

Ep. 309 - The Foiled Biblical Oil Scheme.mp3

Hemant [00:00:00] This is Hemant.

Jessica [00:00:00] And Jessica.

Hemant [00:00:00] And you're listening to the Friendly Atheist Podcast. Please go to patreon.com/friendlyatheistpodcast and then give us your children's college funds. You know--.

Jessica [00:00:11] Put it to good use.

Hemant [00:00:12] Yes. Hello.

Jessica [00:00:14] Hey, how are you?

Hemant [00:00:16] I'm good.

Jessica [00:00:17] That's very clear.

Hemant [00:00:17] We are going to--we--we made a plan. It's--we're gonna get out of here in under an hour and we're gonna talk about a million things.

Jessica [00:00:24] Yeah, we have a lot of topics. Happy Valentine's Day, by the way.

Hemant [00:00:26] Yeah, right. Happy Valentine's Day and love--.

Jessica [00:00:29] flowers there...

Hemant [00:00:31] Flowers...yay!

Jessica [00:00:33] Oh, I forgot to post mine. Okay. Go ahead.

Hemant [00:00:35] All right. Okay. Number one.

Jessica [00:00:36] Yeah.

Hemant [00:00:37] Oh, I love this so, so much. Jim Bakker, the televangelist. I swear he's been pushing this product on his show for like a year now.

Jessica [00:00:49] Okay.

Hemant [00:00:50] And if you go to his website to go get the promo product, it's just silver solution. That's like the name.

Jessica [00:00:58] Silver sol--like cleaning solution?

Hemant [00:01:00] Like it just says silver. It doesn't say much else. Just silver. And the way he touts this on his show is, he's like, this thing cures everything. It will cure all your venereal diseases.

Jessica [00:01:14] Is it the thing that turns people blue if you drink too much of it?

Hemant [00:01:18] I mean, I wouldn't be surprised...

Jessica [00:01:20] You keep talking; I'ma do some quick research.

Hemant [00:01:21] You look up your silver solution stuff. So for a while he's been saying this gets rid of your venereal diseases, which is hilarious, because the type of people who watch his show are...

Jessica [00:01:32] Oh, that guy died.

Hemant [00:01:32] I-I wonder what they're doing. Jim Bakker did not die. Jim Bakker--.

Jessica [00:01:36] No, no, no--I'm sorry. So years ago, there was a guy who came forward, his name is Paul Harrison, um, and he, um, had been drinking silver compound for more than ten years. And it slowly turned him blue, like he's a blue person.

Hemant [00:01:53] Well, there you go. He. Whoa, that guy's blue.

Jessica [00:01:56] Yeah, I think it said it on Oprah.

Hemant [00:01:58] Yikes.

Jessica [00:01:59] Yeah.

Hemant [00:01:59] So Jim Bakker wants you to drink this and turn blue. But there's another reason to drink this, according to Bakker--.

Jessica [00:02:06] Optivida Silver, is what he's drinking, colonial?

Hemant [00:02:08] I have no idea what type Bakker's is, but it apparently cures coronavirus.

Jessica [00:02:14] Oh, good!

Hemant [00:02:14] That's the new claim. He invited this lady on his show.

Jessica [00:02:17] And it's antiviral, right? It's not just a thing o' crap?

Hemant [00:02:20] I think it's both? I think it's an antiviral thing o' crap. And he invited this woman, Dr. Cheryl Selman, who is actually not a real doctor, cause I--.

Jessica [00:02:28] It's "doctor" in scare quotes.

Hemant [00:02:31] Yeah. Um, and basically, she said this thing is a cure for coronavirus. She said it-- Let's-- He said, "Wait, this cures what now?" "Well, let's say it hasn't been tested on this strain of the coronavirus, but it's been tested on other strains of the coronavirus and has been able to eliminate it within twelve hours. Totally eliminates it."

Jessica [00:02:56] Twelve hours.

Hemant [00:02:57] Twelve. And mind you, she's not talking--because coronavirus is like a family of viruses. It's not the one in China.

Jessica [00:03:03] Riiiiight.

Hemant [00:03:04] Like, but--.

Jessica [00:03:05] Who did she cure?

Hemant [00:03:08] Uh, nobody. She's not a doctor.

Jessica [00:03:10] Oh.

Hemant [00:03:10] But then the next day, Bakker goes back on his show--'cause they film several in one sitting. So she's still on the show for the next day. And now Bakker goes on. Uh, I'm sorry. And Selman, this, quote-unquote, "doctor" goes on to say that you all need to buy silver--

Jessica [00:03:26] Sure.

Hemant [00:03:26] --because it has been proven by the government that it has the ability to kill every pathogen it has ever been tested on, including SARS and HIV.

Jessica [00:03:39] SARS is a fun throwback disease.

Hemant [00:03:40] Yeah.

Jessica [00:03:41] HIV.

Hemant [00:03:41] HIV. It just cures it. Mind you, it hasn't been tested on anything, but it does.

Jessica [00:03:47] Suuure. Based on...what are they...?

Hemant [00:03:48] That and prayer and a nickel or something? And by the way, if you go to the product on Jim Bakker's website--

Jessica [00:03:54] Uh-huh.

Hemant [00:03:54] --there's a little link that says "California residents, read this warning" because like the state mandates, you have this warning, and it says, and I'm quoting here, "This product contains chemicals known to the state of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harms."

Jessica [00:04:11] Oopsie doopsie.

Hemant [00:04:12] Yeah. So anyway, I was--I'm shocked that he's able to just get away with this. I don't know how.

Jessica [00:04:20] Eh. Laws don't apply to old white Christian men.

Hemant [00:04:22] Yeah. So. So, just so you know, if you have SARS and HIV and coronavirus, there's a one-stop shop for you. Just drink the silver liquid gold.

Jessica [00:04:32] If you have all three of those diseases, please, I implore you, go see a doctor.

Hemant [00:04:37] Hehe, and not the one that appears on his show.

Jessica [00:04:39] Yeah, doctor. Not with quotes around. Doctor.

Hemant [00:04:41] Yes. Okay. Different story, but same type of scamming going on. And this thing cracked me up this week. Okay. Here's the story as I understood it. In 2015, there's a group of Christians in Dalton, Georgia. They meet inside of a theater, which--okay, a lot of newer churches that can't afford their own building, they meet in random places, public schools. They rent them out. Whatever. That's not weird. So they meet in this theater. And in 2015, the couple of Christians that aren't necessarily the pastors, but they are prominent members of this group. They say the prayer room in the theater is dripping with oil. Okay. Weird, but...alright. And then a year later, they said that same oil was coming out of a Bible that was owned by one of the church members, Jerry Pearce. So, like he--I--if I can make sense of this, he opens up his Bible and the page is oily, but not the whole book. Just like that page. It's like God was sending a message to these people.

Jessica [00:05:48] Oh, God. What was on that page? Oh, he didn't say?

Hemant [00:05:50] It didn't say. It wasn't like the page was the thing. It's more like the Bible the oil is coming through. Sometimes they've had paintings of like Mary or Jesus.

Jessica [00:06:01] Sure.

Hemant [00:06:01] And like, you see tears coming down their eyes--.

Jessica [00:06:03] Yeah.

Hemant [00:06:03] --and they say, this is holy oil because where else would it have come from?

Jessica [00:06:07] Right.

Hemant [00:06:08] Right? But in this case, they're like, yep, it just magically appeared in the book. And then the oil kept coming. Like the whole book is soaked in oil.

Jessica [00:06:19] They blew up a McDonald's and there's a leak in their fry machine.

Hemant [00:06:22] I was wondering--the theater, as far as I can tell, had no issues. So like, "Where was the oil coming from?" is a good question. Now, you might wonder, is this magical oil like healing oil?

Jessica [00:06:32] Uh huh.

Hemant [00:06:33] They said, no, it's not.

Jessica [00:06:35] What does it look like? Is it like peanut oil? Is it like olive oil?

Hemant [00:06:39] Imagine you take a Bible and dump it in a vat of like Fazoli's garlic shit.

Jessica [00:06:47] It's fucking great.

Hemant [00:06:48] Yeah. So they had to contain the Bible inside of a tub to contain the oil that was dripping out of this book.

Jessica [00:06:58] Wait, the tub was the oil that came from the book?

Hemant [00:07:00] That's what they said. So they're like, yep. There's so much oil we can't contain it all.

Jessica [00:07:05] So it's just--their thing, and it's just generating this.

Hemant [00:07:08] This Bible is generating oil, even though that's not how books work.

Jessica [00:07:13] No.

Hemant [00:07:13] So anyway, the Chattanooga Times Free Press did a story about this church and how, like Dalton, Georgia, is the place to be.

Jessica [00:07:19] A human interest story.

Hemant [00:07:20] Yeah. People are coming there to see the holy oil thing, and the church--they--I was actually surprised by this--they started giving away the oil.

Jessica [00:07:30] Not selling--

Hemant [00:07:31] Not selling it. They started giving it away. But they were saying this is a sign from God. I mean, do w--do with it what you will. They--we're talking 400 gallons of oil, according to them.

Jessica [00:07:43] Hundred gallons!

Hemant [00:07:43] Yeah. And one of the other organizers, Johnny Taylor, was saying this book is serving as a way to bring people to the Christian faith because it's a miracle, what's going on here. So this is the story that appears in the paper.

Jessica [00:07:58] It's like, when quote-unquote miracles happen, they're so fucking lame and slash or gross.

Hemant [00:08:02] Yes. It's just a totally--I mean, at least go ahead and say it's magical oil, but it's not. They gave away three hundred fifty thousand free vials of oil. That's a LOT.

Jessica [00:08:16] It doesn't--

[00:08:17] It must be small enough, but small enough where you can bottle it up and say, here's a little bit for you to take home so you can do nothing with it. I don't know what you're gonna do. Put it in your--I don't know.

Jessica [00:08:25] This is literally making my tummy hurt.

Hemant [00:08:27] Yes.

Jessica [00:08:29] Like, just--eugh--

[00:08:29] So here's the best part: this is why this is in the news this week. So it turns out that story went up some time, uh, last year, um, like, last November. So it's been a couple of months. The day after that story ran, someone contacts the reporter who wrote it. His name is Wyatt Massey. And they're like, huh. You know what's interesting about this? This Pearce guy, the Christian who said this Bible has oil? We own a tractor supply store--

Jessica [00:09:01] [laughs]

Hemant [00:09:02] --and this guy keeps stopping into our store, asking for, like, tubs of mineral oil.

Jessica [00:09:10] [laughs, cackles]

Hemant [00:09:10] And so, in December, the reporters--

Jessica [00:09:12] But that can't be connected.

Hemant [00:09:12] Of course not.

Jessica [00:09:12] Right? That's just a coincidence--

Hemant [00:09:12] In December, basically, um, I'm--

Jessica [00:09:19] They sell that shit on Amazon, dude, like, there's a paper trail. You can't go to a dude you know.

Hemant [00:09:23] I'm going to sell it. I'm gonna fill in the blanks here, like, the reporter says "Here's a picture of the preacher guy. Is this the same guy?" And the tractor people are like, yeah, we know him. He stops by and keeps asking for all this oil. And so the newspaper went a step further. They said, "Give us some of your mineral oil from the tractor place. Oh, hey, we'll take a free vial of the Biblical oil, too." They sent it off to have it analyzed. And here's what they said this week in the paper. I got to read--this is glorious. "The Times Free Press then paid for a series of chemical analyses by a local university, comparing the oils. The tests found Pearce's oil--" (the Biblical one) "--is petroleum-derived, and the results--" (quote) "--strongly suggest that the oil sample is mineral oil."

Jessica [00:10:14] Hee hee hee.

Hemant [00:10:15] Blah, blah, blah. "The second test comparing the chemical composition of the biblical oil to the tractor oil found a nearly exact match."

Jessica [00:10:24] [plaintively] Hemant.

Hemant [00:10:23] So, by the way, one of the reasons--.

Jessica [00:10:24] Another miracle. That's two miracles.

Hemant [00:10:25] I know. One of the reasons I love this story is because a lot of times you will see local papers and like news outlets saying, oh, look at this miracle that's happening in the church. Isn't that interesting, human interest story, like you said?

Jessica [00:10:37] Sure.

Hemant [00:10:38] And then we never hear about it again. And it's like, you didn't do the follow up. Come on.

Jessica [00:10:42] Yeah, I do love that part.

Hemant [00:10:42] This guy did the follow up. And so basically, the reporter now goes back to the church guys, and he's like, it's the same oil.

Jessica [00:10:50] That's so...

Hemant [00:10:50] And what do they do? Pearce said the managers at Tractor Supply are lying. He and Taylor repeated they do not have to defend their work. "Everything we do is in the light," Taylor said. "I don't know how we could defend it, other than it just comes up out of the Bible."

Jessica [00:11:09] Is it a special one? It's just some dude's Bible.

Hemant [00:11:13] Some dude's Bible. But now if you go to their website, where they were hawking this oil and saying, "come to our church," where, again, even if they're not selling the oil--.

Jessica [00:11:20] They're good.

Hemant [00:11:20] They're getting people in the doors, and you can give money to them that way.

Jessica [00:11:25] Sure.

Hemant [00:11:25] But on their website now, it says: "The Bible has not produced any oil since January 10th of this year. The flow has paused before, even for a week or so, and is not always consistent. But at this point, it's been almost a month and has not restarted. So after today, February 4th, 2020, we will not be able to distribute oil."

Jessica [00:11:47] [sarcastically sympathetic] Aww.

Hemant [00:11:47] "If the oil resumes its flow, we will resume distribution," which is a weird way to say, "we were all lying to you, and we're frauds" and all of that.

Jessica [00:11:56] Wow. Or like, okay, so even--

Hemant [00:11:58] By the way, they had their last service in Dalton this week. The church is closing up shop.

Jessica [00:12:02] Oh, nooooo!

Hemant [00:12:03] I know. So sad.

Jessica [00:12:05] It's funny, because like, when you're thinking about--if--if you're gonna stage this quote-unquote miracle, you come up with...oil coming out of a Bible. Like, of all the shit you can sort of--.

Hemant [00:12:16] Man.

Jessica [00:12:17] Like, if we're all just playing Calvinball and and making whatever up on the fly--

Hemant [00:12:22] Rules don't apply--

Jessica [00:12:23] --and you come with oil in a Bible? That's iiiicky--

Hemant [00:12:25] And that much, like, why?

Jessica [00:12:28] So much oil.

Hemant [00:12:29] Yeah.

Jessica [00:12:29] That's gross. I hate that.

Hemant [00:12:30] So. My favorite story of the week, I swear.

Jessica [00:12:32] That's pretty good.

Hemant [00:12:33] All right, with that, well, let's go to something much more serious.

Jessica [00:12:37] [laughs]

Hemant [00:12:37] This--a couple of weeks ago, there was this Catholic priest in Rhode Island, a Reverend Richard Bucci of Sacred Heart Church. And he basically handed out a flyer with a list of every politician in the state who backed an abortion rights law the previous year.

Jessica [00:12:55] Uh huh.

Hemant [00:12:55] And he basically said none of these people are allowed to get communion in the church, which is something some Catholic leaders do. They say, oh, Joe Biden says he's a Catholic. So he might come in here, but he supports abortion rights. Therefore, he's not allowed to get communion (as if that makes anyone feel bad).

Jessica [00:13:11] But also in addition to, um, communion, it said that they--anybody who is on that list--uh, would be banned from acting as witnesses to marriage, serving as the godparents, and performing reet--performing readings at weddings and funerals--.

Hemant [00:13:23] Right.

Jessica [00:13:23] Not, like, officiating.

Hemant [00:13:25] So--.

Jessica [00:13:26] You could, like--.

Hemant [00:13:26] We're shunning you as far as the Catholic Church will allow us to shun you.

Jessica [00:13:30] Right.

Hemant [00:13:30] And then it got worse--.

Jessica [00:13:31] No.

Hemant [00:13:31] --because someone pointed out, hey, your church has been in the middle of sexual abuse allegations, like, not you personally, but your church--.

Jessica [00:13:40] Right.

Hemant [00:13:40] --has housed people who have been accused of sexual abuse. And who the hell are you to tell everyone else, like, you're sinners, you can't be--like, we've got to punish you for this. So what did he say? To dismiss what everyone else was doing?

Jessica [00:13:55] Can I read this?

Hemant [00:13:56] Please.

Jessica [00:13:59] "Pedophilia doesn't kill anyone. And this--" (meaning abortion) "--does.".

Hemant [00:14:04] That's a--.

Jessica [00:14:04] He claimed that more children have been killed by abortion than have been abused, which is...such a loaded statement.

Hemant [00:14:12] Yeah.

Jessica [00:14:12] Like, there's so much going on there.

Hemant [00:14:15] There is. And part of it is pedophilia doesn't kill anyone. That's literally not true. I mean, putting aside the whole "you're comparing the death of anybody to the, like, a miscarriage or a fetus dying or whatever you want to call it," like, forget that for a second. Pedophilia doesn't kill anyone? This guy has no idea--.

Jessica [00:14:35] Yeah.

Hemant [00:14:35] --the trauma that pedophilia inflicts and what it has led to some people to do.

Jessica [00:14:40] Yeah, there's just--

Hemant [00:14:40] --'cause it's destroyed lives. People have taken their own lives as a result of the trauma they had to deal with.

Jessica [00:14:46] Yeah, um, State Representative Carol Hagan, county Democrat--sorry, I, like, butchered all of that name--quote, "when he says that pedophilia doesn't kill people, well, he clearly doesn't understand. He should have come to the state house and listened to the testimonies because there are a lot of victims who are no longer with us. The injured voices that I've heard--they've stolen their childhoods. They've practically destroyed their lives. And the ones we hear from are the lucky ones because they're the ones who are still alive. They didn't die of an overdose or suicide. You know, there's plenty of those who never made it long enough to come forward." Which is heavy and accurate.

Hemant [00:15:20] And as with so many pro-life people, this guy doesn't care because they don't care about the living. They only care about things that aren't alive or aren't alive yet or whatever.

Hemant [00:15:30] So they went back to this guy, after his stupid comment started going across the Internets. And he--he didn't apologize. Of course he didn't apologize. Here's what he said in response. He said his words were taken out of context. They were not. You just heard the context--.

Jessica [00:15:48] When people say that, how do they think--?

Hemant [00:15:51] Tell me what the proper context is, right?

Jessica [00:15:52] And, and, unless the context was "Only a monster would say that pedophilia doesn't kill anybody and this does--".

Hemant [00:15:58] [laughs] Perfect.

Jessica [00:15:59] --I'm not sure what the context would be.

Hemant [00:16:01] Yeah. Here's what he said now. "It was imperfectly said--" (as if it was just short of perfect)--it was imperfectly said--"

Jessica [00:16:07] So close. So close to that elusive perfect phone call Trump has all the time.

Hemant [00:16:11] --exactly--he said, "I should have said, 'in general, the child that's molested does not die physically.' And I should have said, 'but some have.'" Unquote. Like, you're not helping.

Jessica [00:16:25] How did that make it worse?

Hemant [00:16:27] I don't know.

Jessica [00:16:28] That's rough.

Hemant [00:16:29] He's still saying like, "look, I should have included a caveat--".

Jessica [00:16:33] A little asterisk next time--

Hemant [00:16:33] --when I said I care more about fetuses than the lives of trauma victims.

Jessica [00:16:38] Yeah, that's rough. Um, State Representative Julie Casimiro also had, like, a really dope quote quote, "The Catholic Church needs to look at themselves and ask why they are closing churches and losing--losing worshipers. Could it be because Father Bucci's most recent statement was that no one has ever died from pedophilia? Father Bucci and the diocese need to look from within. They need to get their own house in order." Then she called for the pope to visit Rhode Island, which is which is--alright.

Hemant [00:17:04] They didn't have to go there, but, all right.

Jessica [00:17:06] I don't know what the pope is going to do, but--

Hemant [00:17:08] Yeah, the pope's gonna be like, "Yep, agreed."

Jessica [00:17:11] Yeah, that's...

Hemant [00:17:11] But also, here's what--here's what I'm curious about. Like, alright, a Catholic priest saying something stupid is not news that happens all the time.

Jessica [00:17:21] Right.

Hemant [00:17:21] Here's the question, though. Like, half of Catholics, I don't have the number in front of me, but it's not far from it. Half of Catholics support abortion rights, to some extent. At least, they don't agree with the Catholic Church's doctrine on this.

Jessica [00:17:33] Right.

Hemant [00:17:34] Those are the people, the people who attend his church--the people that go to any Catholic church in Rhode Island--they could do something about this by just voicing their dissent and walking the hell out and not giving their money to the church and never going back. It's asking a lot of anyone, doing that, because we're basically saying change your whole life structure there. But that would be a way to push back and say this is unacceptable, because us saying this guy's an asshole does nothing, but them saying, you know what? I'm not supporting an organization that treats sexual abuse victims and dismisses them because you're exalting a fetus somehow.

Jessica [00:18:15] Yeah.

Hemant [00:18:15] And worshiping that thing.

Jessica [00:18:16] It's all bad. It's all false equivalencies. It's all garbage. It's, I mean, there's a reason that that was on, like, every other post on Facebook and Twitter this week, like, it was loud.

Hemant [00:18:29] And Priest says pedophilia never killed anybody.

Jessica [00:18:32] Well, and that's the thing about, like, we talk about this all the time, saying the quiet part out loud. That's the kind of thing that, like, they've said shit like that a lot, but never in those, you know, in quite those quite stark terms.

Jessica [00:18:46] Um, I have some stories...

Hemant [00:18:50] Go.

Jessica [00:18:50] Yeah, this was a really bananas week. Um, so I've got a couple radio stories that are just, straight up, recordings of people who are saying garbage shit. Um, so there is a radio program called The Awakening, starring right wing pastor E.W. Jackson. Sounds like a cartoon character.

Hemant [00:19:12] He ran for lieutenant governor of Virginia. He's not a nobody.

Jessica [00:19:15] In 2013.

Hemant [00:19:16] Yeah.

Jessica [00:19:18] And also unsuccessfully ran for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 2018.

Hemant [00:19:21] That was hilarious, by the way--

[00:19:24] I don't remember him at all.

[00:19:25] --but only because he lost. It was hilarious to watch. This guy tried to be like, yup, I'm, the best the Republicans can do. It's like, dude, have you listened to yourself at all?

Jessica [00:19:35] So he said on his show earlier this week that "The left hates President Trump because they hate masculinity, and the president is," quote, "just too much of a man for them." "I think the president, frankly, is just too much of a man for them. They don't like manhood. I think that's part of the problem, too. The radical feminist feminists, the homosexuals, the transgenders," [Jessica emphasizes the "s" at the end of "transgenders"] "whatever bizarre idea they have of how we're supposed to be. They're not putting up with men who stand tall, who stand up straight and say, look, this is who I am. This is what I believe. You can like it or you can lump it. But there it is." Which really sounds like a thing that Donald Trump would say.

Hemant [00:20:12] [laughs]

Jessica [00:20:12] "Like it or lump it." And then--.

Hemant [00:20:16] [couldn't be made out] --doesn't like the manhood--

Jessica [00:20:16] [laughs] This is maybe the best quote: "Obama was effete--" which I've never heard. "E-F-F--".

Hemant [00:20:24] Effete.

Jessica [00:20:24] Effete? I've never heard that before. I'm pronouncing it wrong, of course. Is it--just--.

Both [00:20:27] --feminine. Yeah.

Jessica [00:20:27] Obama was light in the loafers. You'll remember seeing that time he was exercising. He--

Hemant [00:20:34] Effete. We're stupid.

Jessica [00:20:37] Effete. I can't believe this guy knows a word we don't. That's extremely embarrassing. Of course, it's an insult to--.

Hemant [00:20:43] Apologize to him right now.

Jessica [00:20:44] Well, it is a word I would probably never use because it's usually used-- it's correctly, meaning feminine in a derogatory word, which actually doesn't come up in my life.

Hemant [00:20:53] He's trying to emasculate Obama.

Jessica [00:20:55] Yeah. Um, God, this guy is straight out of the 1930s and do you see who's exercise--He--" oh, brother "--he looked like olive oil trying to lift a half pound weight. I'm serious. It was a bizarre thing to watch. I don't know why he allowed it to be filmed. It did not put him in a manly light."

Hemant [00:21:14] I think he also said Obama was light in the loafers--

Jessica [00:21:16] Oh, I said that, you were just looking up that word.

Hemant [00:21:17] So wink, wink, nudge, nudge--

Jessica [00:21:20] Wink, wink, wink, wink, wink, wink. Both eyes.

Hemant [00:21:23] Imagine how weak you have to be to look at Donald Trump and say, yes--.

Both [00:21:26] That's my ideal man.

Jessica [00:21:29] --who puts pancake makeup on, but not quite to his hairline.

Hemant [00:21:32] Yes.

Jessica [00:21:33] Woof. Another radio show is just a quick quote from a Presidential Medal of Freedom winner, Rush Limbaugh.

Hemant [00:21:45] Rosa Parks and that guy. There you go.

Jessica [00:21:48] Oh, my God. Nothing means anything anymore. I'm, so, this is from the February 11th episode of The Rush Limbaugh Show, quote "So I saw a political ad where Mayor Pete--" Mayor Pete Buttigieg "--going on and on and on and on and on and on about how America"--"how parents in America"--"are struggling to explain President Trump to their children. And then I happened to see this." [Jessica reads something under her breath] So he says, "Trump"--he rambled. He's talking to somebody else. So he says "Trump causes problems for parents. What about that? If you're not watching on the ditto cam, what it is, is a picture of Mayor Pete kissing his husband, which he does frequently."

Hemant [00:22:24] So Mayor Pete said Trump causes problems for parents because they got to, like, explain to their kids. Alright. There's all this stuff that Trump is doing. And Rush Limbaugh is like, "Well, Mayor Pete kisses his husband." So there.

Jessica [00:22:37] So point and check and which and--.

Hemant [00:22:41] Yeah. Again, his entire argument is here is here is I'm not here to defend Donald Trump, even though he does. But he's just like, but GAY. So therefore--.

Jessica [00:22:54] Well, and so, in his mind, being a bigot, being a racist, being misogynist, being a bully, being an asshole, being a sociopath, being a liar--

Hemant [00:23:01] Presidential and manly.

Jessica [00:23:04] Being presidential and manly equals being gay. Yeah. Like those two things are equally bad, while being gay to him is way worse.

Hemant [00:23:14] Yeah, I think Jake Tapper of CNN is like, "I'm sorry, Rush Limbaugh is on which wife now?"

Jessica [00:23:20] Yeah. Like, I I can't, I mean, what else can we say? All these men are serial cheaters in multiple marriages, but, like, a monogamous gay couple is somehow too-fucking assholes.

Hemant [00:23:33] I forgot who said it, someone was like, you don't have to celebrate Rush Limbaugh getting whatever cancer it is that he has. But you kind of feel bad for the cancer. You've got a Rush Limbaugh.

Jessica [00:23:45] I saw that Ruth Bader beat cancer so hard that it had to go--Rush Limbaugh.

Hemant [00:23:50] [laughs]

Jessica [00:23:54] What do you--do you have an opinion about, like, celebrating somebody's demise?

Hemant [00:23:59] I-- So it happens of--I mean, I've been blogging long enough that it happens often enough to prominent people. And so there is always a question of, like, how do you talk about that? So, like, Billy Graham died last year, two years ago, something like that. Recent time has no meaning. And of course, Billy Graham is someone who I don't care that he spread Christianity, like, whatever. He wasn't as bad as his son is now. But also, he was an anti-Semite, or at least he laughed along with Nixon when Nixon was anti-Semitic.

Jessica [00:24:28] Sure.

Hemant [00:24:28] He also had a lot of horrible conservative views as well. I don--I think there's a difference between saying, "Okay, this guy is dead. Let's remember the stuff he used his life to do," which is factual. And I don't think it's wrong to say, "Look--" like Kobe Bryant, Kobe Bryant dies and people bring up, "Oh, well, he was accused of--"

Jessica [00:24:48] Sure. Okay, but those are people who are, like, a mixed bag of a person.

Hemant [00:24:53] Yeah.

Jessica [00:24:53] What about somebody like Fred Phelps, who was like, all in all, an evil son of a bitch, like--

Hemant [00:24:58] Right.

Jessica [00:24:59] Is it immoral to...

Hemant [00:25:02] To gloat?

Jessica [00:25:02] Yeah,.

Hemant [00:25:03] I-- [sighs] I go back and forth, because someone liked this guy, someone's suffering because he's gone, and not all those people are as bad as he was--

Jessica [00:25:13] So a lot of suffering is alleviated.

Hemant [00:25:15] Yes.

Jessica [00:25:15] By his death.

Hemant [00:25:15] That's right. And so--and I know that I've tried to be less gloaty if someone who is, like, a Fred Phelps dies, but very much saying, look, here's what he did with his life. It was this horrible mix of mostly awful.

Jessica [00:25:31] Yeah.

Hemant [00:25:32] Because Fred Phelps actually had moments where he was kind of awesome, way before he became a bigot. He was, like, fighting for civil rights. Before he became anti-gay. But it's remembering, like, look, this is what he used his life to do. He hurt people.

Jessica [00:25:47] Yeah.

Hemant [00:25:48] Don't be like that.

Jessica [00:25:49] Right.

Hemant [00:25:49] If you can--if you have a choice, you could fix it right now. I tried to make that the point instead of [feigns evil laugh] "He gone now."

Jessica [00:25:57] But I also think there is a difference. I feel like people have a--an instinct to deify people as soon as they die, as if their death somehow absolves them of anything bad. They--like, the way--

Hemant [00:26:07] I don't get that "you can't say anything bad about them. They just died. You gotta wait a little while."

Jessica [00:26:11] But the Kobe Bryant thing was kind of tough, to sort of see that interaction, because like, he--I can't remember if we've talked about it on the podcast yet. But, like, I have had long conversations with friends who are victims of sexual assault, and we are all sort of coping with how we're--how as soon as this man who raped a woman, violently, but also did positive things in his community, and, like, how do we allow those

two things to exist in the same person? And it's hard. I mean, it's it takes a lot of non-black-and-white thinking, which is really difficult.

Hemant [00:26:49] Right.

Jessica [00:26:49] And people's instinct is "you're a good guy or a bad guy." Reality is, most of us are not. And, you know--did Kobe Bryant do good things for his community? What did he promote? Young women to play basketball? Was he a good dad? Yeah. This--all of those things can be true. But he also raped somebody. And it's not one or the other; we have to allow people to be both monsters in their own right.

Hemant [00:27:16] And I don't think it's wrong to bring up the good or the bad depending on who it is, especially when his victim is still out there living her life. God, you know what, I haven't even told you this. My--a friend of mine and Mikey's--she is from Colorado originally--knows Kobe Bryant's victim, like, she was in that community when that happened, and it ruined that girl's life. So she's still out there living with the consequences of what happened, and it cannot feel great to see this man who assaulted her be deified, and it has to fucking suck. And, like you, I think people need to be better about having complicated feelings about people.

Hemant [00:27:59] Yeah, I definitely don't get that. "You can only say nice things."

Jessica [00:28:02] Yeah.

Hemant [00:28:02] When someone dies like, well, you know, you got to have the nuance.

Jessica [00:28:05] Right.

Hemant [00:28:07] You don't have to just ignore the good stuff, but...

Jessica [00:28:10] There's a brand new podcast; I listened to the first episode. It's called Fanti. So it's like you're a fan, but you're also anti that person. And it's--it's two--

Hemant [00:28:18] [laughs]

Jessica [00:28:18] --queer black men dealing with--so the first episode is about Kevin Hart, and they're like, Okay--so we're trying to, like, this is a man from our community, you know, from the African-American community, who's doing good. And, like, is getting his and making money. But he's also, like, really homophobic and how--and it's just them processing that.

Hemant [00:28:38] Okay.

Jessica [00:28:39] And it's--.

Hemant [00:28:39] Interesting.

Jessica [00:28:40] --and I'd recommend it because I think it's something we need to be better about doing, especially, like, this sort of Stan culture. That's why we have so much trouble with Bernie, is that people don't allow criticism to, to be laid upon him. And whether or not it's fair criticism, like, to be a politician, to be a presidential candidate, we're going to have to criticize him. That's how we figure out who's the best for whatever. And as soon as

somebody says, well, he doesn't have a great track record on X, people lose their fucking mind and, like, he's a politician. He's not your friend. He's not like, your--your cool uncle.

Hemant [00:29:14] And when you've been in politics as long as he has, there are going to be some--

Jessica [00:29:18] History.

Hemant [00:29:18] Yeah.

Jessica [00:29:19] Anyway, well...

Hemant [00:29:20] That's the case for everyone.

Jessica [00:29:21] That got off track. Can I talk about Republicans not understanding human women?

Hemant [00:29:25] Oh, yes. The human women. Go on.

Jessica [00:29:28] So. Um, in Tennessee, it has this thing every year at the end of July. There's a three-day weekend where there's certain goods that can be purchased. Tax-free. So it's--this can be anything from clothes to computers. And it's sort of meant to give a little assistance to families getting ready for the--for the upcoming school year.

Hemant [00:29:48] Yeah, just a sales tax holiday.

Jessica [00:29:50] Yeah. Is that a common thing that suddenly--.

Hemant [00:29:53] I don't think we have that.

Jessica [00:29:54] Yeah. I think I've never heard of that. Um, is it like duty free shit in the airport?

Hemant [00:29:58] Right.

Jessica [00:30:00] Um, anyway, so there's a proposal this year. So they're figuring out what is--what we're allowed to use put into this proposal this year to include menstrual products in the event so--.

Hemant [00:30:11] So that you wouldn't have to pay taxes if you're buying those.

Jessica [00:30:13] Exactly.

Hemant [00:30:16] Okay.

Jessica [00:30:16] And so, according to the numbers that they used, women, uh, people who have periods, spend about \$120 a year in menstrual products. And there's a 7 percent state tax. So it would cost the state, according to this, one hundred thirty-two thousand dollars annually, which I guess is assuming all women buy all of their tampons in one weekend.

Hemant [00:30:39] [laughs]

Jessica [00:30:39] Right? Because that has to be how that works, because, I don't know, which I think is an absurd thing to do. Like, most women probably don't have the money to spend a hundred and twenty, even if it means you get cheaper tampons. That's one of the ways it's very expensive to be poor is that you can't take advantage of deals like that and, like, save money in the long term, but you have to have a hundred--anyway.

Hemant [00:31:00] I'm starting to think the closest analog I got for that is, like, diapers and, I'm, like, I don't buy a year's worth of diapers right now. It's, like, I've got a box.

Jessica [00:31:08] Where would you put them?

Hemant [00:31:09] Right, rrrrrright. It's like I've got a box. I got a backup box, for in case and then, I'm good for now.

Jessica [00:31:15] Yeah.

Hemant [00:31:15] I'll wait till it clears out.

Jessica [00:31:16] Yeah. This is the first time in my life that I've lived in my home that has more than one bathroom. And it's been a huge adjustment. I mean, I have to hide tampons everywhere. It's a real change, man. Anyway, so anyway, so they're talking about whether or not this is worth doing. And bear in mind that there is no, you know--computers have this deal, I like clothes have this deal. It's not only, like, you know, rice and things that like people would need to survive. You know what I mean? So somebody said--this is Joey Hensley, who's a Republican--he said, I think since it's a sales tax holiday, there's really no limit on the number of items anyone can purchase. I don't know how you would limit the number of items somebody could purchase specifically about tampons.

Hemant [00:32:03] So he's worried that all these women are going to hoard tampons for the entire year.

Jessica [00:32:09] Uh-huh, like, wow, got her, like, pile of tampons. This is the most bananas--like why are--? As a man, as a person who doesn't get a period, do you care if women don't pay taxes on, or excuse me, people who get their periods don't pay taxes in--? Like, do you feel like you're missing--?

Hemant [00:32:30] I've never, ever, once thought about any--I've not wasted any time complaining about any of this.

Jessica [00:32:37] Yeah, it's--it's a really bananas, like, that sort of pearl-clutching, over, like, women are going to take advantage of this thing that we're giving to everybody.

Hemant [00:32:49] I'm so--what does he think they'll do with all these tampons?

Jessica [00:32:53] They'll do a Smaug-esque pile of tampon boxes that they perch atop and breathe fire at Hobbits.

Hemant [00:32:59] Yeah.

Jessica [00:33:00] I assume this is his fear.

Hemant [00:33:01] It's like oh, no, toilet paper has no taxes. You know what people are going to do then.

Jessica [00:33:05] Yeah.

Hemant [00:33:06] No. Tell us what do you--ask the follow-up question, reporters.

Jessica [00:33:10] Yeah, it's absolutely bananas, and according to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, more than one in five women report they can't--they can't afford to buy menstrual products every month.

Hemant [00:33:23] So this tax holiday would be helpful for some people.

[00:33:27] Be helpful. And, I'm sorry. Like men who have never been in a high school and gotten their period and did the thing where you wrap up that, like, single ply toilet paper around the crotch of your underwear so you don't bleed everywhere, they don't get to talk about wom--about menstrual products, because unless you've dealt with that, you don't get how important it is to just be able to find a tampon somewhere. And, like, granted, sometimes people--like, I've talked to more strangers in bathrooms getting tampons than really anybody ever should. But, like, when you're in high school, that shit's delicate and uncomfortable because teenagers are weird and scared of everything. So, like, these guys need to fuck all the way off. Tampons, tampons, pads should be provided in bathrooms, men's and women's bathrooms. That's what I say. I'm running for president in 2020. Tampons for everybody.

Hemant [00:34:16] You also will be--you're creating opposition research for yourself every week.

Jessica [00:34:24] I know. [laughs] That's why I could never run for office. They would just play this and be like, oh, no. Oh, absolutely not.

Hemant [00:34:30] We may have talked about this last year, but I wanted to bring this up. Gallup, every four years, they do this poll, during a presidential election year. They, like, would you vote for someone in your party if that person were a blank? So someone you--

Jessica [00:34:43] Oh, yeah.

Hemant [00:34:43] --generally agree with, if that person were a blank--

Jessica [00:34:44] Atheists are no longer the least liked.

Hemant [00:34:47] That, yeah. As of a couple years ago. It's not, like, a new development. In 2012, more than half of the people said if that if my candidate were an atheist, eh, it wouldn't bother me. I might still vote for them. In 2015, we were not last on the list because socialists had made the bunch. So, thanks Bernie Sanders, for running--

Jessica [00:35:08] So now that's two dings against me.

[00:35:11] [laughs] So last year--this is interesting, too--they said, like, they asked the question last year because it was a midterm, not a midterm, it was after the midterm election year. But they found that there was a tiny jump for atheists. Now 60 percent of

Americans said they would consider voting for an atheist, not like a segment of America. Like, Americans in general, 60 percent--

Jessica [00:35:30] You know what, though? I feel like it's, like, many people would say they would vote for a woman, but not this one. Like, it's easier to say I'd vote for a hypothetical atheist.

Hemant [00:35:40] Exactly. They're not giving us the name of a candidate, but they did it again this year. This is the actual Gallup survey that happens every election year, where they say, what would you do? And the number was the same. It was 60 percent. It wasn't last on the list because Socialist is at 45. But again, like, in theory, if Bernie Sanders were the nominee, you would sa--and among Democrats, anyway--you would find very few people have a problem with a Socialist in name. And if there were a candidate who was openly Atheist, but I wanted to vote for you, you would see that go out the window, too. I mean, just to give you, like, something to reference. Ninety-six percent of people, Americans, all of them, say, yeah, if my candidate were black, it would not bother me. I would still vote for that person. Ninety-five percent if it's Catholic. Hispanic is in the 90s. Jewish woman. All of that's in the 90s. See. Would not be bothered by it. And as you get lower, it's 80 percent would vote for an evangelical Christian, all other things considered. 78 percent gay or lesbian. 70 percent under 40. 69 percent over 70. Roughly the same. Muslim is at 66 percent. So, that--interesting. There's not much of an uptick since a couple years ago, but it's 60 percent. That's better than usual. Um, among Democrats, I should say, it's much, much higher. I'm looking for the exact--among Democrats, an Atheist candidate would have sixty-nine percent support, which is actually higher than people over 70, which, among Democrats. So--.

Jessica [00:37:13] Alright.

Hemant [00:37:14] Among Republicans--

Jessica [00:37:15] Don't underestimate Democrats' hatred for old men.

Hemant [00:37:17] Yes. Among Republicans, atheists get 41 percent approval. Interesting.

Jessica [00:37:23] Okay.

Hemant [00:37:24] I just wanted to point that out there, but I would say this is actually surprising news that it's become a lot less stigmatized than it used to be, because there was a time when the saying was you could not get elected dogcatcher if you were an Atheist. And now 60 percent of Americans are like, no, if my candidate for my party happened to be an Atheist, it wouldn't bother me.

Jessica [00:37:47] Yeah--

Hemant [00:37:47] I would still vote for that person.

Jessica [00:37:48] I think we can't underestimate how quickly Atheists have risen in being acceptable. Same thing with, like, LGBTQ people. I would say trans people are still dealing with their own--

Hemant [00:38:00] Right.

Jessica [00:38:00] --their own mess. But--.

Hemant [00:38:02] Right.

Jessica [00:38:02] --compared to say, even five years ago, ten years ago, it's a different ballgame.

Hemant [00:38:07] And to be clear, they're not saying, like, you're gonna vote for someone because they're an Atheist. If Trump said "I'm an Atheist," I don't want to vote for him. He's still an ass.

Jessica [00:38:14] Right.

Hemant [00:38:14] But if the candidate for my party that I like was an Atheist, would it be a dealbreaker? No, it would not. Is kind of where this is going. So that's interesting news. Um. Alright. Switching gears for a second. This week, Reuters came out with a report that was very surprising. And here's the gist of where they're coming from. The Department of Justice has money that it--that it gives out to different organizations that do work that support the work the Department of Justice does.

Jessica [00:38:45] Okay.

Hemant [00:38:45] So they have given money to the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach because they're actually really good at stopping human trafficking.

Jessica [00:38:55] Oh!

Hemant [00:38:55] Now, that is not proselytizing. That's just, yeah, we're giving money to a Catholic group, which might be an issue.

Jessica [00:39:01] Sure.

Hemant [00:39:01] But they're doing it for a secular cause. And this is--it's one of those things where it's--I wish they wouldn't give it to any religious group, but as long as it's doing it for a secular cause and there's no proselytizing involved...?

Jessica [00:39:14] Right.

Hemant [00:39:14] Whatever. I have bigger fish to fry. Right? So, Okay. They gave it to the Catholic Charities for a while, and that was good, because they were doing the good work. And all of a sudden, Catholic Charities was taken off the list last year. And so was another group that used to get money to stop human trafficking. And you're like, why would they stop groups that are helping stop human trafficking, trafficking? Like, we all support that goal, don't we? Well, it's because they started giving it to other groups instead. And this is what the report found this week--.

Jessica [00:39:45] That were doing the same mission?

Hemant [00:39:47] That supposedly are working to stop human trafficking. And they gave--one group that they gave money to--and we're talking to hundreds of thousands of

dollars--was run by a donor to Donald Trump. Interesting. Not necessarily a conspiracy, but interesting. The other one is for a group called Hookers for Jesus--

Jessica [00:40:08] [gasps]

Hemant [00:40:08] --which is run by a former escort who now helps women who are former sex workers try to escape that, I guess.

[00:40:18] Via Jesus.

[00:40:18] Via Jesus is the key, because their website makes it clear that they want you to accept Christ. And that's actually, um, they have safe houses for women trying to escape what they say are abusive situations. But part of staying in that house is you have to participate in religious activities. The safe houses' materials have, manuals, I should say, have rules that had a ban on reading, quote, "secular magazines with articles, pictures, et cetera, that portray worldly views or advice on living and sex and clothing and makeup tips"--like, no Cosmo, you can't read Cosmo because you know, you know. So, like, this is a very evangelical organization. And again, if they're stopping human trafficking for women who want to leave the business, I have no problem with the work they're doing, if they want to leave it.

Jessica [00:41:12] I mean, I think it's important to distinguish people who are being human trafficked versus sex workers who are doing it--

Hemant [00:41:19] That's what I mean. Like, if they want to do it on their own, that's a different story. If you want to escape, and you want to leave, and you're being abused--

Jessica [00:41:25] Yeah.

Hemant [00:41:26] Okay, good for this group for doing the work that they're doing, but the government gave over five hundred thousand dollars to this organization--and this is important--a group that does not have a track record like the Catholic Charities did of doing the work that they say they're doing, like they--their own independent reviewers, the Department of Justice's own independent reviewers, said this group does not have experience handling victims who are underage or male or foreign...they don't have that.

Jessica [00:42:01] Right.

Hemant [00:42:01] I mean, if they're coming from another country--

Jessica [00:42:03] No, I know. I just I think like a lot of victims of human trafficking are--.

Hemant [00:42:06] Yes.

Jessica [00:42:06] --not necessarily American.

Hemant [00:42:07] Again, there are groups that work with sex trafficking victims of all kinds, and they know how to do it. The Department of Justice is giving half a million dollars plus to this group that only helps women, really, and only does it under the threat that you have to accept Jesus if you want our help. It's just Republicans giving money to right-wing Christian groups--

Jessica [00:42:29] Right.

Hemant [00:42:30] --instead of deserving groups that help everybody.

Jessica [00:42:32] Even other Christian groups that are actually--.

Hemant [00:42:35] Yes. Exactly.

Jessica [00:42:35] That sucks.

Hemant [00:42:37] Five hundred thirty thousand, one hundred and ninety dollars. To Hookers for Jesus.

Jessica [00:42:42] That is an upsetting name--I gotta be honest with you about that.

Hemant [00:42:44] I don't--I mean, I know the name gets attention. I don't even care about the name.

Jessica [00:42:49] I know. But it's--

Hemant [00:42:50] It's the point that they are proselytizing as a [indistinguishable]

Jessica [00:42:54] None of it's good. Nothing is good in this situation. Um. I have some good news.

Hemant [00:43:00] [despairingly] What?

Jessica [00:43:04] [laughs] Why are you mad about my good news? Um, so the Air Force recently updated its dress code policy to be more inclusive to people of non-Christian religions, which is pretty exciting. So, um, so it outlined a clear approval process for Sikhs and Muslims who want to serve, but still want to wear articles of their faith. So, under the new guidelines, Sikhs and Muslims can seek religious accommodations to wear turbans, beards, un-shorn hair and hijabs. Um, and they should expect to be approved as long as their appearance is, quote, "neat and conservative." I hope nobody, like, tries to dance around in that little liminal space. Um, and then, once again, this is the kind of big thing is that, once approved, that these combinations will allow service members to, like, hold onto that approval throughout their career. Prior to this, it was all, um, individual requests, um, and they were granted on a case-by-case basis. So, yeah, it was kind of a mess.

Hemant [00:44:02] And again, like--

Jessica [00:44:03] And the approval process was pretty lengthy. So you're kind of hanging out in limbo for a while.

Hemant [00:44:06] These aren't, like, random things they want to do. They're saying, for me to live out my faith and serve in the military, I got to wear my turban.

Jessica [00:44:14] Right.

Hemant [00:44:14] And to be clear, it doesn't interfere with the work that they're doing. And yet they had to jump through all these hoops to do it. So it's about damn time the U.S. Air Force said, let's not just give Christians whatever they want.

Jessica [00:44:26] Exactly. It's a step in the right direction.

Hemant [00:44:28] Right.

Jessica [00:44:30] So--what time is it? Oh, we're doing good. We have ten more minutes.

[00:44:34] Go, go, go.

[00:44:34] Do you have anything else?

[00:44:35] No, I'm done.

[00:44:36] Okay, um. This is kind of long, so I'm going to cut it down. So there is a man named Rob Ryers, I think his name is? He wrote an op ed in The Washington Post that started--who--he's a Republican. He's a Christian pastor. And he doesn't like Trump. And he said, right after the most recent National Prayer Breakfast situation, "if you wonder why young people are leaving organized religion in droves, look no further than last week's National Prayer Breakfast."

Hemant [00:45:05] Good. Yeah.

Jessica [00:45:06] So, another excerpt from this: "Trump's religious supporters, most of whom preach that most conservative versions of Christianity,"--"most of whom preach the most conservative forms of Christianity, either don't realize or don't care that they're ratifying what so many young people have come to believe about religion. That is nothing but a cover up for conservative politics. That is far more about identity than faith. And that it upholds traditionalism rather than a living tradition." So he said that, and he just wrote another article that came out, I think just yesterday, in the Times because he got some fuckin' blowback for this. He said, "In less than two weeks, I've gotten hundreds of messages from evangelical Christians from across the country. Much of the opposition has come from pro-life voters who support the president because of their perception as of him as a champion of the pro-life case. My op ed critiqued the president's party's participation in the march for life and the sincerity of his anti-abortion stance. I personally believe that the president is cynically using pro-life voters for his own electoral purposes and doesn't actually care about protecting innocent life at all." Which, like, huge eye roll at that "innocent life"--

Hemant [00:46:14] Yeah, no kidding.

Jessica [00:46:16] But, yeah.

Hemant [00:46:16] Whose? I mean, I know what he's saying, which I appreciate.

Jessica [00:46:21] Yeah.

Hemant [00:46:21] But I mean, you have to be willfully ignorant, just, to think Donald Trump actually gives a damn about, like, abortion rights or anti-abortion rights.

Jessica [00:46:30] I have to think that they sincerely believe that he's, like, a good--right? Like, people can't be--I don't know.

Hemant [00:46:36] Republicans are very gullible people. I mean, they really do think Trump supports everything they support.

Jessica [00:46:42] Yeah.

Hemant [00:46:42] When he doesn't give a shit about anything or anyone but himself.

Jessica [00:46:46] Yeah.

Hemant [00:46:47] But he's like, oh, who do I have to, like, appeal to, coal people? I love coal! I'll do anything for the coal!

Jessica [00:46:54] I've always been saying the coal is the best. All of my buildings are built with coal. There's just literal bricks of coal--

Hemant [00:46:58] He does, farmers, he does it with farmers, he does it with whoever they tell him "you need these people on your side."

Jessica [00:47:04] Yeah.

Hemant [00:47:05] That's why he's like, what, evangelicals? Oh, yeah. Jesus. Corinthians. I love that stuff.

Jessica [00:47:11] Two Corinthians or whatever he said. "Trump supporters who have contacted me think I don't--I don't care, either, and have denounced me as a baby killer. I simply suggested that the Democratic nominee for president is a better alternative than Donald Trump, even if he claims to be pro-life. He says his desire is to prevent abortions. However, I've come to believe that the best means of reducing abortion rates is not through restrictions and criminalization. I'm also not convinced that reversing Roe v. Wade would reduce abortion rates. Abortion rates are now lower than they were before the Supreme Court's decision to make abortion legally national. The best means of reducing abortion is expanding health coverage so every woman can consult a doctor about her medical needs. We need--" like, this guy is speaking my language. We need effective, comprehensible--comprehensive--

Hemant [00:47:55] I mean, it took him three years, but alright.

Jessica [00:47:57] --sexual education and greater act--access to other methods of birth control. And then he sent a couple samplings of some insults he's received and, like, keep in mind, this guy's a pastor and he's a white man. So he's kind of living in a little bit of a bubble. And so even this is getting through. "Daniel wrote, 'Get struck down by God, you pile of shit.' A man from Fort Lauderdale did not leave his name, but left a voicemail, which, after extolling the virtues of President Trump, told me 'Enjoy, hell, bitch!' Sarah Jane repeated--repeatedly called me a dumb fuck." I see it as dumb fuck--it may be dumb fucker. It's just dumb F-star-star-star-star [f***]. "She said I'm a demon rat," which I kind of--that's a pretty solid--

Hemant [00:48:41] Democrat. I got it, I got it.

Jessica [00:48:42] Oh! that's funny.

Hemant [00:48:44] You don't watch Fox News enough.

Jessica [00:48:45] I don't. Is that what they say?

Hemant [00:48:47] Yes.

Jessica [00:48:48] Huh. It's pretty good. It's like that's like C-plus word-play.

Hemant [00:48:53] Stop, stop, stop giving them any credit.

Jessica [00:48:55] "A worker of inequity and an instrument of Satan who wants to destroy America." So anybody, I mean, yeah. Anybody who steps toward a line gets the all the old, the old slam door treatment. Um, and that's all I have. How are we doing? We have seven minutes. Shit is bullshit. You know?

Hemant [00:49:12] We can just close up the shop, too.

Jessica [00:49:15] Um, speaking of shops.

Hemant [00:49:16] Look at me segue that one.

Jessica [00:49:19] We've got a shop open on friendlyatheistpodcast.com. Just click on, I think, store. Did we fix whatever is going on with mobile or no?

Hemant [00:49:28] Sure.

Jessica [00:49:28] Okay. Yeah, there's something going on mobile that works on desktop. If you are an old person like me who still uses a laptop pretty regularly. Also, last week was the first time we released transcripts of the--did we release them?

Hemant [00:49:40] No.

Jessica [00:49:41] I sent them to you! Jesus fucking Chr--okay. This week will be the first time we send transcripts.

Hemant [00:49:46] Yes, we will put up at least rough transcripts, but we'll try it.

Jessica [00:49:50] Yeah. So essentially we found a service that's relatively affordable, and what it sets out is pretty--it's a decent transcript. It's a little bit rough, especially because we kind of talk over each other, um, if I have the time, because it takes a few hours to go through and clean it up and, like, assign speakers.

Hemant [00:50:07] Would help us out a lot--well, we'll include the transcript link on our website. So anyone who might benefit from reading a transcript instead of listening to our lovely, angelic voices.

Jessica [00:50:18] [vocalizes melodically]

Hemant [00:50:18] If that sort of thing is something you like, please tell us. Because if no one cares for it, then we'll try to do something else instead. Like there's no reason to keep putting up a transcript if no one's gonna--

Jessica [00:50:30] No. Yeah. I mean, we can--we can do it in a much more cost--fast--effective way, AKA, free, if people aren't actually using it. But if people are using it and want to, you know, search things or whatever, you know. That was part of our Patreon thing, and we want to hold up to that. But we want to make sure we're actually, like, adding value to people's experience and not just putting out more shit that nobody reads or listens to. That's it. Oh, I saw Birds of Prey last weekend.

Hemant [00:51:00] That's a movie.

Jessica [00:51:01] It is the new Harley Quinn movie. It is extremely fun and good. It's obviously gotten terrible reviews, even though--it's--I guess--I think it was the number one movie at the box office last week and has been regarded as a flop because human women are in it, I guess. It's, if you like, kind of fun, gory comic booky fighting movie? Like, it's very comic booky in a way that's a little more fun than, like, DC movies tend to be. Does that mean anything to you?

Hemant [00:51:30] Nothing whatsoever.

Jessica [00:51:30] The fight choreography is super fun and dope. It's--it's a very enjoyable movie. I liked it a lot. It's what I look for in a--in that kind of, like--the Superman/Batman movies are just too dark and too heavy and too fuuucking boring for me. But like, this was fun and bright and, um, good times. Great oldies. Where can I find you on Twitter?

Hemant [00:51:51] I am @HemantMehta.

Jessica [00:51:52] You can follow me @blueburie. B L U E B U R I E. It's like if you said the word blueberry, but with a weird British accent. Once again, my friend called me that when I was 16 and here we are. Um, yeah, go to FriendlyAtheistPodcast.com to check out our store. Email us at FriendlyAtheistPodcast@gmail.com, and we will see you next week.

Hemant [00:52:17] A'ight.