Root Entry MatOST MatOST Microsoft Works MSWorksWPDoc LEO

by Michelle Broder & Max Kenol

Scene: Leoís apartment in Forest Hills, Queens, NY. CS is a kitchen table with a teacup and bowl of fruit: oranges, apples, bananas, a pack of cigarettes, bottles of vitamins. US is a counter & small refrigerator. On the counter is a tea kettle, a cup and saucer for tea, spoons, a box Lipton tea bags. In the refrigerator are a bottle of Coke, apple juice, seltzer and water. DSR is a chair and side table. On the table are phone, a Jewish bible, and a yamulke. SL is the door to the apartment.

Leo enters, with a Daily News. He is in his 70s, wears gray. Tries to be dapper but is a little schlumpy. He unlocks his door, enters, tries to close the door, but it doesn't quite shut. He gives up, comes in, takes off his jacket, lays the paper on the table, makes himself a cup of tea, and sits down at the table. Opens the paper. Leo speaks with a heavy Polish/Yiddish accent.

Leo

Letís see if itís the crap today as yesterday. Thatís (dat) nice. Muggings..different names. Dope dealers...different names. Train problems...different trains. And itís the same crooks in the government getting rich while they sit on their tuchises.

Oy, Mayor Giuliani, (add some current complaint about Giuliani and money). So whatís news? And the subways going up to a dollar and me living on social security (Joke can be modernized). Ayyyyy. Koch was no angel but at least he was Jewish.

So what we got for jobs today? McDonalds still wants the altakockers to serve the morning egg McMuffins. Nu, thereis good money in being a security guard (pause) What

am I gonna do, sit and stare at a door all day? (reads) Garment workers needed. No thanks. I been a furrier for forty years. (reads) This might be something. Messenger needed to deliver packages in advertising district. No bike necessary. Sounds good.

(phone rings. Leo waits for 4 rings before he picks up.)

Hello, whois this? TV Guide? Listen, I donit want no subscription. Iive had my TV since 1989 and maybe Iive watched 60 minutes 3 or 4 times. Other than that Iive got to use, the what do you call it, yeah, the pliers, to switch the channel. Why get cocksited, I donit watch TV. Thanks for calling.

(Hangs up. Goes back to paper. Reads. Long pause. Phone rings again. Leo goes over, sits, waits for the 4 rings, picks up.)

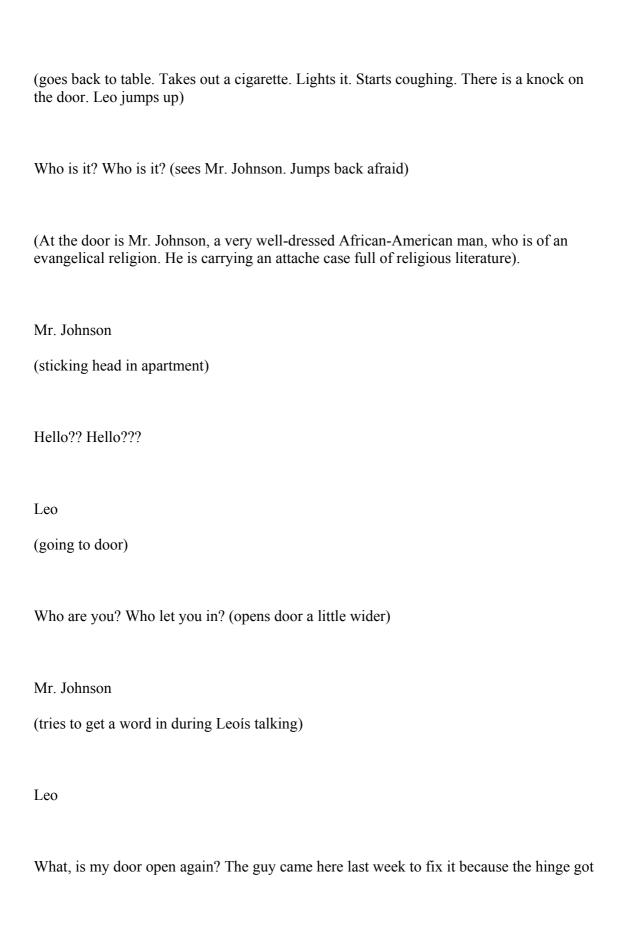
Hello, whois this? Ooohhhh, Metropolitan Opera House. What can I do for you? Nesure, I go to the opera..in my neighborhood (pause) La Boheme? La Traviata? How much? (puase) Four hundred dollars a year!!?? You got a discount for senior citizens? (pause) Alright, alright, what fine opera should I support? (pause) Ring Circle and Parsifal!!!?? You want that I should go see Wagner???? (slams phone down).

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(goes back to paper, rips out the teeny tiny ad, brings it back to phone, sits)

Alright, whatis the number? (dials)

Hello? can I speak to the person in charge of hiring the messenger? Thanks. (waits). Hello, my name is Leo Broder and Iím interested in being a part-time messanger. Nesure I got experinece. I got two feet, I walk fast, Iím always twent feet ahead of my daughter. Rockefeller Plaza? 3:30? Itís 2:00 now. Right. Eh, who do I ask for? George. Thanks.



stuck. Nu, I gotta call him again. (sees Johnsonís papers, motions him to enter.) Oohhh, youíre from the tenantsí association. Come in. Itís been a month since the dupstairs neighbors flooded their bathroom. The plaster from the ceiling is still falling down. I call and call teh super, nobody returns my phone calls, I donít know what else to docan you do something about it?
Mr. Johnson
Iím sorry, sir, but Iím not from the tenantsí association.
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Leo
No?! (steps back) So who are you?
Mr. Johnson
My name is Mr. Johnson (holds out hand to shake Leoís hand.)
Leo
Mr. Johnson, nice, but what do you want?

Mr. Johnson
Iíve come to bring you the good news.
Leo
Ohhhhh, good news. Well, thatís a nice change. Have a seat. (Mr. Johnson sits at table.) You gotta first name?
Mr. Johnson
Timothy
Leo
Timothy, we got apple juice, grapefruit juice prune juice, seltzer and water.
Mr. Johnson
No, thanks.
Leo

Listen, Timothy, here you sit, you talk, you drink.
Mr. Johnson
Oh, in that case, Iill have some water.
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Leo
(gets Johnson a glass of water, sits down at the table)
So talk.
Mr. Johnson
(ignores water)
What do you think about life on earth?
Leo
The world is nuts, you canít ask from intelligence from our leaders, and there ought to be

a law that all children should call their parents at least once a week.
Mr. Johnson
Do you believe in being that there are many wrong religions?
Leo
Nesure. But Judaism is the best. In fact, itis the oldest religion around, except for the Chinese.
Mr. Johnson
But do you believe in being saved?
Leo
Saved? You should save my ceiling.
(during the following speech, Leo starts cleaning and straightening up. Mr. Johnson becomes enraptured and stares into space).
Mr. Johnson

Do you believe in everlasting life? Do you believe in the kingdom of God? Oh, Lord, if a person does not have love, everything else is useless. Therefore
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Leo
(overlapping)
What? Is there something on my wall? (checks it out). Nah
Mr. Johnson
early Christians were often given such reminders as these
Leo
Slow down, I donít understand your accentYou want a vitamin, a cup of tea? (makes a cup of tea for Mr. Johnson)

Mr. Johnson
Have tender affection for one another, welcome one another, slave for one another, become kind to one another, and the though compassionate to one another, continue putting up with one another, and forgiving one another freely, if anyone has a cause for complaint
Leo
(getting concerned for Mr. Johnson, putting tea on table)
Mr. Johnson
against another, keep comforting one another, and building up ne another, be peaceable with one another, love one anotherand the Bible says(he opens his bible)
Leo
Oh! You're talking bible. I'ill get mine. (he goes and gets his bible, puts on yarmulke, sits back at table close to Mr. Johnson)
Mr. Johnson
Matthew 10, verse 16, And God himself will be with them and he will wipe out every tear from their eyes and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcrypain will be no more!

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Leo

In the book of Shimos, Parshas Shimos, Perek Yod Gimel, Pasook Yod Daled, it says,

ìAnochi, eloheyt ahvichah elohey avraham, elohey yitzchak, elohey yaakov. Anochi. Anochoî

I am the G-d of thy forefathers. I am that I am.

Mr. Johnson

Revelation 21, Verse 3 and 4. God is not partial but in every nation the man that fears him and works for him, righteousness is acceptable to him.

Leo

And in Yitro, Perek tet vav, Pasook hay, it says, Ooshmartam et breetee, vehayeetem lee sgoolah meechal ha-amin. Thatís Jethro 15, Verse 5: When you honor my covenant, you will be more precious to me than all the nations. The chosen people!!
(The following speeches of Leo and Mr. Johnson are spoken simultaneously)
Mr. Johnson
Timothy, Chapter 12, Verse 7. If you ever have some trouble with a fellow Christian, do not stop talking to him, do not hold resentment, but straighten out the matter in the spirit of love. And in Matthew 19, Verse 5,
Leo
Oobayahd chazakah, hatzee-aynu hashem me-emizrayem. Thatís Exodus. And with an outstretched hand the Lord brought us out from Egypt. And in Bamidbar, Parshas Masay, it says, You shall inherit the land of Canaan to dwell in her becaue I have given you the land to inherit. And if G-d repeats himself twice, then, nesure, Israel is ours.
Mr. Johnson
When Jehovah God created man and woman, he joined them together to produce a finally and they would make the earth into a holy paradise

Leo

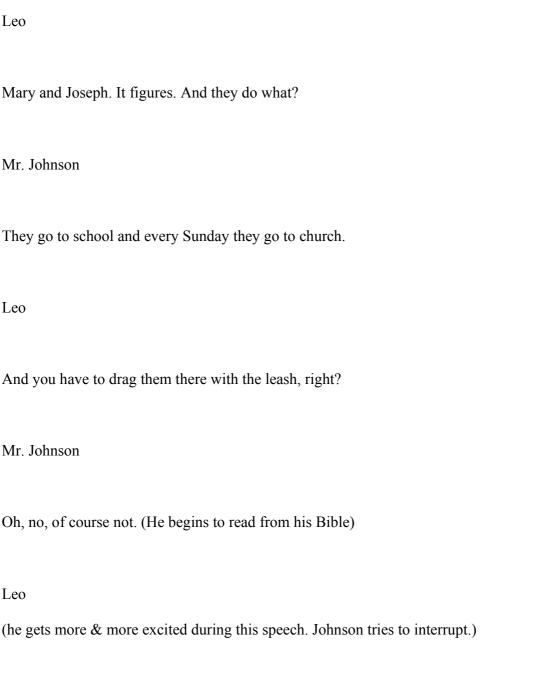
And after all the trouble G-d went to to get us out of Egypt, you vant I should change religions?? Listen!!! (Johnson stops talking) We wandered in the desert for 40 years!
Mr Johnson
Before being born on earth as a man, the Lord has been in heaven as a might spirit person!!
Leo
We met G-d face to face on Mt. Sinai!!!!
Mr. Johnson
He has a spiritual body invisible to man!!!!!!!!!!!
Leo
OH!! You're talking trinity! I don't vant to hear about no holy families, no holy ghostsThere's only one G-d!!!!

Mr. Johnson
AMEN!!!
Leo
Amen is right! Now pack your bags because you're going. Thank you, but don't come back next Sunday!
(He bundles up Mr. Johnsonís things and dumps them by the door. Johnson gets up to get his things. During the following monologue, he will try to get out the apartment, but the door wonít open. Phone rings. After 4 rings, Leo picks up.)
Hello, whois this? Oh Michele, nice to hear from you after 3 weeks. What do you want? Youire moving in with the Irish shaygitz? Thatis nice. My opinion? After 10 years youire asking? Well, you don't act right, you dress like a boyWhat? Your mother's getting married again? Also to a goy?Thank G-d. Listen, Michelle, you want to go to Atlantic City with me
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Leo (contid)
this weekend? You're busy. Oh. There's someone at your door. Listen, why don't you call me at the end of the month when you're free. (He hangs up the phone slowly. To the phone) I love you too.

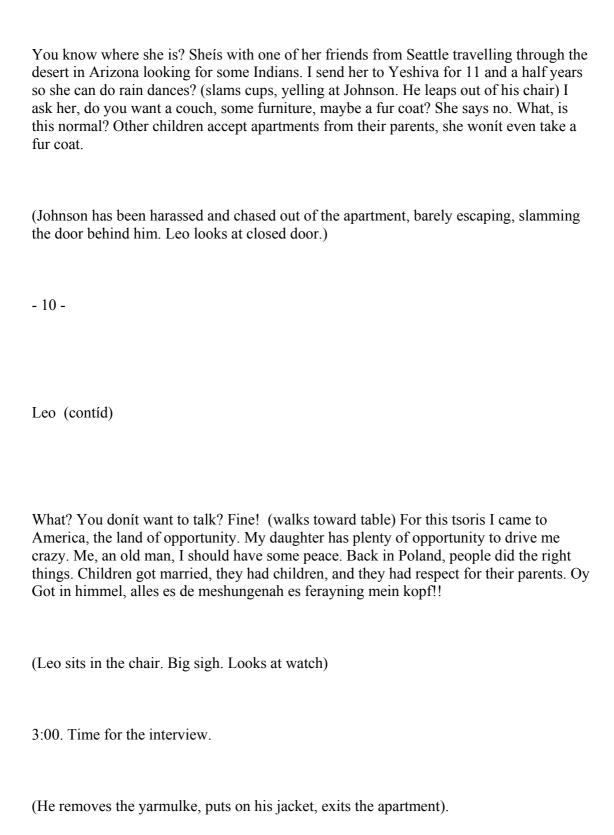
(Leo goes back to the kitchen table and sits dejectedly. Mr. Johnson has stopped trying to get out and has been listening to the end of the phone conversation. He moves tentatively towards Leo.)
Mr. Johnson
Exodus 10, Verse 7. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land that the Lord thy God giveth thee.
Leo
I thought I asked you to leave.
Mr. Johnson
I was going to, but the door got stuck.
Leo
Have a seat. (Johnson sits.) Here. Have an orange. You got children?

Oh, yes.
Leo
Do they make you suffer?
Mr. Johnson
Oh, no.
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Leo
So what are their names?
Mr. Johnson
Eve, Mary and Joseph.

Mr. Johnson



I have to force my daughter. Every Rosh Hashanah for the past 10 years, I bought my daughter a \$75.00 seat for two days to hear the shofar and then another seat on Yom Kippur. What did she do two years ago? She didnít show up. Why? Because she was with one of her sheygitz friends. And this year sheís going steady with some Irish guy and is too busy to go to shul. I buy her all these different vitamins, A, B, C, shmee. And what happens? She doesnít call. For 2 months I donít hear from her. (starts poking Johnson)



## The End