THE SKY IS FALLING
The sky is falling!

The sky is falling!!
The world is ending! The world is ending!!
...What are you talking about?

Me? What are you talking about?!
Lord Ceraph’s wrath will fall on all of us! We’ll all die for our sins!

So hey everybody cut it out with all the blasphemy!!
What? That’s just aggressively stupid.

Lord Phoenix will destroy the world in his rage... and that’s a good thing!
What? No *that’s* aggressively stupid! What the hell?!

Let me explain in simple terms, simpleton...
The end will come. Death, destruction, plague, famine, war... God's wrath! Or even God's wrath! Only heretics will be left behind to suffer, God's chosen ones will be saved in heaven... where we'll have front-seat rows to see the madness unfold!
We cannot stop it, and the sooner it’s happened the sooner we’ll be rewarded for our faith! So blaspheme more, sinners! Bring on the end of the world!

Wow what a thing to look forward to
DOOM TOWN: TOWN OF DOOM
I greet you, Abraham. I am the Lord Phoenix.
Stop snivelling. I want a word with you. It's about Marlowe.

What about Marlowe, Lord?
You know very well. It is a most wicked place. There, it is LEGAL to be a trickster.
In Marlowe one can openly worship Jake, Lord of Lies without being hanged or beheaded. Also, most of them are gay.

Gay...? I didn't know THAT was a problem. Well it IS. I was in love with Jake, once. He's good in bed.

What...?!
Do you presume to judge ME, mortal?!

No Lord Sorry Lord Don't Destroy me Lord
It didn't end well. Abraham, I am a god.

Yes, Lord.

Shut up.

If a god can't have a happy love affair with another man, I don't see why anyone else should.
So... policy change.
Gay I'll put up with.
Gay plus Trickster equals BAD.

Abraham, Marlowe's wickedness has offended me greatly.
So I'm going to destroy it.

But, Lord! Think about the PR!
Hmmm... Hadn't considered that. No, that might cause a few problems for My worshippers...

Still gonna do it, though.

But it's a whole nation state! There may in Marlowe be fifty thousand who are good and true elementalists! Like my brother!
Fine. I'll set a condition, as long as you stop that awful snivelling.

Thank you, Lord Phoenix! So, if I can find 50,000 who are not tricksters, you will spare Marlowe?

Yes.
Oh, thank you, thank you, my Lord! But what happens if I only find 49,999? That's an awful lot of good and true elementalists who will die!

Oh, all right. If you only find 49,999 of them, I'll spare the nation too...

Lord, you are great and wonderful! But... suppose I only find 49,998? Would you condemn them also?

I guess that's not really fair. 49,998 will be enough. I'll spare the nation too...
Several days later...

...speaking purely hypothetically, of course... but supposing I could only find eleven? Like, most of them forgot to return the survey or something?

I can't believe I let you do this. FINE. Ten it is. Now shut the hell up.
You are gay for Sheila.

=gasp=

I am!
You. You're Lot, right?

For the last time, I AM NOT INTERESTED. I have a wife and two children.

What...

No. We serve the Lord Phoenix. He bade us send you a warning.

Let us go to my place. It is not safe for you here.
The Lord Phoenix has spoken unto your brother, Abraphart.

Abraham.

Same difference. I don't know what they said, but our Lord was really angry afterwards and ordered us to destroy Marlowe.
But it is full of people!

Evil people, who worship the foul god of Lies.

And the god of debauchery too.

That upstart!
To be honest, Lord P doesn't care about Tricksters much these days, but gay Tricksters bring back painful memories in His sight and kindle His wrath.

You have the rest of the day to round up 50,000 people who don't worship Jake...

No, no. You have today to round up everyone you feel is worthy and evacuate...
Hey, Lot! What happened to those two cute guys you were hanging out with earlier? We want ‘em, we need ‘em, oh baby!
What you do is wicked in the sight of Lord Phoenix! Here, behold my two virgin daughters! Bang them up instead!

Wait, WHAT?!
Eww, girls! They have cooties!

Well, if YOU don't want them...

Oh... hi there!
Bring out the cute guys! Bring out the cute guys!
Go away. We're busy.
No! We want the cute guys! Let's get 'em, lads!
Stand back, Lot.
You can't do that to ME! I'm the god of debauchery!

Screw this. We're destroying the joint right now.

We'll help you pack.
You know, I'm sure there was something we've forgotten..

Temple of Leviathan
50,000 members throughout Marlowe!
Go into the mountains. Find a cave so the rock protects you from the blast. Do NOT look back at the capital.
Wife! What the hell are you doing?! 

I have to see this! It's not every day you see a city annihilated by a god's wrath!
Wait, are we supposed to have been saved?

Girl-on-girl is fine. It's guy-on-guy that Phoenix doesn't like.

No, wife! NOOOOO!
KRK: BOO000M
And that's how Lot learned a valuable lesson about, er...

...GODS DON'T PLAY GAMES!!
“Rebellion is hecka sinful.”*

All who don’t do what the right God says will be cast into hell.

*1 Pam, 14:22

So maybe don’t be a gay trickster

oh noooo
DREAMERS
Hello! Do you have any books about dream priests?

Well sure, there should be something in the “ancient history” section....

Ancient?? Don’t you have something contemporary? They *are* still around!
Ah... well... okay... but really, they don’t exist anymore, the whole religion was wiped out.

...a very, very long time ago.

No, they’re real! I’ve seen them! They sacrifice fancy chickens to their god under the full moon!
...I find that hard to believe. For several reasons. To begin with... what is a “full” moon? Isn’t it always crescent-shaped?

Oh? Is that what you think? Well let me educate you.
Along with animal sacrifice, they also do... far worse!

Human sacrifice?

No! Double animal sacrifice!

And you know how people say undead horrors like zombies and vampires and other totally factual things are caused by misused magic of the God of Death?

Incorrect! It’s all dream priests.
And on top of it all!! They totally are real and exist.
Okay... that... sounds fake.
And that sounds like just what a dream priest would say!
I'm a woman.

I see you've a third eye! The God of Dreams is the God of Lies - Jake himself has three eyes!
It was a gift from Jude, God of Knowledge!
A likely story!
Do you know what we pious elementalists must do to dream priests?

Uhhhhhh

We sacrifice them to Lord Ceraph under the full moon!

A proper, civilised response.
Hmm. I guess that heretic was right about the moon, though.

Sinners can be tricky, watch out!!
Mum! Mum!! The new neighbours are really cool!!

Oh, really?

There's a kid my age! And he's a were! He turned into a newt!!

(he got better)
A were! Are you sure?

Well, yeah! He did change into a newt, what else would he be?

You've always got to be careful, watch out for shapeshifters.
R-really?? What’s that??

Many people say they don’t exist... but they’re horrible little demons, that can change their form!

They can change into almost anything, but they have a marking that they cannot change. That’s the only way you can tell.
Oh... hmm... changing shape sounds fun, though! What's wrong with shapeshifters??

Their evil stems from their patron god...
Each group of people has their own patron god or goddess.

We feathries have Sola, the Sun Goddess.

Scalers have Luna, the Moon Goddess.

...of course, we worship other gods, besides.
But the shapeshifters... have Jake, God of Lies.

He himself is a shapeshifter!

Do you understand?

...but they can’t help their patron god, can they? I mean we don’t usually care that much about Sola...

It’s still sinful!!!
But... anyway. I suppose if he is just a were that is fine. But we need to be certain.

And so-

Ssh! Sneakily does it.
Now we can look in through the window, and see- dammit!

What??

They're wearing long sleeves! A shapeshifter's mark is on their forearms.
Hmm... what do the marks look like?? I saw the kid as a newt, his fore...legs, were visible.

He had bright red lines around each forearm, is that it-?

Yes! Shapeshifters!! I knew it!
Oh Fels! I said that too loud! I think they heard......

Oh nooo!! It was all true!!!

hisssss
I told you! I told you about shapeshifters!!

TRUST NO ONE
UNBEARABLE
Baldy!! Baldy!!
Lord, destroy these heathens!
AIEEEE!!!
Sir, your monsters just killed forty-two children. You'll have to come with us.

They weren't monsters, they were bears. Mere mortals cannot summon animals, but nothing is beyond great Ceraph!
Truly, it is the will of Ceraph!
But... The CHILDREN!

The will of Ceraph.
Remember, calling someone names is a prank... and so work of the foul God of Lies! Always be courteous and follow the will of the Elemental Gods, or you could become a trickster yourself without even knowing it!
In the beginning... of the second age... all the Gods and most of the Goddesses were created. (before that there was the creation goddesses of course)

Including our high lord Ceraph... and his slightly lesser brothers, Leviathan and Phoenix.
But to begin with... the elemental brothers fought each other. They were the least of the magic gods.

The highest of the gods, below the creation goddesses themselves, were the Gods (and Goddess) of Movement.

(The God of Death, the God of Change, and the Goddess of Time)
While the Elemental Gods quarrelled...

...The God of Lies tricked and connived power from other gods.

(he... used to look different. long story.)
The Perception triad became the most powerful Gods (and Goddess) after the Creation Goddesses, with Jake the strongest.

And while the Elemental Gods were occupied with infighting...
The Trickster God did something terrible...

He created a living shadow to kill thousands of people.
The Elemental Gods banded together to defeat Jake!

They fought the tricksters, and saved everyone!!!
And now all elementalists must continue their good work!
Band together!! Kill tricksters!! To save everyone!!
You lied to me! You promised you’d never lie.

C'mon, Son, it was just a fantasy game.

No! You’re liars! And I’ll never believe anything you say again.
Rafe ended up extremely ill.

Boss, I really don’t think this stuff is at all appropriate for our paper.

Nonsense!! It’s perfect!

Look at it! On the face it’s a fundamentalist message that’ll appeal to you, know, those people. But it’s ridiculous enough that those who disagree will enjoy it for the laughs!

What about normal, reasonable people?

People like that don’t read my paper, Col…

But…

Hey Col, you should go back to DHS and follow up on that ghost thing, rumour is they have a god there now too.

Well I – hmm, where did you hear that?

Same lovely lady who gave us the comics.

You flatter me, Missus Ji! I hope to send you many more highly informative tracts!

Show us the shape-shifter one again!!