

INTRO:

Brothers and sisters! I know that in your schools, right here in this very place, there are those who teach the Devil's doctrine of EVOLUTION! They would lead you to believe that you can learn the TRUTH of Epidemiology by looking at fossilized poo-pool! One of these false prophets even calls himself by the very Devil's name -- DARWIN!!

But be ye comforted, brothers and sisters! For tonight we are going to teach you the truth -- as REVEALED to us in the holy Book of Cardiovascular Epidemiology.

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In the beginning, God created Minnesota, and it was cold. Then God made people to come to this land, but they turned their faces from the Lord. They wanted only to fish, and they built a temple where they worshiped a false god, whom they called Baal, or Foot-Baal.

There was a man in that land, whose name was Ann-Sel. The Lord came to him in a dream, and spake: "Ann-sel my son, you shall be my prophet. Go into the Temple of Foot-Baal, yea into the Gate of the 27. There you shall find a sign."

So Ann-Sel went there, and behold, a moving finger appeared and wrote "Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene." Then the Lord spake through the mouth of Ann-Sel, saying, "2S minus P." And the people said, "What is the meaning of this?", and there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then God said, "Ann-sel, henceforth you shall be called 'Keys', for you shall be the key to building the Temple of my people, who shall be called Cardiovascular Epidemiologists.

"My son, go forth into the world, yea, into seven countries. There shall you walk amongst the people, visit the sick, and look into their hearts. Nor shall you turn your eyes from the letting of blood."

Then Ann-Sel spake: "This I shall do, O God, but tell me what am I to seek in the blood of these people?" God answered, "This shall be known to you when the time is nigh. But if you follow me, and stray not from my ways, you shall have an R of 0.96." And Ann-sel's heart was filled with joy.

In those days a young man came to Keys, whose name was Hanneri, to see if he might learn from this prophet. And Keys said to Hanneri, "Follow me."\*

Into the lands of the Mediterranean went they, where the sun shone, where the people had no snow shovels, and ate the oil of the olive, and drank much of the fruit of the vine. And Hanneri's cup ran over. Hanneri and Keys looked into the hearts of these people, and saw that they were good.

Then they went north into the land of the Finns, who ate much cheese and meat of their cattle. Their hearts were scarred, and their cholesterol rose to the heavens.

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\* Tradition tells us that Hanneri was also known as "Burn-Black", or "Black-Burn". Some scholars have written that Hanneri performed miracles with a soprano sax, causing it to become so hot that black smoke spewed forth. Others believe that Burn-Black was so named because he once turned a blaspheming post-Doc into ashes--for uttering the profane words "Cardiac catheterization"

Then Keys wrote all this into a book. The priests of Epidemiology read the book, and they were filled with gladness.

From that day forth there came into the land a time of trials. Some trials lowered the pressure of the blood, and the Priests said to each other, "This is good."

But the trial of the Murr-Fitt gave no sign, and caused the priests to wail and cry out, for they could not reject the null hypothesis. They smote their heads upon the wall, and looked much at subgroups, yet they knew not its meaning.

Then the priests met together, and said to one another: "We must know the truth, whether this cholesterol be evil or no." So they devised a potion to be given to the people. This potion they called "Chole-sty-ramine". And though it troubled their stomachs, and caused much belching and passing of gas, yet it smote the cholesterol and drove it from their blood.

Then they divided their subjects. Half were given the potion, and the other half were given false potion. After seven years, the priests counted those who were sick and those who died. Then there was a time of reckoning, and then the priests wrote in the journal

known as the Jahmah, that cholesterol was a curse of the Evil One, and driving it from the blood would keep the hearts of the people whole.

But this, the trial of the El-Arsi, was to be the last of the great trials, for after it came the days of Gramrudman.

In those days the priests began to argue one with another. Many factions and sects arose within the Great Temple of Cardiovascular Epidemiology. Some believed with all their hearts in the lowering of cholesterol. But a priest from the great valley, from the House of Usidi, whose name was Ne-Mat, laughed them to scorn, saying: "Forget this cholesterol stuff. God damn it, get me some real butter."

Then the Lord spoke to all his priests, saying: "If you love me, set aside your strife. Gather your young disciples, those who would follow me. Even though they be clinicians, yet scorn them not, for their hearts are pure.

"Each year shall you call them with you into the Mountains, by the Lake of Tsahow. There shall you break bread and bran muffins with them. Fruit shall you eat, yea until you be sickened from it. Mornings and evenings shall they toil and labor. But their afternoons shall be spent in the playing of games, and

their nights in the healing waters.

"There you shall teach them of surveys and survival analysis, of trials and t-tests, of prevalence and prevention. You have labored much, and your tree has borne fruit in great plenty, though you have eaten most of it.

"I shall mark each one with a suntan, that all who see them shall know that though they shall have eaten eggbeaters, and have sat in the darkness looking at illegible slides, yet they shall have had a good time. They shall be known as The People Whose Hearts Are Epi."