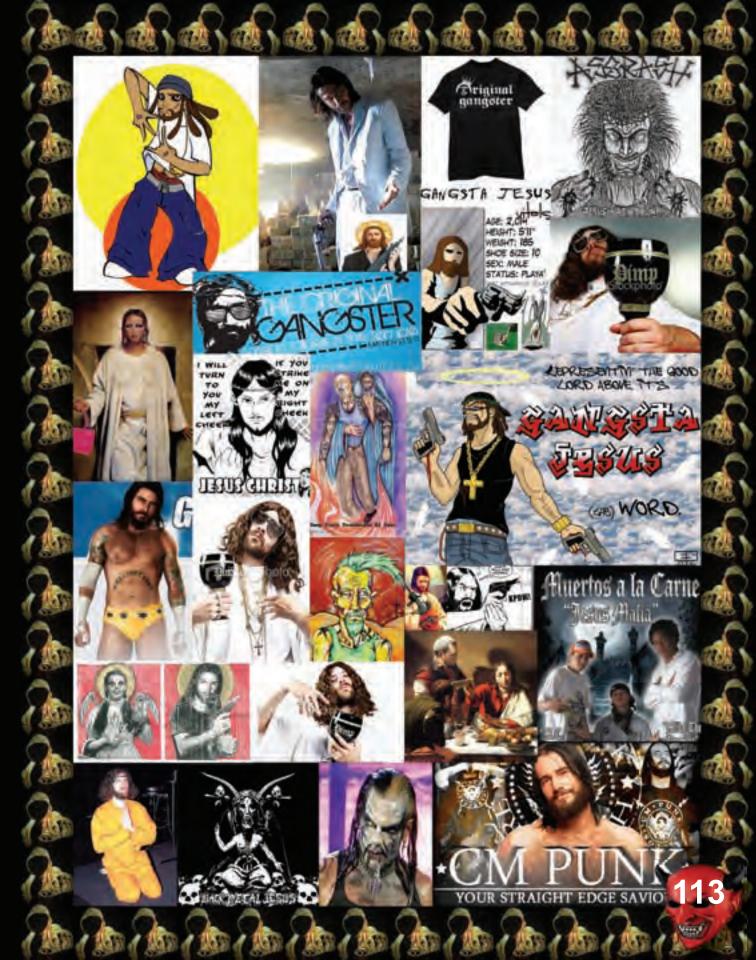
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Go forth into the streets and earn money for thy daddy or thou shalt feel the back of my hand in this life and the next." -- Whores 6:9



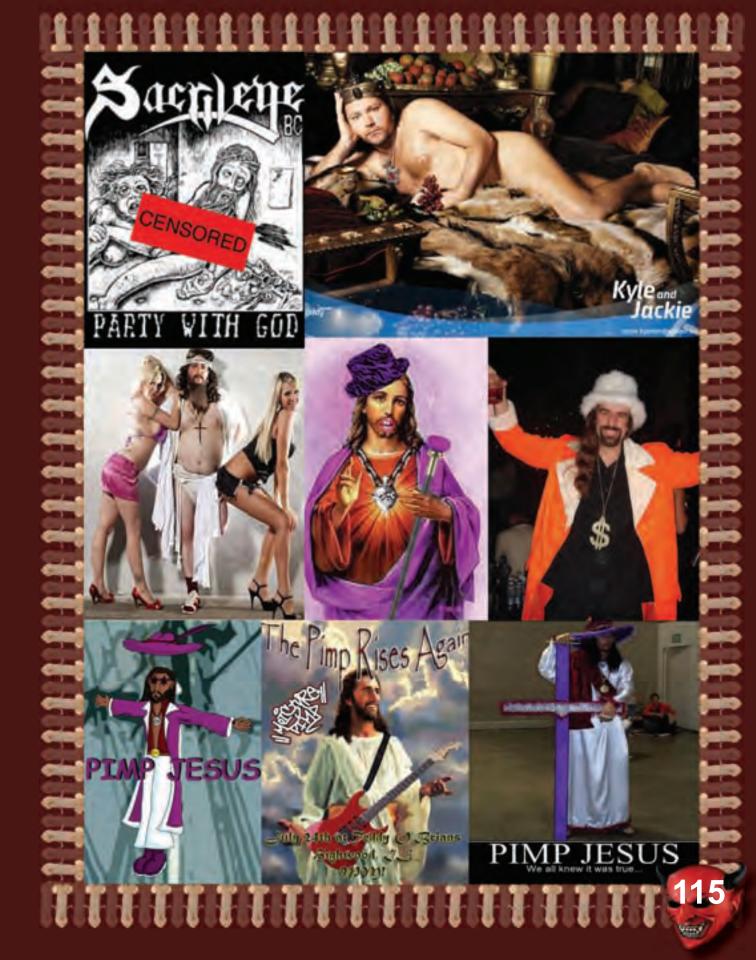
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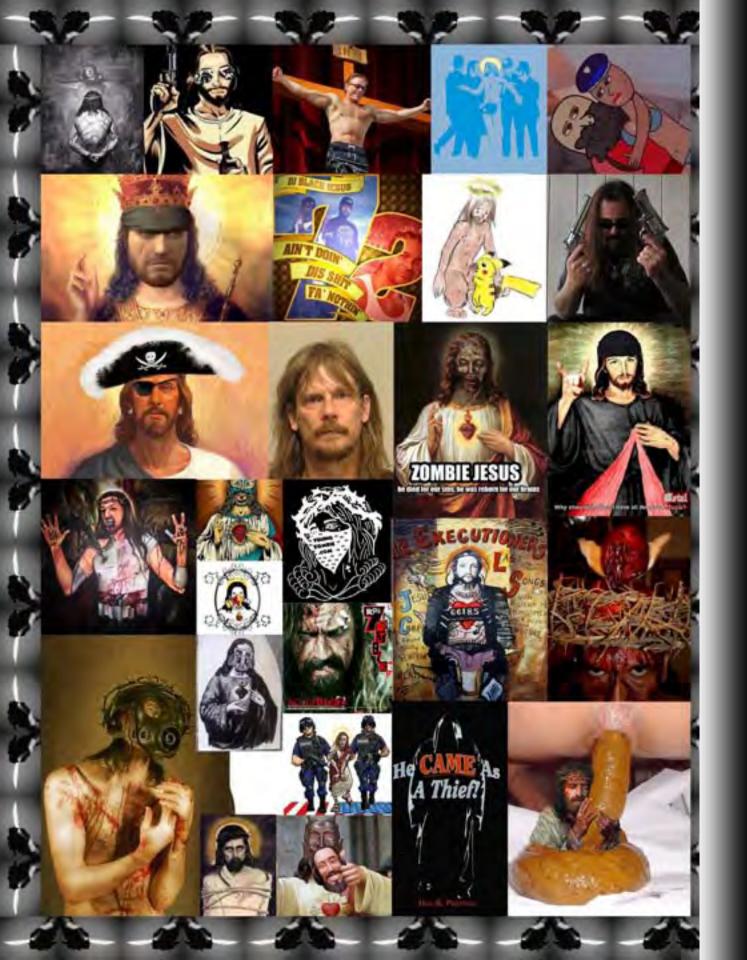
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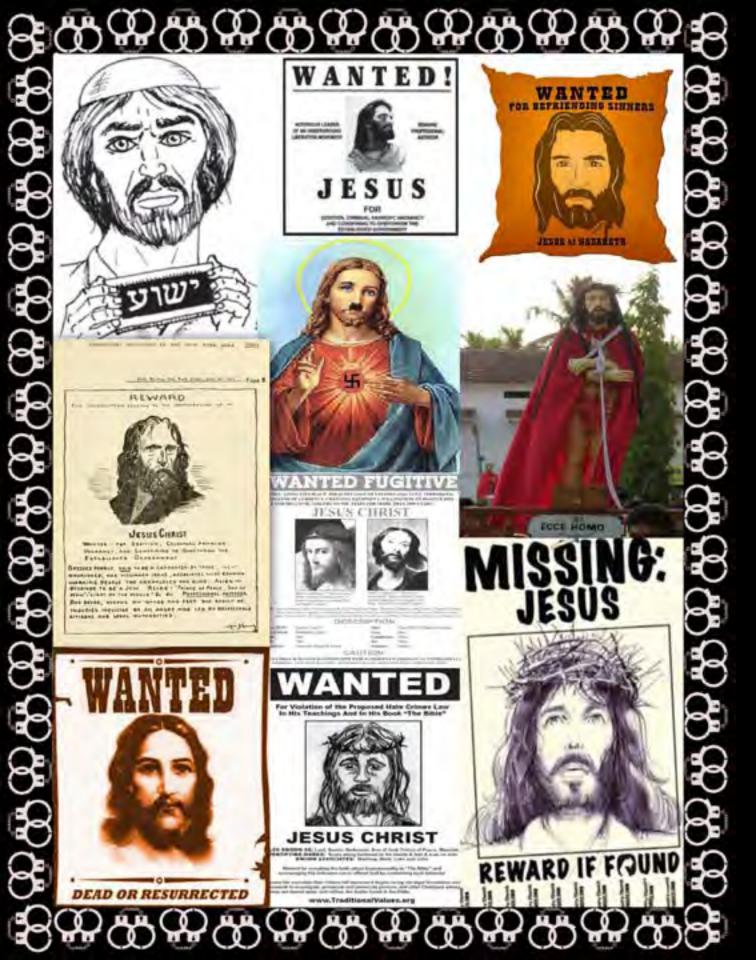


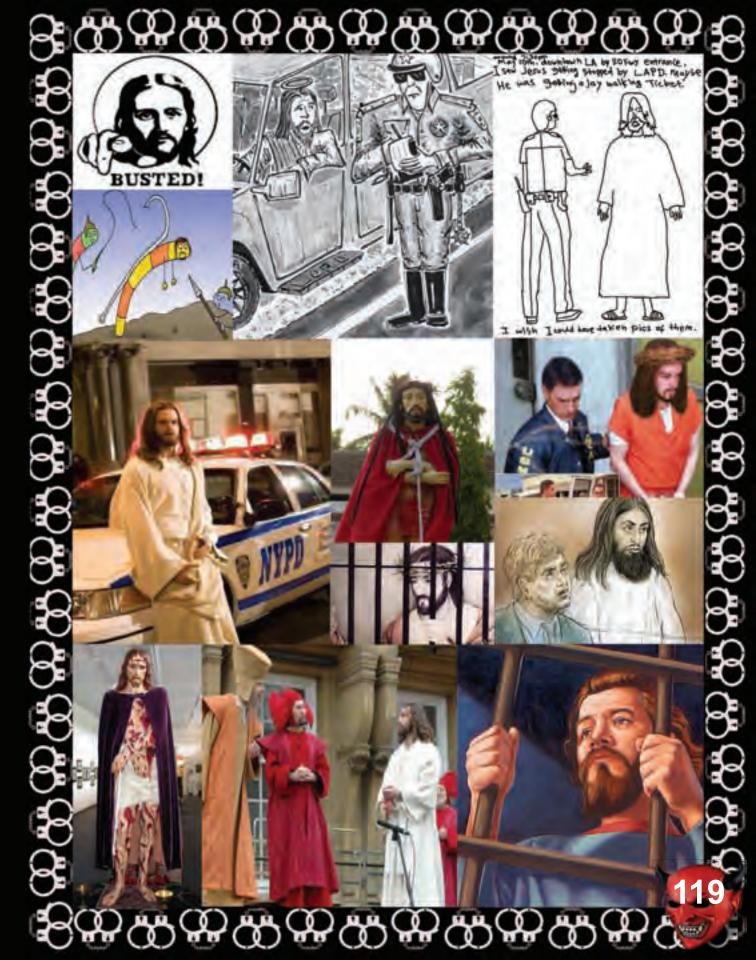
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Accessories

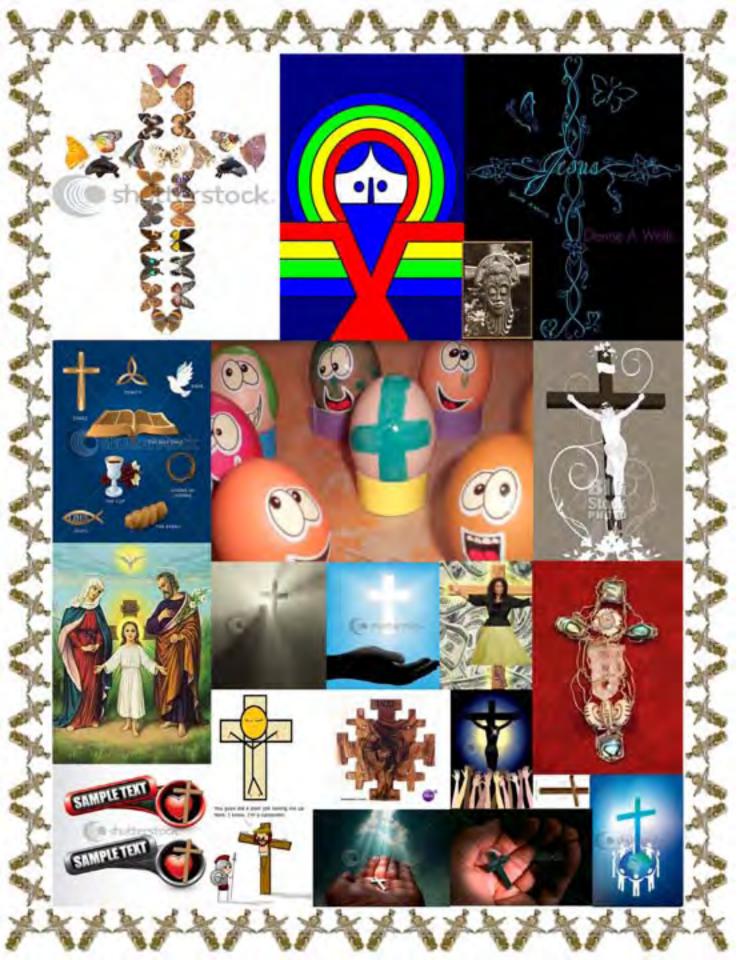
Cheefful crosses. Certified thorn crowns with beautiful backs of only the most authentic origin. Sappy hearts, generously giving of their body blood, burning but not brown with friendly fire of cheerful sacrifice.

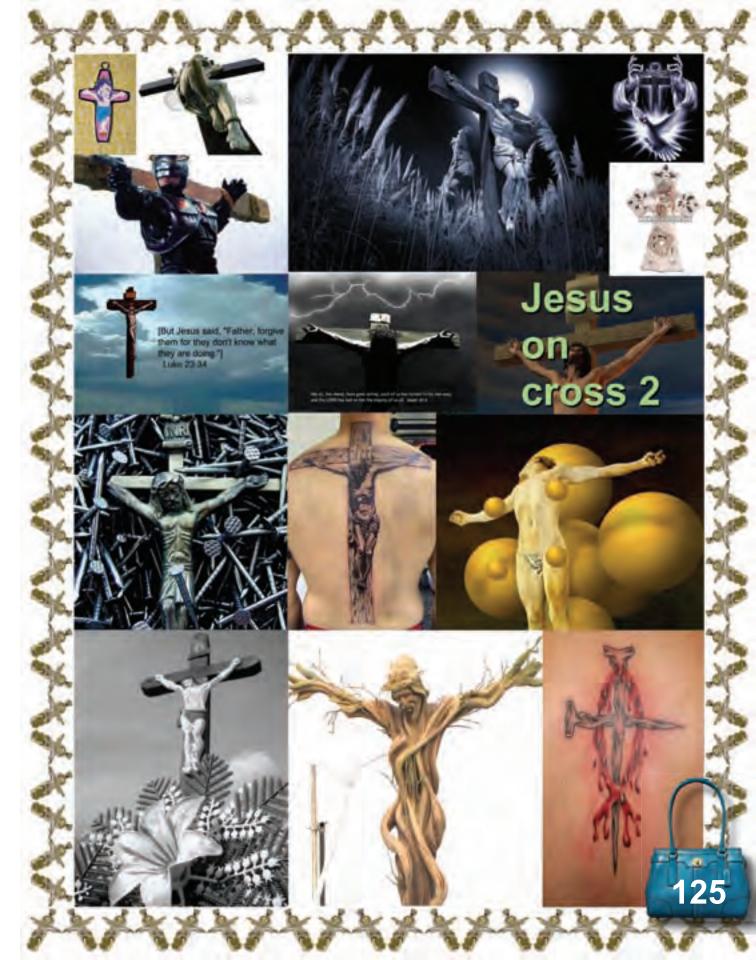
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If real torture's too harsh for your eyes And it's instruments you would disguise Add a little rainbow Make it all look "tres beau" And suggest Jesus "accessorize"





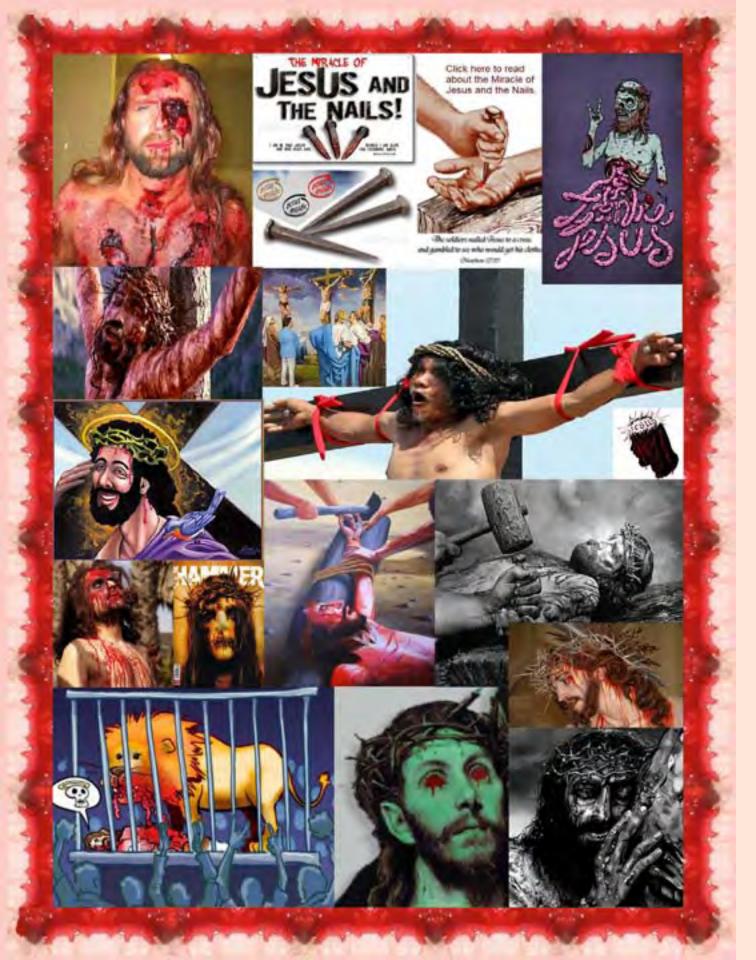


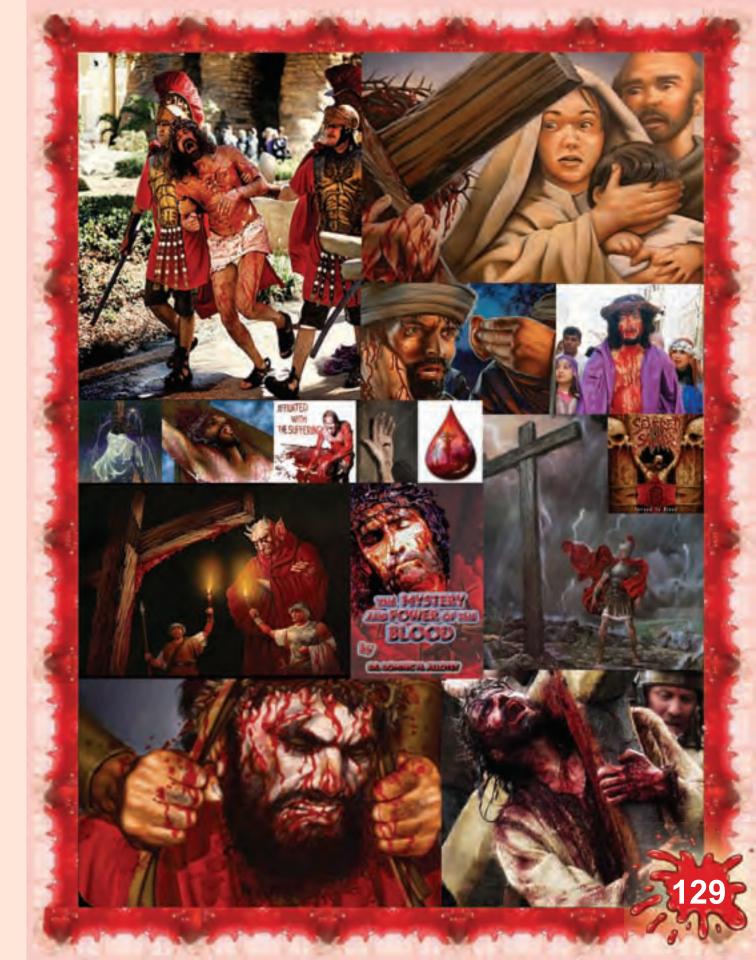


As you may have guessed goos gobs of souesome outs ude rivers of red, rich, hubbly by heaving souges soute outs ude rivers of red, rich, hubbly by heaving sourge to soute is in a geo so to sourge to soute bin a geo so to source to soute bin a geo source to source to soute bin a geo source to source to source to source bin a geo source to source to source to source bin a geo source to source to source to source to source bin a geo source to source to source to source to source bin a geo source to source to source to source to source to source bin a geo source to From the mouth of His every sore In a scarlet sonata Of oozing stigmata That dribbled with sanctified gore

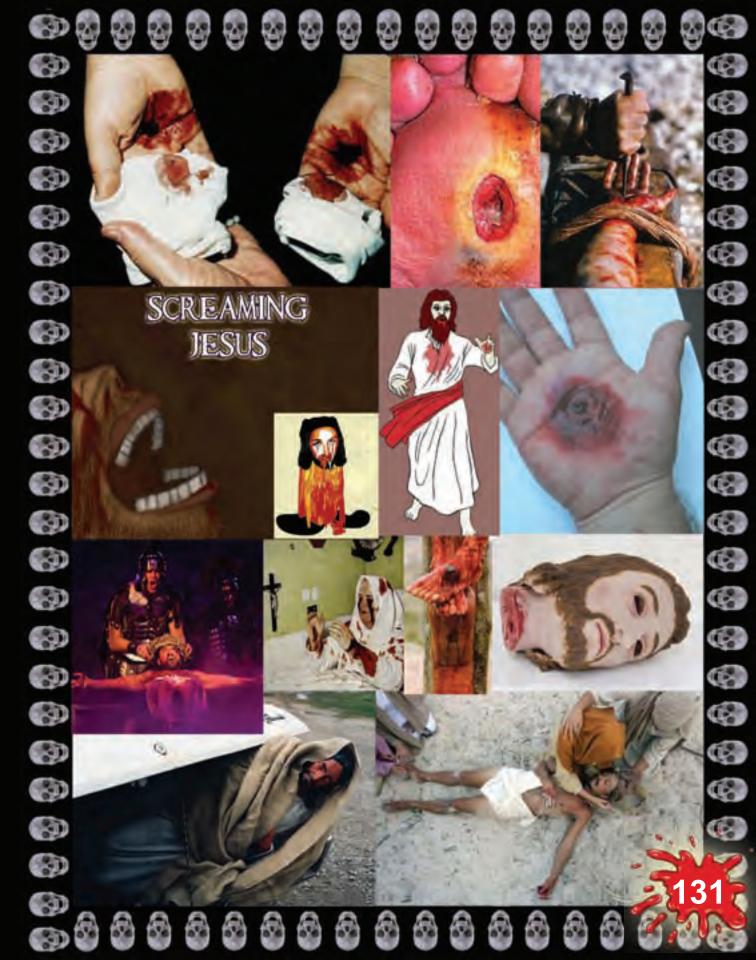




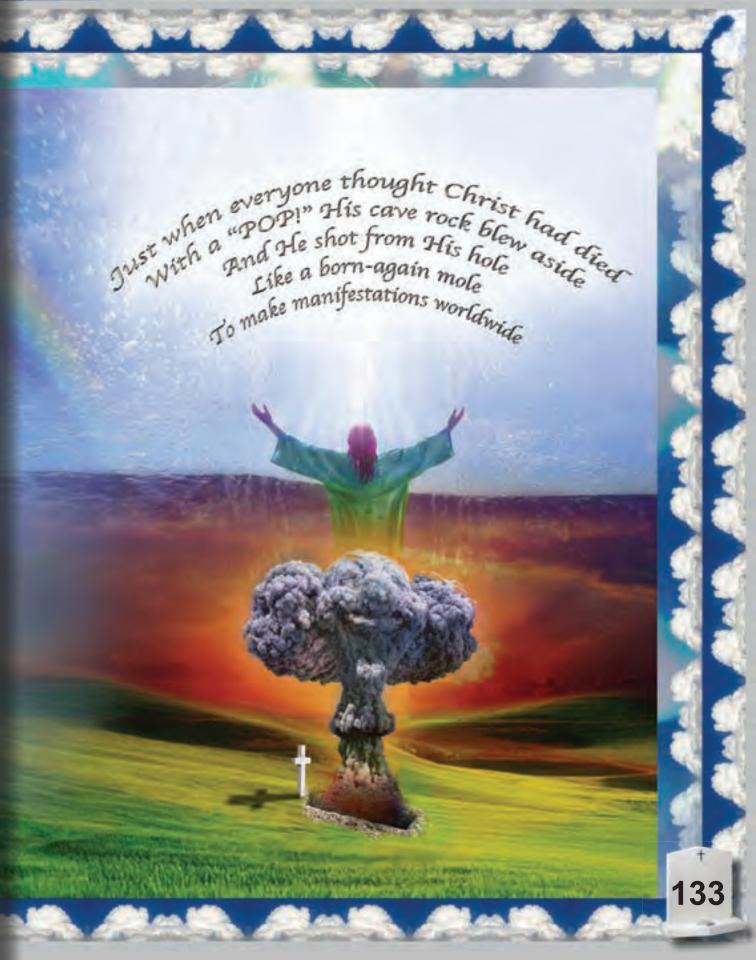








Zombie-fide, zeitgeist, fictional figment of far-fetched fantasy, He breezes back on marvelous, mushroom cloud of Christian creativity! Repeatedly reappearing in a curious collection of sundry, sacred snacks.





25





He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.















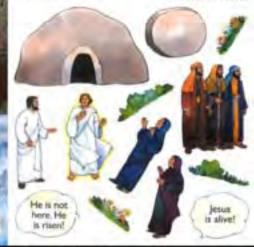
Jesus Is Alive!

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Tourist takes snapshot of the image that will rock the world!



The End



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THE LIFE OF CHRIST AS TAKEN IN VAIN ONLINE

BY NAOMI PITCAIRN

al state

VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, ASK NOT "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?" BUT "WHAT WOULDN'T HE DO?" John 1:13 The Zinholy Bible

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SUS BATLS YOU