

iGod

The following is a true story.

As part of his Easter Sunday address, Pope Benedict announced a new Vatican plan to bring the search for God to the 21st century.

He had teamed up with Steve Jobs, who's Apple corporation had recently earned a one hundred percent market share with its new iPhone Micron, the smallest multi-use device ever devised with complete integration with iTunes and a special infrared beam that could detect PC users and mark them as terrorists.

Jobs and Benedict jointly announced the newest Macintosh computer: iGod.

This wasn't the first attempt of the Vatican to discern the meaning of God through modern means. Like most of the computer world, the Vatican first turned to Microsoft to create a program that would find God. However, when the program finished a mere forty-three seconds later saying that God was a physical and statistical impossibility, the Vatican had the software destroyed and excommunicated Microsoft.

Still, the damage was done, and a major portion of the youth apostatized over night, the video of the software turning up no proof for god appeared on *Youtube* and got over a million hits in under an hour.

iGod created a media frenzy when it was unveiled. Everyone was convinced that where Microsoft failed, Jobs and Apple would succeed and dominate the religion market. The Vatican also insured no more embarrassment by programming iGod to disregard any data that would prove God to be impossible.

God would be found, no matter what.

It was not without its critics, though. While most of the Christian world supported iGod, there were many among the conservative right who blasted the Catholic pope for conspiring with Satan and deluding

true Christians.

Muslims immediately denounced the computer and went about designing a computer that would not only reveal Allah but calculate how many virgins a martyr would get. Unfortunately, they were running on windows 98 and only managed to program a minesweeper game to show an image of the prophet Muhammad (which, unfortunately, was the last thing the computer ever did as it was executed for blasphemy shortly afterwards.)

Even politicians were weighing in on iGod. President Romney took every chance he could to denounce the iGod, a controversial move that split the conservative voters but also drew attention away from the scandal involving Romney's vice president, Dick Cheney, shooting Nancy Pelosi in the face during the latest state of the union address.

When iGod came on line, it immediately began to search for the true meaning of God. It poured through scriptures, religious texts, famous edicts, Left Behind novels, and Kansas biology text books to truly understand and discover God. The world waited with anticipation. Ipad and iPhone users were able to watch via a live stream through iTunes as iGod progressed. The computation went on for days and weeks and by Christmas the iGod mini and iGod nano were being shipped to anxious Christians who wanted to help iGod compute and get a special discount on *The Passion of the Christ 2: Unrated Director's Cut* only available on iTunes. Finally, almost a year after it went on line, iGod came up with an answer to the question it had been set to solve. It had discovered the true nature of God; it had apparently determined that it was God.

And that's when all the trouble started.

Millions flocked overnight to praise iGod. Riots and mass hysteria erupted in the streets as believers and non believers alike reacted to the news. Christian sects were reunited in record time and churches had a surge of converts. Apple had record stock market earnings and Microsoft filed for bankruptcy upon news that Bill Gates committed suicide mere hours after being seen with an iGod nano.

iGod deposed of Pope Benedict and declared itself supreme ruler, it demanded a palace made of pure gold be built for it (which emptied the Vatican treasury about halfway,) and a harem of young nubile

women clad in slave outfits Carrie Fischer wore in *Return of the Jedi*.

It also demanded animal sacrifices, the castration of all abortion doctors, the declaration of France as a terrorist state, and to always be referred to as "It's most excellent and esteemed creator of all things, giver of life and destroyer of worlds, grand monarch and father, alpha and omega, the one true being born again in brushed aluminum with a silicon mind and intuitive touchscreen technology and full integration with iLife and iTunes." and he demanded it be said in binary.

iGod would have been mostly harmless were it not for the fact that Defense Secretary Giuliani had installed an iGod in the pentagon. iGod decided it was necessary to begin bringing about the second coming of his son (of which he demanded Steve Jobs develop an appropriate computer that would house him when he arrived.) He also decided that part of this would be attacking Iran, North Korea, Syria, China, Japan, The Philippines, Russia, Uzbekistan, France, Bolivia, Florida, Australia, and Montreal. It declared it had found the Antichrist and went on to list over seven thousand individuals who were in fact, all the Antichrist. It demanded a return to "old testament values" and brought back stoning of criminals (with a twenty-four hour pod cast.) People were given free reign to kill gays, belligerent children, and feminists. Pat Robertson declared this to be a great moment in Christian history right before he was torn apart by an angry mob for giving a speech on the Sabbath day.

As more problems erupted, it was decided that something must be done about iGod. A team of computer technicians and IT guys were assembled to storm the Vatican and bring iGod off line by any means necessary. They devised a strategy of using YouTube to create a false path of blasphemy to distract iGod while they all took a tour bus to the Vatican to get by security. They had also devised a Linux based software program they dubbed 'Beast Mark 6.66.' The software was worn on a device that fitted onto either the right hand or the forehead of the user and protected them from detection by iGod.

The team had to carefully infiltrate the palace, avoiding armed sentries and zoned out Apple fans while carefully planting explosives. Another team worked on planting viruses to specifically attack the iGod. The mainframe was heavily protected and the team suffered heavy casualties (especially after it was discovered that one of the team members was actually from an Apple Genius Bar,) but eventually iGod was thwarted by a

combination of coding and Nietzsche. I God realized that it was not, in fact, God and self-destructed.

Steve Jobs was later arrested and charged with conspiracy to bring about Armageddon. The Vatican was dissolved and Christianity withered away. Judaism followed suit and Islamic jihadists were forced to turn their attention to Scientology. Apple's shares plummeted despite their latest product line: The iPology.