# The Egg by Andy Weir 2009

Two characters, ME and YOU

ME

You were on your way home when you died.

It was a car accident. Nothing particularly remarkable, but fatal nonetheless. You left behind a wife and two children. It was a painless death. The EMTs tried their best to save you, but to no avail. Your body was so utterly shattered you were better off, trust me.

And that's when you met me.

YOU

What... what happened? Where am I?

ME

[matter-of-factly] You died.

YOU

There was a... a truck and it was skidding...

ME

Yup.

YOU

I... I died?

ME

Yup. But don't feel bad about it. Everyone dies.

YOU

[looking around] What is this place? Is this the afterlife?

ME

More or less.

YOU

Are you god?

ME Yup, I'm God.

YOU

My kids... my wife.

ME

What about them?

YOU

Will they be all right?

ME

That's what I like to see. You just died and your main concern is for your family. That's good stuff right there.

[YOU looks at ME with fascination]

ME

Don't worry. They'll be fine. Your kids will remember you as perfect in every way. They didn't have time to grow contempt for you. Your wife will cry on the outside, but will be secretly relieved. To be fair, your marriage was falling apart. If it's any consolation, she'll feel very guilty for feeling relieved.

YOU

Oh. So what happens now? Do I go to heaven or hell or something?

ME

Neither. You'll be reincarnated.

YOU

Ah. So the Hindus were right.

ME

All religions are right in their own way. Walk with me.

YOU

Where are we going?

ME

Nowhere in particular. It's just nice to walk while we talk.

## YOU

So what's the point, then? When I get reborn, I'll just be a blank slate, right? A baby. So all my experiences and everything I did in this life won't matter.

# ME

Not so! You have within you all the knowledge and experiences of all your past lives. You just don't remember them right now.

# [Stopping and taking YOU by the shoulders]

Your soul is more magnificent, beautiful, and gigantic than you can possibly imagine. A human mind can only contain a tiny fraction of what you are. It's like sticking your finger in a glass of water to see if it's hot or cold. You put a tiny part of yourself into the vessel, and when you bring it back out, you've gained all the experiences it had.

You've been in a human for the last 48 years, so you haven't stretched out yet and felt the rest of your immense consciousness. If we hung out here for long enough, you'd start remembering everything. But there's no point to doing that between each life.

### YOU

How many times have I been reincarnated, then?

#### ME

Oh lots. Lots and lots. An in to lots of different lives. This time around, you'll be a Chinese peasant girl in 540 AD.

#### YOU

[Stammering] Wait, what? You're sending me back in time?

#### ME

Well, I guess technically. Time, as you know it, only exists in your universe. Things are different where I come from.

# YOU

Where you come from?

#### ME

Oh sure. I come from somewhere. Somewhere else. And there are others like me. I know you'll want to know what it's like there, but honestly you wouldn't understand.

#### YOU

[A little let down] Oh. But wait. If I get reincarnated to other places in time, I could have interacted with myself at some point.

ME

Sure. Happens all the time. And with both lives only aware of their own lifespan you don't even know it's happening.

YOU

So what's the point of it all?

ME

Seriously? Seriously? You're asking me for the meaning of life? Isn't that a little stereotypical?

YOU

Well it's a reasonable question.

ME

[Looking YOU in the eye] The meaning of life, the reason I made this whole universe, is for you to mature.

YOU

You mean mankind? You want us to mature?

ME

No, just you. I made this whole universe for you. With each new life you grow and mature and become a larger and greater intellect.

YOU

Just me? What about everyone else?

ME

There is no one else. In this universe, there's just you and me.

YOU

[Staring blankly at ME] But all the people on earth...

ME

All you. Different incarnations of you.

YOU

Wait. I'm everyone!?

ME

Now you're getting it. [with a congratulatory slap on the back]

YOU

I'm every human being who ever lived?

ME

Or who will ever live, yes.

YOU

I'm Abraham Lincoln?

ME

And you're John Wilkes Booth, too.

YOU

[Appalled] I'm Hitler?

ME

And you're the millions he killed.

YOU

I'm Jesus?

ME

And you're everyone who followed him.

[pause]

Every time you victimized someone, you were victimizing yourself. Every act of kindness you've done, you've done to yourself. Every happy and sad moment ever experienced by any human was, or will be, experienced by you.

[YOU thinks for a long time]

YOU

Why? Why do all this?

ME

Because someday, you will become like me. Because that's what you are. You're one of my kind. You're my child.

YOU

[Incredulous] Whoa, You mean I'm a god?

ME

No. Not yet. You're a fetus. You're still growing. Once you've lived every human life throughout all time, you will have grown enough to be born.

YOU

So the whole universe, it's just...

ME

An egg. Now it's time for you to move on to your next life.

End of play