

# The Myth of the Five Snafus

## Jethros

Released by Dr. Bill

Translated by Brother Mythos

### Prologue

I received another email from Dr. Bill. He told me an archeologist at another dig, somewhere in Greece, had sent him some photos of an unusual find.

This other archeologist's team was excavating a 'cyclopean' Mycenaean fortress wall. They were digging down to the wall's foundations, to determine if the wall had been built upon still earlier ruins. And, once again, a small cache of Linear E clay tablets was discovered. This time, the tablets were wedged between the massive stones at the base of the wall. And, once again, the translation to the writings was found with the clay tablets, typewritten in Modern Greek on 3 x 5 cards. In this case, the cards had been placed in a Tupperware<sup>®</sup> container.<sup>1</sup>

The lead archeologist has not made a formal announcement of this unusual find, and is hesitant to do so. But, he told Dr. Bill to do what he thought best with the translation of the tablets. And so, here is my translation, from Modern Greek, of the writing on those 3 x 5 cards.

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<sup>1</sup>Religious scholars have noted the similarity of this find to that of *The Honest Book of Truth*, as described by Episkopos Lord Omar Khayyam Ravenhurst, KSC, in the book by Malaclypse the Younger, H.C., *Principia Discordia*, 4th Edition, 00041.

# The Myth of the Five Snafus

## Jethros

Once upon a time, before the tribes of Erisium got their act together, the Episkoposes,<sup>2</sup> one from each tribe, decided to hedge their bet on the worship of immortals.<sup>3</sup> For the Episkoposes reasoned, if worshiping one immortal, Divine Eris, Goddess of strife, was good, then worshiping two immortals would be twice as good.

The Episkoposes further reasoned that, as they were already worshiping Blessed Eris, Goddess of strife, it made perfect sense to also worship Immortal Harmonia, Goddess of peace. That way, they'd have the whole strife-peace, discord-concord, disharmony-harmony dichotomy thing covered. So, the Episkoposes of the tribes commissioned the construction of Erisium's Temple of Harmonia.

Of course, Holy Eris, the elder daughter of dark Nyx, learned of the Episkoposes decision and was not pleased. And being Devine Eris, distributor of dissention, she summoned her brothers, the tribe of Oneiri, Gods of dreams, to assemble. And Precious Eris, propagator pandemonium, said, "Brother Oneiri, distributors of dreams, harken my decree. Visit each of the Episkoposes of the tribes of Erisium each night, and give each one a different vision of where and how the Temple of Harmonia should be built."

And so, the Oneiri, vouchsafers of visions, at the behest of Immortal Eris, disburser of discord, kept the Episkoposes of Erisium arguing with each other over the location and design of the Temple of Harmonia for many seasons. This was The First Snafu of Eris.

The Episkoposes also could not agree on the appointment of a project manager for the construction of the Temple of Harmonia. Of course, Goddess Eris, fabricator of friction, had her hand in this disagreement as well. But, to be completely fair, it didn't take much effort on the part of Divine Eris, director of disputes. For it was understood that organizing a two chariot

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<sup>2</sup>Episkoposes are described by Malaclypse the Younger, H.C., *Principia Discordia*, Wholly 1st Edition, 17, 18, 20, 21.

<sup>3</sup>It is unknown how many tribes of Erisium were in existence at this time.

funeral was a difficult undertaking for an Erisiumian. This was The Second Snafu of Eris.

The Episkoposes of the tribes did eventually agree that managing the new temple's construction was probably beyond the capability of anyone in Erisium. And so, after several more seasons of delay, they finally hired Maximus Productivus, a barbarian from west of the Dire Straits, to be the manager of the Temple of Harmonia project.<sup>4</sup>

Maximus Productivus, manager of the project, worked diligently on the site selection and design of the new Temple of Harmonia. And finally, after several more seasons of delay, was able to secure the approval of a slim majority of Episkoposes for his proposed scope of work.

Goddess Eris, arouser of argument, was not pleased with the progress made by Maximus Productivus, adept administrator, on the new Temple of Harmonia. So, Immortal Eris, propagator pandemonium, took action. The Administry<sup>5</sup> of Erisium never accomplished much in a good season, so Blessed Eris, agitator of anarchy, had little trouble delaying the approval of the building permit for the Temple of Harmonia for an entire year. This was The Third Snafu of Eris.

Maximus Productivus, overcomer of obstacles, finally solved the building permit problem by finding a suitable new site for the Temple of Harmonia that was outside of the city-state limits. Now, The Administry of Erisium had absolutely no jurisdiction outside of the city-state limits, but that, of course, did not prevent The Administry from continuing to hold public hearings on the issuance of the building permit.

And it came to pass that construction of the Temple of Harmonia was well underway when Goddess Eris, urger of unrest, instigated a strike among the workers. This strike delayed construction for several weeks. This was The Fourth Snafu of Eris.

At last, to end the strike, Maximus Productivus, realizer of results, offered to provide the workers with free retsina and goodly imported beer from Egypt during breaks, lunch, and at the end of work. With this incentive in place, Maximus Productivus, energizer of enthusiasm, quickly had three full shifts of skilled artisans at work all five days of the week.<sup>6</sup> And so, construction of

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<sup>4</sup>Most scholars of Ancient Greece believe Maximus Productivus to be of Roman origin.

<sup>5</sup>The Administry is described by Malaclypse the Younger, H.C., *Principia Discordia*, Wholly 1st Edition, 17, 20, 21.

<sup>6</sup>A five day calendar is described by Malaclypse the Younger, H.C., *Principia Discordia*, 4th Edition, 00034, 00045.

the beautiful Temple of Harmonia was completed before the end of the next season.

Beloved Eris, broadcaster of bedlam, was enraged at finding the majestic Temple of Harmonia completed in her namesake city-state. The very foundations of Olympus itself trembled with the relentless bitching Holy Eris, urger of unrest, unleashed. At last, Almighty Zeus, the Lord of Gods and men, himself could stand no more. To put and end to the relentless tumult, aegis-bearing Zeus, most glorious, supreme, that dwellest in heaven, and ridest upon the storm-cloud, unleashed his sacred lightning bolt and smote the glorious Temple of Harmonia. And, when the smoke cleared, nothing remained of the magnificent temple but a molten crater where it had once stood. This was The Fifth Snafu of Eris.

Maximus Productivus, completer of construction, stood in awe of the power and influence of Adored Eris, agitator of anarchy. And the barbarian builder swore, "Immortal Eris, Goddess of strife, I, Maximus Productivus, will carry word of your Goddesshood to my people! And, I, son of Apexius Productivus, will build a great temple for your worship in my home city-state!"

Divine Eris, dealer of dissidence, heard the oath of Maximus Productivus, master of management, and thus spake, "Go and fulfill your oath, o mortal. And remember, if you're not part of the problem, you're part of the solution."

## Epilogue

I sent Dr. Bill a copy of this translation, and he shared it with his colleagues. Once again, he told me they've all been hearing rumors of other writings attributed to Jethros. Dr. Bill said he would pass more of them on to me, if he can get his hands on them, and obtain permission from the finders.

## Legalese

The background photograph used in this document was taken by Brother Mythos.

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