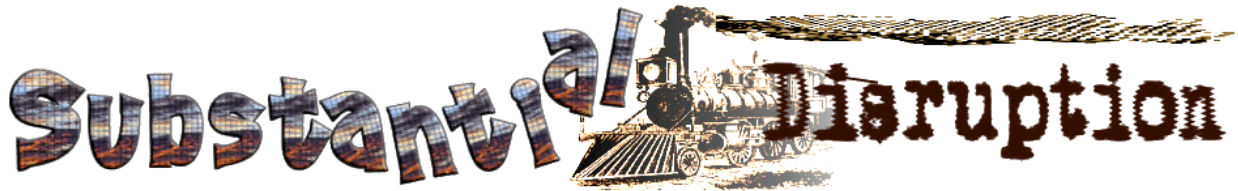


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The Ex-President's Johnson

Behold: A Pale, Bespectacled Moses

By Mike Tully

Mike Johnson, who could be the reincarnation of the [Wally Cox TV character, "Mr. Peeples."](#) inexplicitly became the 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives a week before Halloween. Johnson is a pale, bespectacled back-bencher from Louisiana in his fourth term. He stumbled into the Speaker's role after Kevin McCarthy was tossed overboard by House Republicans. When the House GOP rejected several wannabes, they turned to Johnson in an act of exhausted resignation - charmed, I'm sure, by his mousy inoffensiveness.

Johnson doesn't see it that way. He thinks he was chosen by God. It has been said that ["God works in mysterious ways."](#) So does a drunk. God might have a problem.

So might Johnson. He actually told a Christian gathering on December 5th that he was in active contact with God while the Speaker drama was playing out. As [Rolling Stone reported](#), "Johnson then revealed that — in the lead up to the 'tumult' of Kevin McCarthy losing his gavel and the chaotic GOP process of selecting a new Speaker — he had been speaking directly to God." He said he told God, "You're gonna allow me to be Aaron to Moses."

But God wasn't having it, according to Johnson. "Ultimately 13 people ran for the post," Johnson said. "And the Lord kept telling me to, 'Wait, wait, wait,'" Johnson recalled. "So I waited, I waited. And then at the end ... the Lord said, 'Now step forward.'" Johnson said he was surprised to be cast as Moses. "Me?" Johnson said. "I'm supposed to be Aaron." But that was not the message, Johnson insisted, recalling: "'No,' the Lord said, 'Step forward.'"

Then the Lord snapped his backside with a towel and sent him on his way.

Johnson may be an example of a metastasizing ego. Many people become so enthralled with their magnificence they convince themselves their inner voice is really the Voice of God. They get stoned on their own vapors.

Or they are mentally ill. "For many people religion is one way that we understand the world and give meaning to our lives and certainly religion and spirituality play an important part in many people's experiences of schizophrenia," [states the website Living with Schizophrenia.](#) "For some sufferers religious delusions or intense religiously-based irrational thinking may be a component of their symptoms, for instance they may believe that they have been sent by God to become a great prophet."

As the title of a [2015 dissertation](#) puts it, "If You Talk to God, You Are Praying; If God Talks to You, You Have Schizophrenia."

Look at a picture of Johnson. Do you see Moses? The Old Testament said Moses was from the tribe of Levi in ancient Israel, which suggests a tough desert-dweller with a swarthy complexion. The unassuming, bespectacled Johnson is so pale he's at risk of moonburn. A burning bush would turn him into a s'more.

What does Moses-lite see as his mission? According to *Rolling Stone*, he told the same gathering his mission involves "exposing the ungodly effort to undermine our culture by Leftists." He said God wants to ban abortion and restore "traditional marriage between one man and one woman."

In other words, he thinks God is an American culture warrior. God - if he, she, or it exists in some form - might be a tad busy running the Universe. Why care about a small planet infested by a species with an aptitude for self-destruction when there are supernovas to deal with?

God told Moses Mike to step forward and he has. The same day he declared himself the next Moses, Johnson [announced that he was releasing](#) thousands of hours of security video taken at the Capitol on January 6th as a "critical and important exercise" done in the name of "transparency." The Speaker has a unique definition of transparency.

"We have to blur some of the faces of persons who participated in the events of that day" he told reporters, "because we don't want them to be retaliated against and to be charged by the DOJ and to have other concerns and problems." Right. The Justice Department has a nasty habit of "retaliating" against felons. That's called law enforcement. The Speaker would prosecute sexuality and health care, but give traitors a pass. How does that make sense?

Here's how: There is a second "God" in Johnson's pantheon. Moses Mike is also MAGA Mike. If God whispers in his right ear, Donald Trump screams in the left. That's why Johnson blurs the faces of January 6th criminals: Trump wants him to. Johnson led a futile legal challenge to the 2020 election on Trump's behalf. He might not be Aaron to Moses, but he's definitely Charlie McCarthy to Trump's Edgar Bergen. It's hard to be a man of God when you're in league with the devil.

MAGA Mike is not the right hand of God. He's the ex-President's Johnson. Long may he wave.