

WEBVTT

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Yeah, there we go.

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All right, Jana, you are co host.

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All right, great.

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Missy about sharing my PowerPoint that's the thing.

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All right, PowerPoint, oh so I'll turn discord off

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PowerPoint and share that let's see how that goes.

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All right.

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How's it looking Are you seeing just the slide or.

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We're seeing the whole PowerPoint window. Okay. Do that slideshow that.

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There we go.

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Alright, perfect,

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where I want to go. Here we go. No advance. Okay, good.

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All right.

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This is going really well so far I've been pleased with the ones I've been to.

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Absolutely. I'm enjoying myself a lot.

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So far, no technical difficulties not what y'all say that out loud.

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Y'all say that out loud. It's fine fine fine more wood to knock on a pretty big desk.

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My I have zero wood in my study except except a huge thing on the wall where I will never reach it, so don't.

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All right, all right, all right, I take it back.

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All right, Now my one problem here is I can't see everybody.

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I can see more of you now. Okay.

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All right.

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Okay,

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hope everybody's having a good time already.

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Definitely. I've never seen anything about the walking dead at math con before and now I can say that I have

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right

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now one thing is I don't think I can see Pat while this is going on so oh here's a haircut seat over here it looks like. Okay.

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Yeah, you can Jana, you might not see it on your panel with it but what will happen is if something comes through chat. At the bottom of your screen the icons the chat one will light up with a, like a red thing or something so you'll know Chad has come

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through. Okay, yeah I'm seeing it now so that's good.

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Yeah.

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One of the silver linings of Mishcon at home is that I can order bubble tea to my door to enjoy during sessions. Oh, that sounds good.

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Yep.

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You can go right on Amazon and order all the books that people will recommend that, too. Yeah.

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It's dangerous for wallets, save all that travel money and use it to spend it on books instead books.

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Yeah.

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Alright, well this is going to be full of spoilers in fact it's basically nothing but spoilers so if you haven't read or seen some good omens, be prepared.

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What are your feelings on the second season Janet. Well, I would be nervous except that it's Neil Gaiman, who is writing it, and he knows what he and Terry Pratchett had originally planned to expand the store in fact he's used some of the original expansion

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ideas in the televised version of the first season. So, but you know I could watch you know I could watch David attendant and Martin Sheen just chatted each other for hours.

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In fact, that.

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What was that, that called the web series, yeah the Webster's. Yeah, stage or something like, Oh, yeah, basically them just chatting and it was wonderful.

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Yes. And if we could have them dressed up as zero failing probably and I was sitting in a little cottage in the cotton ball Cotswolds the whole time. Oh, that's just wonderful.

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Yeah, I would just watch a series of them like running a bookstore together, running with your favorite bookstore together.

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Perfect.

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I mean there's a whole genre of, you know, bookstore related cozy murders and stuff. Perfect.

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Yeah, I'm with you entirely the fact that it's from the treatment that gaming in Pratchett like discussed gives me a lot of a lot of alleviates a lot of my concern.

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Yeah.

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Just talking game is not spreading himself too thin he's always got so many projects going on. It's true.

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I'll confess I'm only about three quarters the way through the book which I've insist upon reading before watching the TV show.

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But, yeah, well Okay, I'm ready for spoilers, I'm not a spoiler caring person. Okay, so not to tell you to cover your ears at a certain point.

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I think I'm going to get up and close my door because David's in a different panel and he's right next door so I will be right back.

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Before so that's

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like this is the appropriate background to discuss curly and his ear fail.

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Yep, yep, that's a good one. I'm like one of the possibly one of the biggest shifts that has ever sailed.

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Indeed,

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That's good one I like that.

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I'm here.

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Whoops out there.

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Yeah, the sheer number of beeps that happened when your host and zoom is. It's a lot

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like it too many be.

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Some of them I don't even know what they are, I think, one of them might be like when somebody leaves. It's like, I don't care.

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Don't let me know people are leaving. Yeah.

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I'm getting the beeps from people showing up so, yeah.

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I just saw that there's a way to remove that but then I don't know where it is.

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You're muted.

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Yeah. Winston is licking his chops like just right out of frame.

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Dog makes me crazy.

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Alright, well, it is time so whenever you want to start Jana. All right.

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Okay. Somebody else in the waiting room whoops, somebody's got to them. Okay.

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All right. Well, as I was saying earlier this is like nothing but spoilers. So if you have a problem with spoilers for good omens book or show.

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Well, Too bad, because you're going to get them.

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So today I am going to be talking about naming and sub creation in good omens.

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Okay, let me see advance I come on. There we go. All right. So, um, names are in one sense the outward indication of a power negotiation. The namer, the one who bestows a new name or uses an already given name reveals through the choice of the name that

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they give or use their relationship to that which they named the act may indicate a more or less equal relationship. It may represent an attempt to exert power over someone or something by imposing a name on it, or by using a name that will influence

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those who hear it. Or maybe an act of submission and ingratiating using a name to flatter or placate someone or something more powerful one's

personal name is a Nexus for many deeply important concepts and feelings about being a person, and having a place

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in the world in relation to other people to a family and to that which is ineffable naming may also be performed as a magical act as a form of localism Boy, that is of bestowing a name, in order to pronounce something to be equivalent to, or to encourage

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something to become what the neighbor desires. This kind of naming maybe self reflexive a person may rename him or herself out of a desire for anonymity, or a new identity to indicate an alliance with someone or something else or out of pride hubris for

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even shame names as a special category of powerful in a very real sense embodied language are vitally significant and naming is it primary and primal speech act in Genesis to naming is the first officially delegated sub creation task for God does not

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name the animals but brings them before Adam to see what he will call them sub creation is Hawkins term for human beings right need and divinely.

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Some creation positions, art, as the link between the imagination and its realized result. And as a writer and philologist token sees that artistic power first manifesting in language in narrative art in combining nouns and redistributing adjectives.

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To quote from tokens poem is a Paya like the animals trees are not trees, until so named and seen and never were so named until name by man, the sub creator, the refracted light.

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sub creative task. Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman working individually both take pleasure in names and have a keen understanding of how they work and story in there so collaborative work names fizz and pop and delight.

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Good omens book, 1990 TV series 2019 concerns itself with the last days of the world, from the birth of the Antichrist through several days after his 11th birthday the day he comes into his power.

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At its heart, or the demon crowding and the angel zero fail, who due to their long posting on earth among humanity and their frequent interactions with each other, a forged a sort of working arrangement, and the font attachment to the comforts and delights

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of the 20th century, and to each other.

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They would rather apocalypse not take place. Thank you, and they work together to derail what all the rest of the forces of heaven and hell look forward to was such anticipation.

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As Pratchett was dealing with the terminal stages of this early onset Alzheimers in 2014. He asked gaming, as the only person who had the same passion love and understanding for the book as he did to commit to finishing the script and seeing it filmed

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in creating the six part TV series script gaming guru on their early 1990s attempts to write a screenplay, incorporating some of the new characters and situations they developed at that time and later.

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Good omens book and show, a like is rife with significant acts of naming by both humans and other sentient beings from Crowley, as in Kroll renaming self cruelly to the constantly changing self claimed soubriquet is of the four horsemen while all humans

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beings have the power to name to rename to take a new name to give a name to do not deny a name to dead name and so on. The child antichrist Adam young has this power in spades reality bends to His will and his acts of naming stick and change when he

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names. Well, other names stories will be examined in this paper, the naming acts I want to concentrate on will be the naming of Adam himself. Adams naming of its hell held as it comes into his power and his climactic act in the show of naming Satan to

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not be his father, and thereby making it so retrospectively and eternally.

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So let us start at the level closest to the ineffable as the book does. It is not just humans who have the power of naming in this fictional world supernatural beings also name, rename self name and nickname self naming in fact shows up on the very first

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page of the text, the serpent, introduced this Crawley has decided that the name is simply not him and his thinking of changing it. When he reappears in the next chapter set in contemporary times he has a new name.

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The TV script draws attention to this. The demon like are asked, What's it called one himself these days, and hamsters now is crow early.

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it for me a bit too squirming at your feet push the script also establishes zero fails modern alias much to the book, the name on his bookstore is AZ fell and co booksellers, and the modern era, his counterpart goes by Anthony j Crowley, and they Missouri's

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that as their fail says we'll take some getting used to and what does the J stand for anyway.

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The cluster of naming names and naming activities around the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, or apocalyptic course persons, as they're called in the dramatic persona is particularly interesting death war and famine tree retain their traditional names,

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but pestilence has retired and been replaced by pollution.

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Three of them also had aliases under which they operate in the human sphere or his first encountered as an arms dealer named Scarlet. The becomes a war correspondent who's buying line is Carmen, read his week of her famine is known as Raven sable and

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appears as a best selling Diet book author who later runs a food conglomerate called nutrition, pollution, more variable male in the book but appropriately cast is non binary in the show goes by a variety of names like white or blog or August or chalky

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or Weiss, or snowy always playing a minor role and environmental disasters or the sort of research that creates things like plastics and petroleum byproducts of radioactive waste, and then moving on.

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Death of course is always death is only concession to disguise being a set of motorcycle others with Hells Angels on the back of the jacket.

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which leads us to the other four horsemen in the book, the roadside diner in which the for me is already occupied by a gang of four motorcyclist, the humans are effectively swept up in the wake of the final ride to the place of Armageddon elated to be

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included. Big Head grease or pig bog and scholars, go about choosing their own aliases as the incarnations of modern problems of life, grievous bodily harm Cruelty to Animals things not working properly, even after you've given them a good pumping and

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really cool people.

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These names including others briefly considered ones like no alcohol
lager and treading and dog shit. Use the comic ineptitude of the four
horsemen to conceal pointed social commentary, a standard tactic of
Pratchett in particular, venturing it further

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from contact with the supernatural we might consider the chattering nuns
of sin barrel, a satanic order they inverted expectations for example
being expected to speak whatever is on their minds at all times, except
for half an hour on Tuesday afternoons.

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Their names are satires on traditional virtue or st connected names taken
in conventional orders sisters Mary Aquarius, memory of verbose Catherine
pro looks great valuable and Teresa garrulous or their numbers.

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Which finder army is also a font of original and humorous names and
parrot Puritan times which means, which, find your major, Thou shalt not
commit adultery philosopher, was the one responsible for putting magnets
Nutter boring 1600 exploded 1656, author

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His descendant Newton Paul suffer and Agnes is to send it anathema device
become romantically involved and help save the world.

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The modern head of the much reduced army, which find her Sergeant sad
well show in here as a name or par excellence, padding the pay ledger,
which both is a rebel and cruelly bankroll unbeknownst to each other,
with which finder majors, Jackson Robinson

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Smith, saucepan tin milk and cupboard and on down through which find her
Captain Smith Smith Smith, Smith and ditto and stuff, 500 lower ranks.
Also, mostly named Smith, as well as naming his long suffering neighbor
madam Tracy, everything from her of

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bubble on two Marines plush Bernstein, to paint a physical.

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So to return to anathema device, she has oddly to contradict renaming
stories in the book, given on the same page. One is that her mother, not
a great student of religious matters happened to read the word one day, I
thought it was a lovely name for a

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girl. But this does not entirely make sense because she is written about by name and Agnes and others prophecies tender down in her family for generations.

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And you shall be there also anathema is just one sample, and in the script her mother emphasizes that Agnes had special plans, especially for. So while the name anathema was predestined for her a more conventional naming story might be told to outsiders

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like the baffled immigration clerk at Heathrow

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Adam young, the child antichrist, more of him and on is the focus of a great deal of naming energy as a child to be named and as a powerful name or himself, once it comes into his full power.

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Once he comes into his full power. He and his friends constitute a gang dark darkly referred to in lower tanfield as the them a tight knit group of four and fanatic and symbolic opposition to the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse Wensleydale his first name,

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as the voice of God tells us is Jeremy, but nobody has ever used it, not even his parents who call him youngster, pepper, was christened Pippin Galadriel moon child.

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There are only two ways a child can go with a name like that, and pepper hatches and the other one, and was pepper to everyone but her mother upon pain of suffering or considerable fury.

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Brian has no naming story. In fact, his name almost seems to be like a position title, like the Janet's and The Good Place every gang needs a Brian as God puts it always grimy always supportive of anything that Adam investor needs, and the description

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of the imaginative play of them, there is a great deal of fun with names and words, they role play the British formally Spanish Inquisition sprinkling their spit speech with bits of fake Spanish and Latin and referencing torture model in place, Torquemada

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Adam confuses a cultist with Oculus and uses nuclear for new killer, and is excited about the Aquarian Age talks about Atlantis Ian's rather than Atlantis ends and references Madame blood about that bad ski in the secret city of LA and tunnels under the

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the Gobi Desert, which are edited by secret master to betters as Adams powers start to grow and the wildly jumbled contents of his imagination start to become real.

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It's perhaps for the best that he never gets the name is quite exactly right.

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Adams personal name story begins with the chattering nuns and same girl at their birthing hospital where in the best tradition of the classic horror movie trope the infant antichrist is about to be switched for the newborn child loves the American cultural

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attache his wife. The presence of local resident Deirdre young showing up to give birth at the same time, results in the mix up where her baby winds up with the Americans, the American baby is adopted elsewhere, and Mr and Mrs young, go home to lower

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tanfield, but the little antichrist.

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But before the children can go home they must be named the proper name is Michael reduce this reminds us exerts the power of a magical wish, which expresses the will of the family.

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And in this case, the nuns attempt to influence the earthly parents of the Antichrist to express the will of Satan reinforcing reduce this is observation that what is at stake in the naming process is no less than an act of possession system are really

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But when she suggests Adam, Mr. Young stairs down at the Golden Girls, of the adversary destroyer of King the angel of the bottomless pit great business that is called dragon prince of this world father of lies spawn of Satan and the Lord of darkness

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and observes, you know, I think he actually looks like an atom, the adaptation as a scene showing the parallel blaming the other child. Mother Superior more persuasive than Sister Mary also suggest Damien to Harriet Dowling thinking she has the baby Christ,

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but Harriet settles on Warlock. Perhaps in part to spite her husband who is across the ocean and America rather than at your side, and pulling expect to his son to be named do Stelling the third both mothers lovingly greet their sons by name.

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Hello Warlock. Hello, Adam.

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Adam is a wonderfully ambiguous name, full of potential for good or evil and playing a state of prelapsarian balance and innocence, of course beginning a child who could be as much God's as sentence that young Adams full of the old Adam, as a neighbor

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later sits with him in meeting its rise from the Hebrew Adama meaning earth or soil, whatever Adams heritage. He is also of the hurt, Earth in a human body, and developed a deep human love for the landscape of his own little corner of the world.

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Up until the 11th birthday of the three children we spend time only with Warlock Huma zero fail and cruelly believed to be the Antichrist. But when a certain event does not happen that works birthday party, they realized they had been on the wrong track

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track all along, probably has turned it told a zero fail. They're sending them a hell hound to the pad by his side and garden from all harm biggest one they've got on his 11th birthday at three o'clock in the afternoon.

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it'll sort of pulling on him. He's supposed to name and himself. It's very important that he names it himself. It gives it its purpose, it'll be killer or terror, are stuck by night I expect if he does name it we're lost.

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I'll have all his powers and Armageddon, is just around the corner.

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Now as an aside, I just want to mention these like little play figures, these are Neo Assyrian figures of mastiffs from about 650 bc currently held in the British Museum and inscribed with their names, capture of the enemy.

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Don't think bite, bite or if it's fo loud bark and expel or of evil I just thought that was a nice parallel with with killer in terror in stocks by night.

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So, the hell hounds materializes and lower 10 field rather than at warlocks party in London, and it homes in on the voice, it had been created to a bay could not help but obey.

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And that voice is very first words in the book are, it will be a dog, supporting all the expectations of hell. Adams rock solid declaration that the dog he fully expects to get for his birthday will be a pedigree mongrel, the right size to go down rabbit

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holes with one funny year that always looks inside out, transforms the hell held itself from by huge beast with a sort of growl that starts in the back of one throat and ends up in someone else's into dog immediately possessed by a great and sudden love

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for its master, and an overwhelming desire to jump up on people and wag his tail.

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Adams back saying, Oh call him dog, it saves a lot of trouble and name like that. It says first major act as it comes into his powers on his birthday.

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As with the original Adam in the Garden of Eden. It is a some creative act of naming down here is as freshly named as the animals in the garden. In the words of John Homeowners poem Adams task.

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It came for the name Adam had to give in a fire of becoming, and for Adam young, as well as the biblical Adam, this work of naming is as serious as play, animal trainer and philosopher Vicki Hearn places a mystical importance on the naming of animals.

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It is when animals learn their names that they become capable of reciprocal relationship with the human, and in the act of naming and they act of training, the name becomes larger, and eventually the animal and his name, become near enough to becoming

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the same size, without a name and someone to call them by name hurt insist the animal can't enter the moral life. This relational redemption allows for the restoration of a prelapsarian language between humans and animals.

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The name gives the soul room for expansion, but also allows us humans in the equation to return to Adams divine condition. We're name is the invocation of a unique into individual, rather than a mere generic label.

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The process of training creates a new language between an individual individual human and dog that radically changes the show of them. The dog and the human being is transformed together through the work of training.

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So the choice of the name dog doesn't just save time. It recreates the whole hound as what Adam considers the platonic ideal of darkness, and even more specifically, a certain type of darkness in relation to a certain type of humaneness Adam, the quintessential

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11 year old boy wants it, Doc he can have fun with Mr. Young notes that they look each other as, as each other as if they were made for each other.

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God says in a voiceover in the script form shapes nature, there are certain ways of behavior appropriate to small dogs, which are in fact willed and into their genes.

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The implication being that dog has been rewritten down to the level of his DNA by Adams naming and that nicely ambiguous passage, Adam notes, he's got to do what he's told, I read it in a book, training, it's very important, any dog can be trained at

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said, my father says I can only keep them if it's properly trained dog basis masters voice, and a little more of hell burns away.

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It was all in the more poignant then when, at the height of Adam's demonic temptation to remake the world, but his friends have turned away from them in order and revulsion dog also rejection siding with the them.

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Give me back my dog Hell's Adam and pepper responds. He's not your dog. He's his own Doc, I don't think he likes you anymore.

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But dog is the first to realize when Adam has overcome his teleportation looking the boys face and joyful reunion through naming and training dog has developed a moral life of his own, and even plays a role in the apocalyptic showdown with four horse

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persons, the closing scene of the book overlays imagery of the terror full card over the unfolding Edenic play have a boy and his dog amid the apple trees of late summer in rural, England.

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The entire reason the Antichrist the offspring of Satan exists is to bring about Armageddon, the culmination of the great plan. The final battle between good and evil to determine the ultimate fate of the world, or as Adam cannily observes just to see

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who's got the best game. Adam and the them defeat the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse as a team, but probably at least knows that it's not the end of it, Adam still has a solo task face.

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Gabriel and Beals above, both mightily desiring Armageddon as the proper conclusion of the great plan. Each alternately threaten and control Adam, perhaps the very least effective tactic that can possibly be used with a stubborn and intelligent 11 year

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old boy, especially one who has already faced temptation and come out the other side with a very clear idea of what he is not going to do with his powers in the show Gabriel chastises Adams, you're a disobedient little brat.

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I hope somebody tells your father and bills about his, someone will and your father will not be pleased.

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It's not entirely clear what Adam does in the book but there are clues for really curly realizes that this boy could not only make you cease to exist merely by thinking about it, but probably arrange matters so that you never had existed at all.

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And Adam himself says, I don't see why it matters where it's written, not when it's about people, it can always be crossed out.

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Adam waves his hand and Satan's imminent threatened appearance on the scene simply doesn't happen.

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The show is less subtle about it, making it clear that there is a distinction to be made between Adams earthly father, who wouldn't hurt anybody. And his satanic father coming to destroy Adam for his refusal to start the Battle of Satan erupts through

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the pavement of the deserted airfield currently urgently explains to Adam reality will listen to you right now, you can change things. When Satan demands that his rebellious son, come to him, Adam rejects him.

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You're not my dad. That's don't wait till you're 11 to say hello, and then turn up the tell you off. If I'm in trouble with my dad, then it won't be you.

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It's going to be the dad who was there. You're not my dad. And then the clincher that bends reality to Adams will that sub creates a new reality. You're not my dad, you never work.

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At that point, it is true, and always has been true solid and comfortingly concerned Mr. Young is his dad approaching through the smoke is left by the banner of Satan.

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And Satan is not and never has been added as father.

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Adam has effectively renamed Satan from his father to not just father eternally and retroactively and reiterated that Mr. Young is and always has been his one and only father, but gives us suggest that certain novels are designed as the moral trial of

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the child concerned with a battle to possess and struggle to indoctrinate the child, were to adversary camps, speak the power to name the child. Here, the child claims the power to cross out the name of the Father, who was trying to possess and indoctrinate

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him.

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Jean Shinoda Bolin and speaking of the major Greek gods points out that these powerful figures exemplified the dark side of the patriarchy and were often hostile towards their children, especially towards sons, that when they feared would challenge their

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authority. Such a destructive father will insist that his children not different from him, or deviate from his plans for them. He will consume his son's life, whether that son lives out his father's ambitions, or the sons own bit differs from the position

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his father expects him to play this father's fear is that unless you swallowed up in some way. The sun will someday be in a position to challenge his father's power and overthrow his authority.

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But set them, Ben Adam did not grow up with Satan present in his life as probably points out, he was left alone. He grew up here but he's not evil incarnate or good incarnate.

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He's just a human incarnate.

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Instead he grew up with Adam yet with Arthur young is serious minded man who smoked a pipe and wore a mustache and had exactly the right amount of insurance, and through three miles an hour build of the speed limit.

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A man with a soul like a comfortable leather armchair, his wife Deirdre thinks he's a softy sometimes his idea of punishing Adam is to combine them to the house and stop it's pocket money for two weeks, but admin knows it'll all be forgotten by tomorrow.

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And the scene not included in the final episode, Arthur tells a nosy neighbor, just in case you are in any doubt, I'm proud of my son.

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Arthur is not the father as evil incarnate word incarnate, but loving decent solid, and simply human incarnate.

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One can hardly picture Arthur indeed real having any other names or their solidity changing one bit. There are such fixed points for Adam, representing stability, the epitome of goodness that even at the height of Adams temptation to remake the world

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when he says he will make his friends new mommies and daddies he seems to imply that this will not apply to himself, since only one says Ted field, same as always.

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The sudden burst of playful naming creativity on the part of the hitherto unimaginative other four horsemen points us in the direction of a hypothesis compatible with tokens concepts of sub creation and contrary stories, increasing closeness, or receptiveness

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to the supernatural to fantasy and imagination seems to heighten the individual sub creative power, and thus the power to name a fizzing fecundity of sub creative power seems to increase as beings originate closer to or draw nearer to or open up to the

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NIF the ineffable source of creation.

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Human Children at Play a cultist satanist nuns and which finders are more open to this influence than the average London pedestrian who knows that ancient Bentley's can't do 90 miles per hour in the heart of the city, and therefore they did not see that

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happen, the sort of person who in tokens formulation dislikes, any meddling with the primary world are such small glimpses of it as are familiar to them.

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This applies to supernatural beings as well. Powers in principle Danny polities who are closer to God or Satan, or more flexible in their habits of mind appear to have more power to name.

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Adams power is far more than human and given his supernatural parentage rivals all but the power of the Creator itself token might characterize

the conundrum facing Adam as the conflict between a champion, which as we see in the games that then play produces

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a secondary world into which both designer and spectator can enter to the satisfaction of their senses when they are inside and magic, which token distinguishes as the operation of power in this world domination of things in world wills.

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Adam has the wisdom to know his limits and postulate potential actions to their unforeseen conclusions. As he does in refusing to bring all the whales back, and that would stop people from killing them what it sensibly asks, it could bring them back,

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but he can't change human nature, without doing enormous harm to the balance of the world. Once I start messing around like that there'd be no stopping it he says enchantment and art are appropriate metal as humans top creators, not the desire for power,

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which is the mark of the mirror magician.

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We make token declares in our major, and in our derivative mode because we are made, and not only made but in made in the image and likeness of a maker.

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naming is in this biblical and mythological sense. Our first and greatest sub creative power as humans, and not to be taken lightly. But approached as Adam does his powers, with a very responsible attitude.

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We may as Pratchett and game and have done, fill all the crannies of the world with not so evil demons and slightly tarnished angels and perfectly human antichrist.

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It is our right to sub create as token claims in the right has not decayed, we make still by the law in which were made.

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And I'm going to stop sharing my screen I see the chat has been very busy.

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Let's see pause share.

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Stop share. There we go. All right.

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Thanks, everyone. I'm going to look at the chat and see, see if there's anything to respond to in there and if anyone has any questions or wants to raise my hand just so on.

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All right.

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Alicia second time that you see me talking about something you haven't watched how have you not watched good omens Alicia you're going to love it.

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I mean I cannot pick for you, not knowing good omens Come on, good omens in the same way I know Star Wars in that like I've been adjacent to design guys so I kind of know about it I just haven't watched it yet.

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Okay.

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You must. Yeah.

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Yeah.

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Hey, Janet.

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This Rob Tally.

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All right, all right.

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I'd like to ask a question that's not good omens related although I love the gentleman's talk, and it's one of my favorite books and I of course also enjoyed the series.

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But as long as I've got you talking about names. It's always been a curiosity of mine with token, specifically the doors token insists that the dwarves will never tell us their real names or reveal their real language, and your talk, especially at the

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beginning really reminded me of the sort of magic of names.

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And in this sense, the way in which, you know, perhaps by giving your real name as with the dwarves and Lord of the Rings. Its seeding of power, or you know, a risky behavior.

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Also we know of course.

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Thanks to Lord of the Rings that you know people like Gandalf have multiple names that they're called.

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Well, you know, Aragorn too but I was thinking if I could just like get you to talk for a second about that aspect of sort of magic, and names and token.

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Like you were talking about with with gaming and Pratchett.

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Yet when and I have, I have written about this elsewhere and and yes it's just a fascinating thing and you can see this, you know, even back in the hobbit Bilbo says when you never give your real name to a dragon that would be, you know, that would be

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risky, that would and and then with the end So where were the hobbits gives their names to the Ensign Are you sure you want to give us your real name and it's really that short that's really weird.

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You people are strange, but yeah, that's it, there are, there were like two competing strands in a magic There's your real name is magic and you should never give it to anybody.

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There are many cultures where you have a name that only you know or that only you and your mother know or something like that. And then there's the if you say, if you call if you use the real name of something your, your summoning it.

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So you see that in rolling and you never say you're not supposed to say the name of the Dark Lord, because then he'll hear you, he'll show up, and she actually, they actually weaponized is that at one point in I think it's the last book where if you say

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his name, he hears it, or his two people hear it and they know where you are and they can locate you.

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So yeah, it's, it's really fascinating stuff digging into names and magic. And this goes back to that first paper that I was in today, of the Rena Rena lauro's paper on history and so on.

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And there's a development, a developmental phase in language and history where everything you say is, is magic basically it's, it's, It's got significance, it means something it does something.

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Speaking as an act as an invocation. So, yeah, it's powerful stuff names. Thank you. Thank you very much.

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That's what we got here. Hi, Janet. Brenton here, I just read, just linking that's part of, I think what I'm struggling with is, is just what you mentioned about kind of going back to that Burghfield idea of the ancient unity of things and so I'm just

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wondering like for Adam, is it like. Is he is he discovering the true name of things or something like, like I'm thinking, you know, linguistics the last century, it's been languages differential and arbitrary so there's not ever something natural within

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the word that has a link to the thing itself right but i think that Tolkien's idea of magic and maybe old solar or old speech and language in rejects that so what what like is he naming the thing that's now the thing that he controls that kind of magic

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naming or is he discovering the name of the thing.

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Like, like, and that would make sense that Satan was never his father because he never was right. So yeah, yeah so I don't know which, if there's a way through.

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In the book there's a passage, and foolishly I don't have a copy of it sitting right next to me where I could pull it up, but it talks about Adams power of belief, you know most people can believe like a grain of sand or something is asked to be measured

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in numbers of Everest's when he believes something, it is true. So when he believes that he's going to get a dog and its 11th birthday, and it's going to be this specific type of dog.

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You know, it comes true when he when he truly believes Satan is not his father. It's true. So it's, it's a sub creative power of belief it's tied up with language but it may just be expressed through religion, because that's what humans do you know you

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name something dog, and because he's Adam and he has that power belief, that means that is this kind of dog Exactly.

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You know, so yeah I hadn't really tied that in, in this paper but, yeah, it's really

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nice power is what he what he believes to be as true is true.

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And he doesn't have a lot of self doubt, you know.

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Yeah, he needs to be kind of called back to reality by his friends but he's This is portrayed as this typical like 11 year old boy with no self doubt whatsoever you know.

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So, yeah.

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What else we got here.

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chains of birth seeing the power of names I know I, I've been working on the project of names in fantasy. And I keep circling around the Earth see and and and like resisting being pulled back into it but I kind of know that if I want to pull all this

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naming stuff into one big book or something. I'm going to have to deal with RC, I can't just say it's like it's like Mount Fuji it's there. we know it's there.

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We're just not going to do anything with it.

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There's there, there's a PhD thesis on it and there's a signum university student doing a master's thesis on RC and language so Oh cool. All right.

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Oh, now there's an interesting thing here about a development. Don't let bad developmental stage in AdWords, where they learn they can lie.

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Ah, language goes from my name what I see to I can change reality by naming something else that's intriguing, huh.

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Yeah, you don't really think about that when does somebody learned a lie. When did they learn that they could say something that is counter to truth.

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I think of the, the aliens in

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Galaxy Quest.

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When they learned that the, what they've been calling the historical documents are actually, it's the drama, it's we're lying to you. And what that does to them.

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invention of lying.

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I think it's, it's a Reiki debase movie, yeah it's it's pretty brilliant yeah it's, like, quite literally is the first person to evolve the ability to lie.

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It's what a modern society basically where nobody is able to lie nobody's figured out that they can do it. And he's the first person to figure out, I can, yeah, I can tell him a non truth.

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Yeah, so interesting. That's pretty good, pretty good thought project. Yeah, yeah.

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I've been in my summer school class this. This summer I was teaching the giver.

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And there's this a point where the protagonist has been put into his new very secretive social role, and they give him a list of new roles for his new identity and new, new task in the society.

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And one of them is, you're allowed to lie.

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And this is in a culture where precision of language, precise truth is is emphasized from very very early on.

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And then, when he's put into this new role is the new receiver of memory. They tell him he can lie.

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And it's this enormous emotional impact it starts to unravel things have other adults in the community been told the same thing.

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He could ask.

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But how would he know if they were telling the truth. Oh, and it just it was sort of completely destabilizes everything's child has been charged up to this point.

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Now I'm getting flashbacks to that scene in the labyrinth. The two door keepers.

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One can always only ever tell the truth and the one that can only lie.

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Yeah, Yeah.

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I was actually thinking of the scene in breaking away I unjustly neglected, little movie about a bicycle race but the, the one teenage character in there, has had his bicycle damaged by an opposing team and he comes home and he's saying to his father.

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Everybody cheats, I didn't know. And it's just such a tender little sad moment of growing up.

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But yeah, this this thing that oh yeah I'm gonna have to I'm gonna have to read this and give him, and I've known about that book forever but I've never read it.

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it's a fantastic book, I find to do with young adolescents there's there's a lot to to mind into it, And it's

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now.

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Oh, I see.

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I can see Pablo is put the quote I was talking about about the power of belief into the chat.

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Yeah, talking about anathema. But, yes, and believe things on a scale ranging from two to 15,640 Everest's Jana, is it. Did I make this up did was good omens kind of written like on the phone, going back and forth using.

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What was that old thing nice to have that recorded messages, whatever that was.

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And suppose a phone box message thing yeah that's right yeah and and so there's kind of like a verbal. Like, you can just kind of see like it's not very often you'd be writing as Neil Gaiman writes about that.

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Yeah, yeah you writes about that writing process. Yeah, yeah, I might be in the script both might be some other places but it just, they were just, you know, shooting this stuff back and forth to each other and I'm gonna talk to him with this one at all.

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I can't wait till he reads this and see if he falls out laughing and it sounds like was just an absolute delightful process between the two of them, but yeah this was naming right like so it's it like if you were in our writing a book today together Jan

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we wouldn't have a Google doc and right hi Janet here's what I wrote today. Right.

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When I phone you and leave my messages the next three paragraphs I say hi Jenna.

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Here the next few paragraphs and so there seems to be, there's a verbal or kind of naming making quality that was kind of lovely, huh, yeah, yeah,

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yeah, yeah, today it would be a Google doc and they'd be in there editing each other. Yeah.

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Yep, so there's going to be a second stage different they'd be editing each other in different colors.

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Yeah. Yeah, something like that. Yeah, different fonts are.

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Yep.

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Yep. So there is going to be a second season, although you look at it and you think this is absolutely perfect it's it is but there is there is more material that they collaborated on when they were talking about expanding it.

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And, you know, as we were saying earlier, some of us before we, the official start, I could just watch David Tennant and Martin Sheen just chat with each other for hours on end.

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No politeness or just, then you should you should go find what they they did, what they've been doing over the, you know, staged. Yeah, yeah, their little their little web series stage was a delight.

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As to our crazy.

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Yeah, yeah. Yeah, Leslie Kenyan as a kind of sobering note for us to maybe end on here that calling something. Something else enough times people will believe you, and they'll can have the alternative facts.

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Naming is a powerful thing. Yeah, that'd be careful with it.

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Yeah, well, yeah.

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It's got a certain, former guy who keeps trying that one doesn't he.

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Yeah. Yep.

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So, you know,

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always look at the reality behind the name if you can.

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I do like I do like the fact that Biden calls him the former guy.

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Yep.

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Oh yeah, they're cool bear refuses to say his name to it was talking about me I didn't know this was, that was actually political I thought,

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well there was a, there's another good point in the chat about about photos saying to them, don't be too quick to take names to yourself even if they are true.

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That's something to about naming yourself is a powerful thing and and we certainly see that with people and, you know, trans people and in particular, claiming the name that you feel you are, or that you want to be is such a powerful thing, so freeing

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and and just.

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Yeah, I think it's, I think that's the important thing to remember with with Gollum I see tried to take the bad, bad names onto itself and produce it No.

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You can be better you can be snuggle, you can be.

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You should be.

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Yeah, yeah, works both ways. Mm hmm. Yeah.

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All right, I think we are at time here.

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We are indeed.

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All right.

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Yeah, if you would like to continue the discussion and you are a part of our discord, you can continue with over there in the distractible, This is green.