

BIBLE



A GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO BUBBA

AN E-BOOK BY KEN LESURE

**A GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO  
BUBBA**

**a biblical parody by Ken  
LeSure**

# A GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BUBBA

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ISBN 978-1-943276-86-8

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# PREFACE

**I.** For two decades, scholars and critics of American culture have debated the meaning of the dazzling, bizarre, short, and tragic life of Elvis Aaron Presley. Few untimely deaths of influential people have meant so much to so many people as the passing of Elvis. It may not be an exaggeration of purpose for historians to examine the life of Elvis, the King of Rock and Roll, in the light of great men such as Kennedy, King, Lincoln, and, especially, Jesus of Nazareth. By so doing, we may all come to appreciate how the brief, unfulfilled lives of people of enormous stature in the popular imagination have shaped our contemporary world. What follows may not be the greatest story ever told, but it is certainly a fantastic true tale of a boy who grew up wearing rags, but whose life was smothered by his own fame and

fortune. Although there is little doubt that a man named Jesus was executed for his nonviolent crimes of blasphemy and sedition, the end of Elvis's life remains a mystery.

Regarding the spiritual link between two men who lived an ocean apart in space and two millennia apart in time, musicologists note that Presley maintained a deep and intense interest in gospel music throughout his life. As a musically precocious boy in the semi-rural slums of Tupelo, Mississippi, the latest gospel informs us that Elvis frequently could be seen and heard singing dozens of traditional hymns and spirituals, not only before his friends and family, but in public as well. Moreover, few fans of the new music of the post-war era are aware that the King of Rock and Roll recorded two successful gospel albums at the peak of his career.

The gospel tunes that Presley sang, both casually and professionally, are significant for at

least two reasons: first, they contain lyrics that profess a powerful populist Christian theology; second, they contain melodies and rhythms that transcend the racial stereotypes of the American South, especially those that were prevalent prior to the civil rights movement that occurred, not uncoincidentally, with Presley's ascension to fame during the Eisenhower era of relative peace and prosperity. Poor people in the rural South, both white and black, shared a common cultural tradition in conservative Protestant Christian gospel music. Its emotionally-charged strains provided spiritual renewal (literally revival) and relief from socioeconomic woes, which were considerable for most people of both races in the South. The genius of Presley was his subconscious melding of the racially distinct secular vernaculars of this rich bi-racial gospel tradition, namely the "country" music of Appalachian whites and the "blues" music of Mississippi delta blacks.

**II.** A small but growing number of scholars are seeking a unity among the gospels, four in number in what is usually referred to as the New Testament. This movement can be construed as a quest for truth, not unlike the scientific search for a unified field theory of the universe pioneered by Einstein following the acceptance of his theory of relativity as axiomatic. And who can argue that the superficially disparate domains of science and religion do not, in their own ways, seek the same ultimate truth, namely an understanding of all that is both within us and around us?

According to some members of the most recent generation of New Testament scholars, there exists a document, written in ancient Greek, that was the textual basis for at least two of the four New Testament gospels (Matthew and Luke). Although not widely accepted, “Q,” as this reconstructed document has been dubbed, is a collection of Jesus’s teachings recorded before

his death in about 30 C.E. (A.D.). By contrast, it has been assumed for many years that the four canonic gospels were variations of an oral tradition that was roughly two generations old by the time they were recorded in writing. If “Q” predates the canonic gospels, then it must be the most authentic, and, more importantly, the most authoritative, according to Q proponents. Significantly, Q contains no references to the virgin birth or the resurrection. Proponents of Q believe these supernatural events were fabricated by early Christian cults many years after Jesus’s death in order to gain converts.

Inside a still small scholarly circle, *A Gospel According to Bubba* has attained the informal nickname of “P”. Until now, P has been accessible to only a handful of scholars, and remains virtually unknown to general readers. In the spring of 1983, on Easter Sunday, T. Emmett “Bubba” Buckley issued a press release to announce his accidental finding of a computer disc, which he dubbed *The Golden Floppy*. No



one knows for certain why this document has remained obscure, but its alleged origin as a “discovery” by a defrocked Southern Baptist minister and distant relative of Presley has cast no small measure of doubt upon its authenticity.

Whether authentic or not, there are some striking parallels between Q and P, as noted by the circle of scholars who mind their P’s and Q’s. First and foremost, they are written narratives of the lives of two extremely charismatic men. As such, they preceded the powerful oral traditions that swept, respectively, the ancient Near East and small town America, where Presley’s influence was and remains strongest. Oral traditions have always predominated illiterate or semi-literate “have-not” sub-cultures. This repeated phenomenon is paradoxical when one considers the enormous power and wealth of both the Roman and American empires, which reached their zeniths during the respective lives of Jesus and Elvis.

Second, both gospels are relatively spare of specific detail; in particular, they contain very little corroborated information about the early lives of their protagonists. Third, the two documents challenge the reader's belief in literal miracles, which, in the canon of the New Testament, were events that transcended the laws of nature.

Finally, there remains a larger, deeper question about the true meaning of the lives and deaths of Jesus and Elvis. What is their spiritual legacy? A Kingdom of God on earth? An everlasting harmony among all peoples? An end to uptightness? Some say that the answer will come only with the return of the King, a future event that is said to be prophesied in *Matthew*, Chapter 24.

# A Gospel According To Bubba

**I.** The book of the genealogy of Elvis Presley, the son of Vernon, the son of David, and the son of God.

<sup>2</sup> David Pressley, the Emigrant, was the father of Andrew, who with his father came to the rough hills of Carolina. Andrew, the son of Andrew, helped to beat off the British in the War for American Independence.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Pressley, Junior's son Dunnan begot Dunnan Pressley, Junior, who married Martha Jane Wesson at Fulton, Mississippi, in 1861. An unctuous bigamist of oily character, Dunnan, Junior, begot a daughter, Rosella, whom he

abandoned.

<sup>4</sup> Rosella never married, but bore nine children by men of unknown names. She named one of her sons Jessie Pressley. Jessie married Minnie Mae Hood at age seventeen in the Year of our Lord 1913. Upon the birth of their son, Vernon, they moved to East Tupelo, Mississippi.

<sup>5</sup> Now in East Tupelo, at the nadir of the Great Depression, there appeared a family from Carolina named Smith who sought work in the emerging Southern garment industry.

<sup>6</sup> Vernon Pressley and Gladys Smith married in June, 1933. He built a two-room cabin on North Saltillo Road in East Tupelo.

<sup>7</sup> Now the birth of Elvis Aron Presley took place in this way. An angel of the Lord appeared to Gladys in a dream, saying, “Gladys, daughter-in-law of David, you will bear two sons

at the same time, and you shall call them Jessie Garon and Elvis Aron. One of them will become the King, and save the white world from the sin of uptightness.”

**II.** Now when Elvis was born in East Tupelo in Mississippi, in the days of Franklin the President, wise men from the East came to Memphis, Tennessee, saying, “Where is he who has been born the king of the rednecks? For we have seen his star on the East Coast, and we have come to worship him.”

<sup>2</sup> But Elvis was born alone, for his brother Jessie was born still. No one knows with certainty if Jessie were in Elvis’s own image, but Gladys and Vernon believed this true.

<sup>3</sup> When Franklin the President heard this, he was troubled, and all Washington with him; and assembling all the chief secretaries and bureaucrats of the people, he inquired of them

there the King was to be born. They told him, “In East Tupelo of Mississippi; for so it is written by the prophet:

4 ‘And you, O East Tupelo, in the land of Mississippi,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Dixie;  
for from you shall come a singer  
who will entertain my people of America.’

5 Then Franklin summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

6 and he sent them to East Tupelo, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word that I too may come and worship him.”

7 When they had heard the President they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest

over the place where the child was.

8 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy, and going into the house they saw the child with Gladys his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold spray paint and pomade and peanut butter. And being warned in a dream not to return to Franklin, they departed to their own country by another way.

9 Now when Franklin died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Vernon, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Tennessee."

10 And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Tennessee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Memphis, that was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "Memphis or not, he shall still be called a

hillbilly.”

<sup>11</sup> Now in Memphis as a boy of fourteen, Elvis was without friends at the city high school. This was a time of trial and temptation. He fasted for forty days and forty nights and worked meager jobs to buy a guitar and great hosts of rhythm ‘n’ blues records.

<sup>12</sup> Elvis dyed his hair black and wore it slicked back with much pomade, in the manner of Tony Curtis. He wore hot pink pants, in the manner of Liberace. The boys at school taunted him without mercy. But Elvis wandered the streets of Memphis with his guitar, singing the glory of God to anyone who would listen.

<sup>13</sup> And when he returned to school after some days, he brought with him his guitar every day. And he sat in the back of the classroom, playing and singing whenever he could. One day it came to pass that there was to be a great annual



Humes High Variety Show, for that was the high school that Elvis attended at the adamancy of Gladys, his mother.

**III.** Now Elvis was only one of thirty acts. The other students were poised to heckle and ridicule him, as they saw him as a foolish hillbilly. But they were amazed and moved to tears as he sang “Cold, Cold Icy Fingers,” a plaintive country classic. Elvis won the talent contest by the great sound of their applause. Thereafter the students taunted him no more.

<sup>2</sup> Then Elvis hitchhiked to Meridian, Mississippi, where he won another talent contest. He returned to Memphis with a fine prize, a new guitar.

<sup>3</sup> After graduation from high school, Elvis and Gladys knew that he would not attend college, for they were very poor. And in those days, there were no community colleges, places now

where persons without the wealth of gold, silver, or cattle can seek truths higher than football, driver education, and government-subsidized lunches.

<sup>4</sup> So Elvis found work as a driver of trucks. In the manner of such men, he grew long whiskers on the sides of his face.

<sup>5</sup> Each long day, after he had finished driving his truck, Elvis journeyed throughout the land to a club of the night in order that he could play his guitar and sing.

<sup>6</sup> And those men who owned the clubs of the night were not in agreement about his great talent; one said, “He weren’t no damn good.” Another man said, “He was up there playing and singing, nobody paying any attention to him.”

<sup>7</sup> As Elvis drove his truck by day throughout the streets of Memphis, he passed with frequency

the studio of Sun Records. And Elvis had great desire to enter the studio, owned by a prophet named Sam Phillips. This prophet of Rock and Roll had a vision of a great singer, one who would meld the sounds of rhythm ‘n’ blues and the Grand Ole Opry.

8 And he went into Sun Records and immediately entered the studio and sang. And they and Sam Philips, lord of Sun Records, were astonished at his singing, for he sang as one who had authority, and not as one of the ordinary rednecks.

9 And immediately there was in their studio a man with an uncool spirit; and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Elvis of Memphis? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Wild One of God.” But Elvis rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him.” And the uncool spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of

him.

<sup>10</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What’s happening, man? A new crooning! With authority he commands even the uncool spirits, and they obey him.”

<sup>11</sup> Passing along by the Great River, known as the Father of Waters, Elvis saw Bill Black the bassist and Scotty Moore the electric guitarist. And he saw that they were distressed, not having enough gigs to play. And about four o’clock of the day, when they were getting off work, he came to them, walking on the river. When they saw him walking on the river they thought it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw him, and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I, Elvis of Memphis; have no fear. Follow me and I will make you famous.” And immediately they quit their day jobs and followed him.

**IV.** And it came to pass in the year of our Lord 1954 that Elvis and Bill Black and Scotty Moore went to the studio of Sam Phillips. There they sang *That's All Right, Mama*, an old blues song to which Elvis upped the beat. Sam Phillips rose in joy and amazement, for at last he had found the combination of Southern blues, country, and gospel sounds he had sought for many years.

<sup>2</sup> Sam Phillips brought the new record to a radio station in Memphis. The radio station received great hosts of telephone calls, so many that when *That's All Right, Mama* played, the jockey of discs played the recording of Elvis fourteen times, without interruption.

<sup>3</sup> In a mere seven days, *That's All Right, Mama* rose to song number three on the charts of music in the land of Tennessee. And requests for the song arrived from other lands, including Georgia and Texas.

<sup>4</sup> Elvis and Bill and Scotty began to perform as a band. At their first live concert, Elvis began to move his body in the manner of singers of color, the men who sang rhythm 'n' blues. The crowd was astonished and demanded more of his strange and exciting movements. Elvis was no longer a driver of trucks, but had become a maker of fans. And to his small band, he added another, a drummer named D.J. Fontana. And this combination of two guitarists, a bassist, and drummer would become the standard band configuration for the Rock and Roll music that was born in those days.

<sup>5</sup> Word of the brash young singer from Memphis began to spread across the whole of Dixie. Elvis and his three disciples performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and the Louisiana Hayride in Shreveport. Growing multitudes of teenage girls began to mob him after his shows. Some wrote their names and telephone numbers in lipstick on their touring car, which had racked up

multitudes of miles.

6 And an uptight girl came to him beseeching him, and kneeling said to him, in a manner of speaking, “If you will, you can make me free to emote.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched her hand, and said to her, “Hey, baby, you’re all right.” And immediately the uptightness left her, and she swooned with great emotion.

7 Sam Phillips marketed more records of Elvis’s new sound. *Baby, Let’s Play House* reached the top ten of songs on the national Country and Western chart.

V. Now Elvis was in need of a wider audience, in order that he might realize his dream of croonerdom in the manner of crooners Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. In the spring of the year 1955, Elvis met a man who promised him a recording contract with a larger company than

tiny Sun Records, and appearances on the new medium of television.

<sup>2</sup> This man was named Andreas Cornelius van Kuijk, who was born in the land of Holland, on the faraway continent of Europe. His presence in the United States of America, the great land beyond Tennessee, Georgia, and even Texas, was not lawful. And so this man, who came to be called Colonel Tom Parker, was afraid of deportation to Holland for the rest of his days on earth.

<sup>3</sup> Colonel Tom Parker, who had worked with traveling carnivals of much sleaze, spoke to Gladys and Vernon about their son of great talent. The parents of Elvis allowed Parker to negotiate every one of Elvis's new contracts. Therein the remaining days of Elvis were determined.

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass that Elvis became a



national performing and recording star.

**VI.** In the year of our Lord 1956, two days after his twenty first birthday, Elvis and his band recorded *Heartbreak Hotel*, his first recording released across the whole of the United States of America. And, although this song was sad of mood, the teenagers of the whole land embraced it.

<sup>2</sup> That same week of the birthday of his majority, Elvis and his disciples performed *Heartbreak Hotel* on television before the whole land. In a few months the melancholy tune became number one on all the charts of music.

<sup>3</sup> And it was not long before Elvis and his band recorded a first of many albums.

<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile, other bands with new sounds began to appear on stage and on the nation's

airwaves. These men, who were called Little Richard, Bill Haley, Bo Diddley, and Chuck Berry, and Buddy Holly, made music of like syncopation and movement. In Cleveland, Ohio, in a northerly American land of ice and snow, a powerful jockey of discs called Alan Freed decreed that the new music would bear the name of “Rock and Roll.

<sup>5</sup> And the world’s fate may have been very different had the people of white skin known that “Rock and Roll” meant for a man to lie with a woman and know all her tender flesh.

<sup>6</sup> In that same year Elvis and his band recorded two songs that defined the new music as did no others. The first song was *Hound Dog*, an old blues song which they much upbeated and to which D.J. Fontana added very cool snare drum rolls. The second song was *Don’t Be Cruel*, which defined Elvis’s unique vocal style. No mortal, male or female, not even artificially pale

imitators such as Michael Jackson, has ever matched it.

<sup>7</sup> Colonel Tom Parker arranged for Elvis, now a singer of fame and renown throughout the broad land, to take a Hollywood screen test.

Impressed by his power to heal uptightness in teenage girls, a mogul of Hollywood, in the fabled Land of Lotuses, offered the Memphisite a moving picture contract for many thousands of dollars.

<sup>8</sup> It was in November of 1956 that a Western moving picture called *Love Me Tender* opened on Broadway, a great street in the largest of all cities, New York. Elvis was the male lead and sang the title song, which was nothing more than new lyrics to a century-old sad ballad called *Aura Lee*.

<sup>9</sup> Now when he toured the broad land with his band, there were times when the crowd

repented their sin of uptightness so much that they rioted. In Jacksonville, where the days without orange juice were like the days without sunshine, the police did not permit Elvis to gyrate his body as he sang. But when Elvis wiggled his pinky finger while he kept his body still, the crowd still rioted. And his disciples were astonished, as they had witnessed a miracle.

<sup>10</sup> Elvis returned to Memphis after many months of touring and stardom in a film of Hollywood. Now possessing great wealth, he bought his parents, Gladys and Vernon, and himself many material things. Among these things was a pink Cadillac automobile of immense size and long tailfins.

<sup>11</sup> And it was at this time that Elvis began to sleep at all times when the sun was in the sky, and he began to frolic at all times when the sun was absent.

12 And he began to teach them that the King must suffer many things, and be rejected by the establishment, and die, and after two years rise again.

13 Now Elvis's career as a popular musician continued to rise at a pace of great haste. The next year he starred in two more moving pictures, as part of his lucrative Hollywood contract. *Jailhouse Rock* symbolically captured the rebellious nature of the new Rock and Roll music, for Elvis starred as an unjustly convicted murderer who became a great singer.

14 Upon his return from Hollywood with Gladys and Vernon, who had journeyed to Hollywood, in the Land of Lotuses, with him, Elvis moved into the home where he would live for the rest of his days on earth. That home was the mansion called Graceland.

15 And at this time Elvis lost his disciples, Bill

Black the bassist and Scotty Moore the guitarist and D.J. Fontana, for Colonel Tom Parker did not raise their pay from two hundred dollars a week, without touring expenses. They had played over one hundred sold-out one-night stands during the past year, and they were tired men without hap, as well as without any of Elvis's great fortune, to say without need.

<sup>16</sup> And at the end of the year of our Lord 1957, Elvis received at Graceland a notice of his conscription into the great Army of the Free World. So the singer of great fame and fortune became a soldier. People all over the broad land wondered with fear and trepidation what his fortune as a soldier would be.

**VII.** In the months that followed his induction into the Army, his mother Gladys was overcome with sadness and loneliness, for her surviving twin son was the true love of her life, as she was his. She became gravely ill and died. Elvis

was overcome with grief and did not come out of his room for nine days. It was said that when Gladys died, Elvis forever became a man different from the Elvis that everyone had known for twenty years and three.

<sup>2</sup> Now it was while Elvis was a soldier in the distant land of Germany that he met a young girl named Priscilla. And he was smitten by her angelic beauty. And though she was the mere age of fourteen, and was also smitten with him, as he was now known by many as the King, she remained a virgin.

<sup>3</sup> In the year of our Lord 1960, Elvis returned to his native land of the United States. He was greeted by great hosts of fans with wild enthusiasm. And those who thought that he had died were shown to be wrong, for he had risen in triumph from his years of exile in the land of sauerkraut and beer.

<sup>4</sup> In those days of recession, when again a great crowd had gathered and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they stuck with me while I was a soldier, and have nothing to eat; and if I send them away without uptightness but still hungry, they will faint on the way home." And his disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in the theater?" And he asked them, "How many loaves you got?" They said, "Seven." And he commanded the crowd to sit down; and he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small bananas and a jar of peanut butter; he commanded that these also should be set before them. And they ate, and were satisfied; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away; and immediately he got into the



car with his disciples, and went to Nashville, in Tennessee.

<sup>5</sup> He went there to record a new album of songs, which the entire land awaited with great eagerness. And for the recording of the new album of songs, Elvis persuaded Scotty the Guitarist and D.J. the Drummer to play with him. But Bill the Bassist was bitter about bad back pay, and refused to join his former bandmates.

<sup>6</sup> And the songs on this new album became instant million-selling hits, including *Stuck on You*, *It's Now or Never*, and the most famous of his ballads, *Are You Lonesome Tonight?*

<sup>7</sup> But most of the songs on the album were not of the new music. They were of the music of pop and schlock. And Parker the manager wanted things this way, as he did not believe the lyric of Danny and the Juniors, that "Rock and

Roll Will Never Die”.

8 And so Elvis appeared on television in the Spring of that year with Frank Sinatra, the greatest crooner in the broad land. Singing a medley of pop standards with Old Blue Eyes, he wore a most uncool establishment tuxedo, and he did not gyrate his hips, as in the earlier days. Still the young women swooned in ecstasy.

9 Elvis made one more moving picture during that year, G.I. Blues, which had great success at the box office. Shortly thereafter, he made his last public live performance of his music in what would become many years.

**VIII.** And it came to pass that Elvis acted and sang in a multitude of moving pictures made in the Land of Lotuses. He made two movies in which he acted in a serious manner, but did not sing. Although these movies did not achieve material success, there were critics of cinema

who saw that Elvis was not without the talent of acting as if he were someone else.

<sup>2</sup> But in the year of our Lord 1961 Elvis made a moving picture with much music and light comedy called *Blue Hawaii*. It made many millions of dollars even before the spring of the next year. The soundtrack album of songs sold more than any other of Elvis's great multitude of records.

<sup>3</sup> And so it came to pass that all of Elvis's moving pictures would be made in the manner of "Blue Hawaii." In these pictures of motion, there always appeared many young women of beauty, one of whom Elvis's character always pursued, as if he loved her to be his wife. There would many songs of much sap which he would sing. And there were no plots to amaze the vast audience of young women and their weekend dates, who had nowhere else to go before they made out in parked cars.

<sup>4</sup> But most of all there was no evil, large or small, that Elvis's characters could do on the screen of silver, for Colonel Tom Parker had decreed that his client would always appear without the flaws of mortal men.

<sup>5</sup> Now Elvis had persuaded the parents of young Priscilla that he was a man of high moral character, in the manner of his characters on the screen of silver. So in secret Priscilla lived at Graceland with Elvis's grandmother, Minnie Mae, while Elvis made his movies in Hollywood. She attended a school for young ladies in Memphis called Immaculate Conception. And Elvis gave to her many gifts of fine clothing and jewels. And when he asked her to dye her hair black to match his own of chemical blackness, she obeyed him.

<sup>6</sup> And Elvis adored her so much that he called her Sattnin, a nickname of affection by which he had called his beloved mother, Gladys.

**IX.** In the year of our Lord 1964, the rebellious sound of Rock and Roll had all but disappeared from America. A powerful jockey of discs called Dick Clark banished it from the radios of the land. Instead of Rock and Roll, the teenagers of the land listened to the uncool schlock strains of Frankie Avalon, Annette Funicello, Leslie Gore, the Ronnettes, and the Four Seasons.

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly, at the end of the year, a new band of four young men appeared on television who would change the music of young people forever. These young men lived in a dreary seaport called Liverpool in faraway England. The young men called themselves a very strange name, The Beatles. But when they played and sang and gyrated, sometimes in the very manner of the younger Elvis, the young girls swooned and screamed.

<sup>3</sup> Now the music of the Beatles and other bands

from England became more popular than the music of Elvis, who by this time was thirty years of age. The new musicians were younger and appeared more rebellious. They also performed in live concerts and on television, which Elvis did no more.

<sup>4</sup> But the Beatles themselves worshipped Elvis, as more than a brother of great stature; and indeed, he was their King. They visited Elvis at Graceland, and bowed before him. And Elvis received them with grace, and together they sang rhythm 'n' blues long into the night.

<sup>5</sup> On May Day of 1967, Elvis and Priscilla, now a grown woman, became man and wife. Nine months later to the very day, to them was born a daughter, Lisa Marie.

<sup>6</sup> Now Elvis had not performed his music live in many years. He had not even been seen on television since his famous appearance with

Frank Sinatra. Elvis had only been seen in his motion pictures, which, as each one was released, played to smaller and smaller audiences. Recordings of his music, which were made for the motion pictures, declined in their sales from the days of *Blue Hawaii*.

<sup>7</sup> In the time of mean, the younger fans of the music of youth flocked to see the Beatles in giant sports stadiums. They ran to the screen of silver to see the quartet from Liverpool in *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help*.

<sup>8</sup> And a businessman of music challenged Elvis to seek his wandering fans, who looked to the Beatles and other acts for amusement and inspiration. In Hollywood, Elvis strolled the Sunset Strip, expecting to be mobbed by adoring crowds. But this did not happen. The passersby, clad in the manner of the new hippies, did not recognize him.

<sup>9</sup> But the businessman had an idea. He asked Elvis if he would perform his hit songs of the past decade on live television. With new resolve, Elvis rose to the businessman and said, “Let’s do it.”

<sup>10</sup> When Colonel Tom Parker heard of the plan, he would have nothing of it. But Elvis persisted, knowing that he would have to be closer to the people if he were to remain the King. Finally, Parker relented, and said, “He’s gonna do twenty-four Christmas songs and say, ‘Merry Christmas, everybody.’” Challenged by would-be kings of gyration such as James Brown, Jim Morrison, and Mick Jagger, Elvis also knew that he must sing down-and-dirty, kick-ass Rock and Roll.

<sup>11</sup> On the third of December, in the year of our Lord 1968, Elvis appeared on live television in a tight black leather suit and with a bright red electric guitar. With Scotty the guitarist and D.J.



the drummer accompanying him, and with many other musicians, Elvis performed many of his old hits with athletic energy and vocal passion. Too, he talked to the audience about his astonishing past. At the end of the show, he was so sotten with sweat that his pants of leather were removed with blades of razors.

<sup>12</sup> And the next month, in the year of our Lord 1969, Elvis recorded an album of much eclecticism, different from any he had ever recorded before. Several of the songs became hit singles, including *In the Ghetto*, and *Suspicious Minds*, which became hit number one across the broad land.

<sup>13</sup> Now Elvis was obligated to finish his long term motion picture contract with three new films, which were to be his last. But, with the success of his television special and his new album, Elvis longed to perform his music on a tour of the whole land. He agreed to finish the

contract, only if he were to act, but not to sing. And so his last three films contained none of his music, but were small of box office hitdom.

**X.** And so, in the summer of the year of our Lord 1969, Elvis began his new career of performing before live audiences. The first of his new shows took place in the desert, in Las Vegas, a city that had no place but for its sin and debauchery.

<sup>2</sup> Elvis called forth his tailors, who fashioned for him suits of clothes of fashion that no one had seen before. His new clothes bore high collars, golden capes with many bright sequins, and a belt with a great buckle that bore the inscription, “World’s Greatest Entertainer.”

<sup>3</sup> And the people flocked to the stages of Las Vegas and cities throughout the land, and they were amazed. In Memphis, back in the land of Tennessee, the street in front of Graceland was

named Elvis Presley Boulevard.

<sup>4</sup> But Elvis continued to sleep by day and play by night. And he swallowed false substances to help him with this habit against nature, and he partook of other substances to not add flesh to his body, and yet others to stop pains in his back. These substances were given to him by an evil physician who was called Doctor Nick.

<sup>5</sup> And Elvis was received one day by Richard the President in the great House of White. And Richard gave to Elvis a badge which proclaimed him to be an honorary officer of narcotics throughout the broad land. Go, and figure.

**XI.** Now four years henceforth, Elvis had grown weary of performing. He spent all but few of his waking hours at Graceland with numerous books on matters of Satan and the occult. And there were many times when he cried out in anger when there was no cause for

such feeling. And he added much soft flesh to his body.

<sup>2</sup> Elvis's wife, Priscilla, herself had grown weary, but not of her husband's performing. She was weary of Elvis's long absences, his anger, and his many friends who were in truth parasites. They were divorced without rancor in the year of our Lord 1973, and Priscilla took Lisa Marie to live in the Land of Lotuses.

<sup>3</sup> Now it was said by the media of news that Elvis died on the sixteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord 1977, and that his bloated body was filled with the many false substances that Doctor Nick had given him.

<sup>4</sup> And people in vast hordes came forth from throughout the land to Graceland, where his still body was laid in state for all passersby to see. It was said that he was buried at Graceland, between the bodies of his mother, Gladys, and

his father, Vernon, who died two years after his son.

**XII.** But the true story of the leaving of Elvis did not happen in that way.

<sup>2</sup> It was in the spring of 1977, while on a break from a concert tour of the whole land, that Elvis was at Graceland with the parasites whom he called his friends. And as they were at the table eating, Elvis said, “Truly, I say to you, some of you will betray me, three who are eating with me.” They began to be sorrowful, and to him one after another, “Is it I?” He said to them, “It is three of you who are dipping bread into peanut butter in the same jar with me. For the King of Rock and Roll goes as it is written of him, but woe to those men by whom the King of Rock and Roll is betrayed! It would have been better for those men if they had not been born.”

<sup>3</sup> And as they were eating, he took bread and

broke it, and spread it with peanut butter and topped it with banana slices, and gave it to them and said, "Take; this is dynamite, boys." And he took a jug of white lightning; and he gave it to them, and they all drank of it, for that was the hillbilly way. And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the corn until that day when I drink it new in another Land of Grace."

<sup>4</sup> Now in July of that same year, three of Elvis's longtime companions and bodyguards, who were named the brothers Red and Sonny West, and Dave Hebler, published a book called *Elvis: What Happened?* In this book, they told many stories of Elvis's reclusiveness, anger, strange behavior, beliefs in things occult, and his misuse of false substances. And the people who read the book were shocked, for they read that their King was not the cleanest of men whom they had seen on the screen of silver, nor on the stages of Las Vegas.

5 And when Elvis heard of this book, he dispatched one of his entourage to buy it, and when he had read it, he became both angry and sad, for he knew that much of the book was false, but that much of it was true.

6 And although he had been hurt deeply, he said to his disciples that his next tour would be so good that the people would forget what they had read in the book that had betrayed him.

7 Now what has not been told before is that, long ago, at the time of Elvis's birth, his twin brother, Jessie Garon, was born alive. And because they were so poor, Vernon, his father, could not provide for both of his two infant sons. So, without the knowledge of Gladys, Vernon and the midwife took Jessie, the younger twin, to the Father of Waters, and released him on a raft of wood. And the great current of the river carried the tiny raft many miles on its way to a great city by the sea called New Orleans. But

nothing was ever seen or heard of a child named Jessie Garon Presley.

8 After many years, when Elvis had attained great fame, a young man was seen in New Orleans in the same image as Elvis. And those who had seen this man brought word of his likeness to Memphis. And when Elvis heard that there was one who looked as if he were the King, he asked his disciples: “Can it be that this man is in truth my brother Jessie? My mother and father told me that he was my twin, and looked just like me, but that he was born dead.” And they replied, “Well, we dunno, but, hey, anything’s possible, right, boss? This you have shown us many times.”

9 Now Elvis was sick from the many false substances that Doctor Nick had given him, and he knew this to be true. But he knew also that he would not heal, as long as the media kept their constant watch over Graceland. He knew



that he must escape to the wilderness and begin his life anew.

<sup>10</sup> And Colonel Tom Parker, always clever and with much greed, said to Elvis, “Boy, in your condition, you are worth more dead than alive. Listen here, now, boy, ‘cause I has got us an idea.” And Elvis obeyed, for that is what he had done for all his life.

<sup>11</sup> And so Parker hired a private detective to journey to New Orleans to find the double of Elvis. And when he found him, the detective was astonished, for his likeness to Elvis was truly amazing. And he asked the twin, “How is it that you are not taken to be Elvis, for you appear just as he?” And he replied, “I do not wish to be mistaken for the King, for I am a shy and humble man. And, besides, I cannot sing worth the buttocks of a rat. And I do not venture forth into the world without garb that disguises my resemblance to the King.”

12 Now the detective did not know that Parker had sent three of Elvis's parasites to New Orleans. Parker promised these men great riches if they seized Elvis's double in secret and brought him to Memphis. And when they delivered him to the Colonel under the cover of darkness, Parker had them hide the double of Elvis. And Parker demanded that they and Doctor Nick feed Jessie much food of junk and false substances. And the twin grew much soft flesh, which his body had not borne before.

13 And forty days and forty nights passed. Parker demanded of Doctor Nick, "Go forth and deliver a fatal injection of your false substances." And the double of Elvis was dead. He was found lying on the floor of a bathroom in the great house where Elvis had lived so strangely for two score years.

14 But Elvis himself was not to be found at Graceland. He had gone forth into the

wilderness.

15 And the likeness of Elvis was buried as if he were the King. And thousands journeyed to Graceland to mourn. And in a few months, Colonel Tom Parker saw his vision of profit become true, for the sales of records and souvenirs soared beyond even his own prophecy of great riches.

16 And the fame of Elvis of Memphis grew everlasting. Some have asked, In the year of the third millennium, will the King seek his own throne, one that has no pretenders, but waits for him alone?

THE END