

## [Believe in Stupid Sh\*t]-Samples

By Chris Browne Valenzuela

### Santa Claus

Charlie: I was one of those children teachers called "gifted", and "a pleasure to have in class."

That meant two things: I can stay quiet for an impressive amount of time, and I was very smart in all the ways schools liked. Yet... I believed in Santa Claus until an embarrassingly old age. Because, and hear me out here (*a whiteboard on wheels rolls into the stage, which he uses to expand on the following explanation. There is probably also a map or a globe.*)

You, sir/madam. Why couldn't Santa Claus possibly be real, what is the main reason? (*The man interacts with the audience like a classroom. Hopefully he is able to extract "the big question" from someone*)

The big question is "How could Santa Claus possibly visit the homes of 7 billion people in only 24 hours?" and the thing is, THE THING IS, he doesn't have to.

First of all, **it's not 24 hours**, because of time zones, if Santa starts in Kiribati and finishes on the Howland and Baker Islands, on the other side of the Pacific, he gets an extra 26 hours, so, Santa doesn't have 24, but 50 hours to visit the homes of 7 billion people? No, because he only has to visit the homes of **children of giftable age**, which if we're generous, to me, and define it as **children under**

**14** is only a **25% of the world population, or 1.9 billion people**, but it's not 1.9 billion homes, because the average family has between 2 and 3 children, it's not a home per child, children are concentrated, so the number is closer to **.75 billion**, or 750 million. So, Santa has 50, not 24 hours to visit all the homes of children of giftable age, or 750 million. Are you following me?

Except, except! It's a **Christian Holiday**, not everyone is Christian or Christian-adjacent, it's more like a third of all peoples, and out of that third, only those belonging to Western Tradition Christianity celebrate Christmas December 25<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Tradition Christians celebrate Christmas on a completely different day. This is geographically important because Santa just saved himself having to travel through most of **Russia**. And it's big.

So, Santa has 50, not 24 hours to visit all the homes of Christian-esque children of giftable age that belong to Western Tradition Christianity. An 88% of Christians belong to a Western Tradition, and only around a third of the world is Christian or Christian adjacent, meaning it's a **29% of the number we had visited previously, or only 220 million**.

Also, ALSO! Even within the Western Tradition a lot of people, peoples, traditions don't celebrate Santa Claus, they celebrate The Three Wise Men instead, who bring gifts not on Christmas, but on the Day of the Three Wise Men in January.

So, SO, Santa has 50, not 24 hours to visit the homes of Christian-  
esque-adjacent children of giftable age that belong to Western  
tradition Christianity, except those who don't celebrate Santa Claus.

Also, MAGIC... Santa's real.

You could also add that in theory, Santa only brings gifts to "nice"  
kids. That could significantly reduce his workload. But I never  
believed that because my cousin Kevin always got gifts from Santa and  
that little shit was EVIL. You know, based on the available evidence  
at least.

Anyway, this was going on my \*cough\*-teen year old brain and it's how  
I justified the existence of Santa Claus. A dumb kid couldn't have  
come up with that.

**[Oh, God]**

Charlie: I do believe in God, though... but that's probably just because I'm so smart.

*(Lights fade out. "Jesus is coming" sign projected onto the stage, like the one you'd see on a billboard)*

Charlie: ...on my face? Should I close my eyes? ...Nobody likes pink eye.

*(Lights back up)*

Charlie: That was a joke about Jesus's penis. I know that talking about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's genitals may be a little uncouth to people, but it is biblical! Luke 2:21, the Circumcision of the Lord! And because we Catholics have a thing for relics. Do we know what relics are? At one point in History, 14 different Churches, Cathedrals and Shrines claimed to have the authentic Holy Prepuce. That is, Jesus's foreskin.

So, just from the Bible and Church tradition we know that Jesus had at least 1, and at most 14 penises... that we know of.

"Where are these 14 foreskins?" you may wonder. "Can we visit them? Touch them? Pray to them? Smell them?" No. Most of them were lost or destroyed during the Protestant Reformation and the French revolution. In what wouldn't be the last time Protestants would try to prevent me from encountering a penis... The last time the French would, though...

The last one was stolen from its shrine in Cargata, Italy in 1983. Up until that year, the locals still performed a procession around JC's prepuce on the Feast of the Holy Circumcision, every January 1<sup>st</sup>. Yes, the feast of the Holy Circumcision is on New Year's Day. Now you'll never forget it, no matter how hard you try... Happy New Year. While there are no verified pictures of the Holy Foreskin. There is a written description by French diplomat Roger Peyrefitte: "Two greyish membranes with an undertone of pink, curled into balls lying on a crystal disk."

So, for centuries. Maybe even a millennium, people worshipped penile skin bits that in all likelihood weren't even Jesus's. It's just random penis. Does anyone remember the name of this show?

I do think it's relatable. Not because I, too, have worshipped many-a grey peni of dubious origin. But because I remember believing in relics. The Holy Shroud, splinters that supposedly came from the Holy Cross, the nails with which Jesus was crucified. Stupid shit to believe in... but it was nice believing in it. It was special thinking that this thing survived two thousand years so I could come in contact with it. So I could be closer to God. Wow! Closer to God!