

# **PRIMITIVE THINKING**

**By Rod**

*This sketch looks at how we still have modern 'idols' even if we mock the beliefs of primitive civilisations. The two characters are 'city' workers on their lunch break. They have met up in the British Museum prior to going to lunch together.*

## *CAST*

*Al*                      *Business man*  
*Ben*                     *Stock market trader*

A                      It was a good idea of yours to meet in the British Museum. I find it really fascinating to see how all the ancient civilisations developed.

B                      Yes, it helps you to appreciate how technology has advanced. That abacus we saw is a reminder of just how far we have come. Nowadays we have computers that can do millions of calculations in just nanoseconds.

A                      What's this new section we are entering, Ben?

B                      Er, it's called "Ancient Religions and their Idols".

A                      That sounds interesting. I am always amazed by just how many gods the Romans and Greeks had. They had gods of love, gods of war, gods of beauty. You name it – they had a god for it.

B                      What about the god of getting plastered on Saturday night?

A                      Yes, they had one for that as well; they called him Bacchus.

B                      No kidding. Still, their belief in so many gods looks pretty primitive now. After all - we know there is only one *true* god, don't we?

A                      We sure do.

A & B                *[Football chant]* Oh Stevie Gerard, Stevie, Stevie, Stevie, Stevie Ge-e-rard.

A                      Wasn't he magnificent. He certainly played like a god. He was everywhere on the pitch. *[Demonstrates free-kick]* And the swerve he put on the ball at that free-kick was wicked. The keeper had no chance.

B                      None whatsoever.

A                      It was a pity you couldn't have been there, Ben. The atmosphere at the new Wembley was electric.

B                      Okay, but I did have the next best thing. I watched it on my new 50 inch widescreen high definition plasma TV with full quadrasonic

surround sound. What with that and a few cans of the old amber nectar it was just like being there. And the burgers were a lot cheaper.

A Sounds impressive. Plasma eh?

B Yes, and I've got my square foot of turf from the original Wembley mounted on the wall.

A You've created quite a footballing shrine there in your living room.

B Yes, and every time I enter I say a little prayer, in grateful thanks for 1966, remembering that Saint Bobby Moore trod on that turf and brought home the World Cup to England.. Happy days.

A Happy days. *[Pointing]* Look at that Egyptian god. It's formed into a rather strange shape..

B Is it a sphinx?

A Maybe. It's hard to tell. It makes you think, though, how could they ever imagine that that was a god?

B I agree. I mean it looks as though it's made of bronze, which is a relatively precious metal I grant you, but that's still all it is - just a lump of metal. It's certainly not a god to be worshipped and adored.

A You are right, Ben. *[Pause]* Oh, by the way, do you fancy a lift home?

B Oh, yeah cheers. Save me *not* getting a seat on the train. The overcrowding is getting ridiculous.

A Fine. Come to my office about five.

B Great. So, why have you got your car here today, Al? I thought you usually came up on the train.

A I do, but I fancied a spin in my new set of wheels.

B Oh yeah? Tell me more. As if you weren't going to anyway.

A *[Proudly]* It's a Lamborghini Gallardo Coupe.

B You're having me on.

A No, took delivery of it yesterday. 5 litre V10 engine. It's a beauty. It drives like a dream. 0 to 60 in 4.2 seconds. Once we get through the London traffic I'll have you home in no time.

- B Sounds awesome, I can't wait. Hey look at these. It's a whole collection of Roman household gods. They're puny; not what I'd call a god.
- A Yes, and most of them are made out of wood. It says they used to stand them on a shelf and then worship them as household spirits. It makes you wonder how the Roman Empire ever grew to be so powerful with behaviour like that.
- B Imagine worshipping a piece of wood. Ridiculous. *[Pause]* I'm glad you're driving me home, Al, it will give me a chance to show you our new extension. It's just finished.
- A What have you had done?
- B Basically we have added a brand new kitchen. We got Magnet to design and fit it. It looks beautiful; real wood tops – genuine teak
- A I bet Emily is happy.
- B Too right she is. I reckon she spends most of the day in the kitchen alone with Robbie.
- A Robbie?
- B Yes, Robbie Williams. She worships him. She's got all his music and plays it non-stop. What with that and her new kitchen to polish, she's in seventh heaven.
- A Still that kitchen must have set you back a bob or two.
- B It did, but what with that little bonus I got at Christmas for being "Trader of the year", I could easily afford it. And I've still got plenty of money in the bank for security.
- A Hey, look at this. It's a statue made entirely of gold. It says it is an idol of one of the Egyptian gods.
- B Now, that would be a good investment.
- A The sort I might be able to consider if I can land that new job I was telling you about. With the salary it brings I'll be made for life.
- B It sounds an incredible package. Hey, Al, look at this lot. It's a whole array of idols from early civilisations; all of them depict Sun gods or Moon gods. It's amazing to think how people could ever have imagined that praying to the Sun or the Moon could really have any effect on their lives.
- A Yes, it is amazing.

- B           What do you think your chances are?
- A           In the job, you mean?
- B           Yes.
- A           Pretty good I reckon: because first of all I'm a Taurus, and that means I am naturally confident and able to take a lead. So I am ideally suited to a post as MD.
- B           You cannot argue with the stars, Al.
- A           But what makes me supremely confident is that on the day of the interview my horoscope said that with the moon in Scorpio and Venus entering Libra, provided I carried a piece of crystal with me throughout the day I could expect good news.
- B           And did you have some crystal?
- A           Of course. I kept it in my pocket so it would remind me throughout the day. In fact, I've still got it. *[Produces from pocket]*
- B           Well, it's in the bag then.
- A           I reckon so.
- B           *[Looking at watch]* Well I guess we had better go and grab a bite to eat. I've got a meeting at two. I'll toss you for who pays.
- A           You're on. You know, Ben, it's been really interesting seeing all these idols and things from primitive times. I've found it fascinating.
- B           Yes, me too. It makes you appreciate just how much more civilised we are in our thinking in the twenty-first century. Man has come a long way. *[Fumbling in his pockets]* Oh, no.
- A           What's the matter?
- B           I think I've lost my lucky coin.

*THE END*