

A Miracle for Every Occasion

by
Lawrence Buentello

To: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
From: The Roboform Factory
Re: God

We have received your specifications for a Custom Roboform Product and must regretfully inform you that, although our Corporation's motto is 'A Roboform Miracle for Every Occasion', in this instance we have no alternative but to return your request as an invalid application of policy.

If you ever find yourself in need of another *practical* application of The Roboform Factory please feel free to contact us again.

To: The Roboform Factory
From: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
Re: God

Bless you, gentle people, for responding to my request so expediently. I have reviewed my specifications and have decided that the error clearly rests with me. Perhaps I was too vague about the type of product I wanted and therefore you could not, in good conscience, do anything else but deny my request. I thought this type of order must have a precedent, and so took for granted the notion that you could produce any kind of Roboform without prejudice.

However, before I accept your denial out of hand, so to speak, let me once again try to delineate my request in enough detail so that you may have an opportunity to live up to your motto.

I am requesting a Roboform God. That is to say, I am requesting the Roboform equivalent *to* God. I realize this may seem impossible on the face of it, but, please understand, I am not asking you to create God, I am only asking you to create a *Roboform* version for my personal use.

In this world of twenty billion people possessed of their own spiritual and religious reality, I find myself bereft of any personal connection with God or anything like God. I have tried to participate in countless religious ceremonies, observations, and etc., but have found nothing to fill the void in my soul. No extant religion excites my interest, no spiritual wandering, no philosophical musing. And I realize the reason for this sad state is my own inability to adequately perceive the authority of such belief. I am a practical man with a pragmatic attitude and realize that only a physical manifestation of God will suffice to induce my mind to true belief.

Surely the creation of one small Personal Roboform God can't be such a difficult thing to achieve? I have read that your company has created Roboform Love Slaves, Roboform Teachers, Roboform Psychics, Roboform Surgeons, Roboform Books, Roboform Personal Injury Lawyers—surely someone in your organization has the capability of drafting and producing a Roboform Personal God.

I have enclosed as an attachment the particulars of my cosmological belief, the moral guidelines under which my Roboform God should conduct itself, and some of the kinds of ceremonial practices that I find particularly effective. I am certain this should clear up any confusion over the matter.

Again, Bless You.

To: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
From: The Roboform Factory
Re: God

While it is true that we have filled some fairly remarkable orders, we are somewhat unsettled by your insistence that the creation of a Roboform Personal God is a viable feat. While, in theory, your request may be technologically possible (to a degree), we must remind you that our products are service-based, and therefore follow a strict set of professional guidelines for their interaction with human customers. For instance, the Compact Roboform Gerbil is programmed to conduct itself only as an actual gerbil would conduct itself, should any remain in existence. A Roboform Gerbil would not, as it were, be programmed to conduct prayer service or draft commandments pursuant to the reform of human conduct on Earth.

In point of fact, the creation of a Roboform Personal God would require that the Roboform in question be constructed and programmed to obey the requests of its human benefactor. The term 'god' implies the existence of an autonomous entity capable of independent acts of universal creation and destruction. A god, simply put, dictates from on high, and its subjects respond accordingly. In this case, Federal Law does not authorize us to create any product that would expose human beings to subjugation in any form.

We therefore must once again deny your request.

Thank you for your interest.

To: The Roboform Factory
From: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
Re: God

Perhaps I was negligent in not addressing the very important issue of Federal Compliance.

But let me respond to the reason for your denial with this observation: you state that Federal Law prohibits you from creating a Roboform that would subjugate human interest. But that is the opposite of what I have requested! My *interest* is precisely subjugation, according to the specifications in my attachment, and therefore it is not subjugation at all—it is the fulfilling of my orders to a preferred degree, and is thus philosophically compatible with my request.

I must remind you of your own Roboform Whipmaster, which, if memory serves me correctly, was created to fulfill certain, shall we say, *carnal* requirements of its patrons. Is the coordinated sado-masochistic action of that particular model any different from what I have requested? I think they are comparable products. And, even so, my Roboform Personal God would be a loving God, and would not brandish a cat-o-nine-tails without sufficient provocation.

I hope that you will accept this ethical solution and process my order without further delay.

Love and Happiness to You All.

To: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
From: The Roboform Factory
Re: GOD

While raising an interesting point with the comparison to our Roboform Whipmaster model, we must remind you that this unit also possesses a submodel Roboform L'il Doc, and at no time is any human host in danger of physical harm. The Roboform Whipmaster is Federally Approved as a Licensed Sex Aid, and is entirely different from your concept of a Roboform Personal God.

We have had our lawyers analyze your request, and while they are somewhat interested in the logistics of such a product, they feel, however, that without further clarification the notion of a Roboform Personal God clearly violates Federal Law and thus your order cannot be filled.

Good luck in your future endeavors.

To: The Roboform Factory
From: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
Re: God

I would implore your wonderful company to give my request additional scrutiny.

I understand that Federal Law provides the general guidelines by which your company does business. I'm certain that these are valuable and well-intended constraints, but sometimes artificial limitations such as these can impede perfectly legitimate pursuits. Surely this is certain cause for the fulfilling of your generous motto. Need I remind you of the problems that your glorious company encountered when perfecting the Roboform Socialist? And the logistical difficulties you surmounted in manufacturing the Roboform Nuclear Family? What of the travails your company endured producing the Roboform Significant Other?

These were no simple accomplishments. Surely some solution can be found to the impediments of my own request.

Peace Be with You All.

To: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
From: The Roboform Factory
Re: God

We are sorry to inform you that there is simply NO WAY we know of that would allow us to fill your order. Despite the shame and disgrace the admission may bring to the Corporation, we must strongly insist that THE CREATION OF A ROBOFORM PERSONAL GOD IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE.

Now, if there are any other requests that we are *qualified* to fulfill please feel free to contact us. Otherwise, good luck in fulfilling your needs elsewhere.

To: The Roboform Factory
From: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
Re: God

Bless you all for giving my little request so much time and attention.

But if I may attempt to convince you of the merits of my request one more time—

While it is true that the accepted notion of God is that of Creator, Arbitrator, and Judge, and while it is true that people worship their gods for the sake of harmony and benefaction, this is not true in all cases. Let me remind you of the Deists. No, what I am requesting is not *the* God, God of All He Purveys, but a *personal* God, that is, a God that is God *only* to me. This God would be in service only to me and no one else, and therefore would be for my benefaction only. Do you see the difference?

I am not a fool. I understand that you cannot create God in your factory any more than I could create God in my mind. Whatever God is, should God actually exist, is beyond my interest. I have tried the conventional route to God and have failed. If God is out there I have failed to perceive any such entity. My disillusionment with humanity and the product of human industry is enormous. I am an educated man, I possess several academic degrees, I have read literature extensively, I have explored scientific vistas—and yet, I am still confounded by the seemingly useless nature of the human animal, which seems good only for rampant environmental pollution and the general deconstruction of the world. I have, through the years,

observed the extinction of several hundred species of plants and animals, I have watched the world be paved over by concrete and asphalt, I have cowered in my home as the world has been bombarded by microwave radiation and showered with toxic rain. Still, in all this chaos, I am determined to achieve Enlightenment in any way that I can. I have searched religion for it and have failed; I have searched myself for it and have failed. Now I am searching science and technology for it, and I pray that these do not fail me as well.

I have no joy in my life, no psychological comfort, no spiritual expression, no connection to the universe of which I am supposed to be a part. I need personal validation, the kind of validation only a superhuman entity could provide. It is this and only this that I seek, not the answers to the riddles of the universe.

Surely you can see my plight. Surely you can do something to alleviate my suffering.

Please, Good People, for mercy's sake, won't you please find a way to help me? Won't you please find a way to fill my request?

Love and Joy Be With You.

To: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
From: The Roboform Factory
Re: God

We have good news for you, Dr. Trish!

After consulting with our lawyers once again, and then our engineers, and then our public relations department, we have arrived at a compromise that we feel should satisfy the needs of all involved.

Since your last correspondence included a plaintive disclosure of your personal psychological angst, we have determined that what you are really requesting is a Roboform Mental Health Professional. Though normally this product only treats the diagnosed ills of its owner, we have determined that certain modifications can be made to the existing program that will allow it to function as a spiritual advisor as well. That is to say, in a noble and god-like manner.

While a spiritual advisor is not strictly a god, it will function in all ways as a *liaison* to God, and therefore instruct you according to the specifications in your original request.

We have decided to name our new product the Roboform Spiritual Advisor and Psychological Counselor.

Please remit if this proposal fulfills your needs.

To: The Roboform Factory
From: G.H. Trish, Ph.D.
Re: God

I must convey my delight and joy at this development! I could ask for nothing more. Your most excellent company has once again lived up to its immortal motto. While, strictly speaking, you could not legally or logistically fill my request for a personal god, this may be a better solution for me. Perhaps all I really do need is a self-assured, self-possessed and generous spiritual advisor. Please program the unit with all the spiritual answers that I will ever need.

Also, and if it should please you, I would like to add the optional Roboform L'il Devil to the package, just to keep things interesting.

May Your Company Endure Forever.