

♪ 1

***Narrator:** Hi everyone, welcome, excited you came today

I will now respectfully give the plot away

If you all don't mind, I ask you pay attention

And listen to this lesson in bad-choice prevention

The "Summoning of Everyman" is the title

It is a tale so important we consider to be vital

This lesson has held up for hundreds of years

And becomes more relevant the closer crisis nears.

It is an important lesson easy to ignore

Every-man believes he is not the man of which we speak

But you are who this story is truly for

who is supposed to think of what he can seek

You think that your bad actions are just part of the game

But when Death comes for your soul to claim

Your valuables hold no meaning anymore

Fade into nothingness at the foot of death's door.

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God summons Gabriel and says to him

All those on Earth who once used to fear him

Now don't even notice he is there at all!

And each generation, further from Grace they fall

And as he sits there in all his majesty

He is deeply concerned for the human tapestry
And so on the two-thousand and twentieth year
It's about time he makes their impermanence clear
He's sent wildfires and questionable leaders
He's even installed several Earth-heaters
All in an effort to wake up the people!
And yet they are still in a state of upheaval
It is time for the summoning of Everyman
There is no other way to make him understand
God does this out of love and not out of spite
But death, you must go, you must go tonight
Go to Everyman and explain this situation
Be warned, you'll be met with resistance and trepidation.



***Death:** No hour to waste, no time to dally, off I go to houses
Off to a time where my hands reach out to thousands
I crawl in through the throat and nose
Close down the world as hysteria grows
I'll visit Everyman without announcement
Watch him cling to the things he can't carry in denouncement
Watch his head start to spin when reality hits him
Off I go now, transformations begun Everyman can't hide, no point to run
To a moment in history where anxiety and fear is stirring

Are you all familiar with the time to which I'm referring?

Everyman, hello, it is me. Do you know me?

***Everyman:** no who are you?

***Death:** I am not a who, but a what you blinded fool

Sent straight from God above to enforce his iron rule

God believes you have forgotten him here on earth

Slowly losing your way since the day of your birth

He thinks it time you begin your heavenly-stay

And perhaps relearn the truth, at some point on your way

***Everyman:** you ... are ... making me nervous.

***Death:** well, that's a natural part of my service

You will now begin a long journey my friend

Your time in this world has come to an end

You will answer to the Lord and meet your reckoning

If you squint and look forward you can see him beckoning

You will soon understand how you've spent your days in waste

How most of your priorities have been misplaced

Come now, we must be going

Today you will be Judged by The All-Knowing.

***Everyman:** please. Stop. I don't want to go. Who are you?

***Death:** I am death. The grim reaper. The end. (long pause) 🎵 4

Our introduction could not be avoided

Every person who has tried finds himself disappointed.

***Everyman:** What?! No. This can't be happening.

I need to sit down. Stop this. I'm panicking

I've lived less than a quarter of life!

Always looked both ways, never ran with a knife

Please, God, I'm begging. Not now, not tonight.

***Death:** I smile because nothing ever changes

You all try to bait me with bribes and exchanges

I cannot be swayed, Everyman. Never could, never will.

Stop, stop pacing, try to sit still.

***Everyman:** I can't do this alone

Please can we postpone?

I need time to think, to find someone to come with

Please, let me have a companion to sit with

***Death:** Look, fine. I'll cut you a deal.

You may try to find a companion, I yield

***Everyman:** Thank you. Thank you!

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***Narrator:** Everyman goes to fellowship to ask

If he would accompany him in this task

Fellowship is shocked and says: you mean you're going to die?

And you want me to parish too by your side?

Everyman really you are my true friend.

But did you honestly believe I would follow you to the end?

Now is not my time.

You can't just ask me to leave my family behind. (long pause)

Everyman thinks himself so dumb

Thinking kindred and cousin will definitely come

Bothering with fellowship was such a waste of efforts

Thinking he could count on his brothers was all defaults

He goes to them and says

***Everyman:** this figure appeared, called himself death

Said my time was up, then up and left!

Said I had to go give an account of life to God-the-Father

I tried to negotiate but he said don't even bother.

So now I'm desperately seeking a companion

Someone to join on my journey through death's canyon

I know it's a lot to ask to leave behind what you know
But we could make it an adventure, figure it out as we go.
We were pledges together now we are brothers for eternity
So, would you consider ... facing the inferno with me in certainty?

***Kindred/cousin:** Have you lost your damn mind?

You're asking us to leave all this behind?!

Not only that my kin... you want us to face judgement?

All that we do is Sin. No one can give us even a complement!

What do you want us to do?

Travel to the gates with you?

Everyman, listen, I have a story to tell

It's called "A Gentleman's guide to Death and Hell"

So, there we are, strolling up to the front entrance

Ready to beg St. Pete for our eternal sentence

But before we know it Lucifer is calling

And from pure bliss we all start falling

And then starts pulling us towards the fiery pits of Hell

And naturally we all start to yell

Now I'm screaming and cursing at the guards

Falling into damnation with the last words, oh God

And suddenly we open our eyes and look around

And with our feet planted firmly on the ground

We read the sign that says "Welcome to the Garden State"

And then we know it is truly too late

You understand why we don't want to go

Forgive us, our ways depart unfortunately so

I'm sorry. I'm out. That's a trip I can't make

I really wish I could, don't make mistake

But that is too big of a request

Even to those who know you best

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***Narrator:** Everyman is so desolate, trying to find a companion, before it's too late

Thinking of who and what he can find

To get on with this eternal journey and be fine

His mind goes to his material wealth

For which he always jeopardized his health

He seeks his money and passionately says:

***Everyman:** Goods! Goods! Thank God I found you

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***Goods:** Whatever you need, you know I'm your lifesaver

But time is money, please be quick and a timesaver

***Everyman:** I need you travel with me to my death

Accompany me at my Judgement, share my final breath

***Goods:** Everyman, that's just not how it works (long pause)

Your insistence on my company is absolutely adorable

Mmmm. Did I take advantage? Man, that makes me feel deplorable

***Everyman:** What are you talking about my friend?!

I thought you would be with me till the end

***Goods:** Oooo, I thought you understood.

See here on earth I can be your best friend

Give you clout and status; but at the bitter end

Your goods are meaningless, lumps of plastic and metal

Collecting dust in your house as your rotting body starts to settle.

I'm no use for you in the afterlife, you should know

That's the only place where I'm not your fellow

I'm really sorry, Everyman. I thought you understood

Goods at the end, aren't really good.

***Everyman:** then, why are they so important right now to me?

***Goods:** They are only as important as you allow them to be. (long pause)

And Everyman you are kind of obsessed

But you are no more obsessed than all of the rest
You all think of me as some worthy commodity
It's always struck me as a universal oddity
Let me explain in a way you will understand
You see, I, Goods, have ALWAYS been in demand.
Look at me! I'm the best. Your goods are nice as hell.
It's just that in hell, they may not serve you as well.
I should be leaving now. The demands are so high
I am very busy you know. I can't come and that's why
Convincing me? You poor thing, don't even give it a try
So, ... goodbye

***Narrator:** Everyman was so angry at himself
That was because, goods was so full of itself
Different thoughts and feelings rushed in his existence
Suddenly, five wits show up and look indifference
Everyman looks at him with hesitation
And five senses begin the conversation

***Five Senses:** Hi I'm five Senses, I heard you need some assistance
I heard that you're called to meet your maker, and showed resistance
To find an everlasting company on the journey, you've had consistence
I sense that all you've got from others so far, is parting ways and distance (sigh)

(smelling the air) I smell your sadness and all the despair
I smell your suffocating fear, in the air
I smell your helplessness and trepidation
Not to mention body odor, and a bit of desperation
I hear the voices inside, the negative thoughts you try to hide
I hear in the deepest part of your existence, a loud cry for a guide
I hear your begging voice asking me to be by your side (pause)
I see the harsh rejection in others' eyes when they depart
I see the gloomy crack it has caused your heart
I see in your eyes the wishful need for a new start
Like you I see the darkness that's awaiting you
Like you I see no way out, not even the smallest clue
You think whatever you touch dies, now that you are near the end
All alone, no one around, miserable and damned, not even a friend
Like you, I feel the same way
Whatever I touch goes astray
Like your heart, your hands are numb and senseless
I am your five senses, but you've made me helpless
I taste ash, the loneliness, and the bitter taste of black
I taste the termination of my being at the end of this track
And hey, Everyman, you truly never know
After a taste of the afterlife, you may not want to go

***Narrator:** Everyman is more upset and afraid

Thinking of whom he can call for aid

His mind is blown, His sanity fading

He can't comprehend why nobody's helping

His mind suddenly goes to good deeds

Something he hasn't done much, indeed

***Everyman:** good deeds, it has been a while

And I uhh I hope that we can reconcile.

I'm sorry. I have been a disgrace

My priorities seem to have been, displaced

***Good deeds:** everyman, my friend, it's good to see your face. (Coughing)

It's been so long since I saw you or your footrace

***Everyman:** Listen I know you want nothing to do with me

But I need your help, please don't be through with me

***Good Deeds:** I'm not through with you I just have missed you

Have I done something to offend? Judged or dissed you? (Coughing)

My dear, it has been so long

And the distance has made me so numb (Coughing)

But what's the problem? For you my friend, I would do whatever I can

Even though you have a cold heart, I would be the kindest to you, everyman (Coughing)

***Everyman:** I have to go face Judgment and I am so scared

Not to mention, I am completely unprepared

With you by my side, maybe I'd be calm and at peace

With your kind heart, my pain would decrease

***Good Deeds:** (clearly sick and struggling) Everyman, stop. It's no use. (pause)

Look at me, I'm sick. It's hard to stand and talk

I could never make that journey, I can barely walk

Your Sins rest heavy on my back, like a rock (pause)

I'm weak, no longer a part of you

I can't do the things you ask me to

I'm sorry (starts coughing again)

My power comes from the pureness of your heart

I can't do it on my own. You have to do your part

Your heart is black as the darkest of nights

You've lost your soul in all of the fights

***Everyman:** God. How did I find myself here?

No one can help me, and I'm about to disappear.

My chest hurts too. What is happening?!

Good Deeds, please, this whole thing is maddening.

***Good Deeds:** I know who can help you

Who know what to do with the cards, God dealt you

You don't know them well, but they know you

I'll tell them to come, they'll know what to do

***Everyman:** Thank you, I don't deserve this kindness

***Good Deeds:** but you are not fully to blame for your blindness (pause)

You live in a bubble, a mirrored box that surrounds you

Makes you so numb to the world around you

You are not a you, but a what

A generation of humans in a deep collective rut.

***Narrator:** Knowledge, being called upon, comes

And everyman towards him desperately runs

Thinking good deeds might have known something

Maybe knowledge is the answer to everything

***Everyman:** knowledge, you know that death and I signed a deal

You know that this is my last night, and before you, I kneel

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***Knowledge:** I am knowledge, it's my job to know

I also know where we have to go

It's time for you to confess your sins

Once you've done that, the process begins

If you want your soul to find salvation

If you want to be rid of this desperation

Follow my lead cause I'm knowledge and I have information

No need to cry, no need for depression

Please be sincere and let out your suppression

If you confess, there's a possibility for salvation

***Narrator:** Everyman hesitantly goes to face confession

Thinking about the things for which he needs redemption.

Desperately thinking to try different ways

kind of like being confused and lost in a maze

***Everyman:** Dear God!! I want you to know that I have learned my lesson

Please, I want my guilts and sins to be lessened

I am, uh, really sorry for all the stuff I've done

Should I say five "Hail Marys" and we can move on?

Also are you in charge of this whole afterlife thing?

I wanted to talk about an arrangement we can swing

I'm starting to wonder if this has all been some sort of a dream

A quarter-life wake up call. A sort of universal scheme

If you let me wake up and start anew

There are a ton of things I would be willing to do!

I could, uh, well I could... let's see (long pause)

Well, I'll never steal from lower again

I will never cheat by paying off a friend

***Knowledge:** STOP. Stop. Everyman. (pause)

First of all, that's progress but you are missing the mark

We're trying to light a fire and you've just made a spark

But anyway, it is no use.

I wish what you are saying was, the truth

That this was just a dream. A nightmare. Pretend.

But unfortunately, this IS really the end.

Open your heart. No time for you to suspend

Open your eyes to the situation and comprehend

***Everyman:** in front of you dear God, I sincerely pour out my heart

I would confess to all my sins, from the guilt I would depart

Forgive my soul, I'm just a human, I've made mistakes many times

I now know, the horrible sufferings caused by my awful crimes

***Five Senses:** There's a spark in you. I see it there

A faint, soft light, leading somewhere

Let that spark grow, let it burn bright
To guide you through this darkest night
You didn't know, but this is the power of your waking soul
Let that spark grow brighter, that is our main goal

***Everyman:** if I let this blaze sparks high
Will it cleanse my soul and purify?
Can it make my heart feel new
And guide me down a path, that's true?

***Knowledge:** Yes, let your good deeds fuel that flame
And may they lead you, just the same
For time on earth is slipping fast
And soon you'll find a home at last
It is your dark side, you have to outcast
This is the answer to the question you asked

***Everyman:** A home? Where could it be? Tell me more
Beyond this life? Is there a door?

***Knowledge:** in the land where the dead reside
May you find peace, with God as your guide

***Narrator:** strength was the next company Everyman seeks

Saying that without strength he is so very weak

How can he walk? How can he talk?

If not for strength, how can he move all the rocks?

Strength comes to Everyman with a pride

Everyman thinks he is going to be by his side

***Narrator:** Comes and says: Hi Everyman. I am your strength. You know me well.

You've made me grow. I am something you can never sell

Right now, you feel fine, you don't feel any pains

But back on earth, your human body remains

Every step we now take towards the grave

Is another day that your human body starts to cave

The reality is that you are sick and you are dying

People in sadness and grief, your name are calling

***Knowledge:** Everyman, first, this you should know

Before we all pick up and we go

We need to explain what is really happening

This part is serious. This part is saddening.

I should explain this to you, this is what I know

You should understand you still have a long way to go

I know everything, you should trust me

As much as I can, your helper, I want to be

***Good deeds:** your sister is numb, your parents are crying

Here in this spiritual dream-scene we try to keep things light

But back at home you and your family are putting up a fight

Now you know you can't see them or another earthly night

Do you know, from now on, who will be by your side?

***Narrator:** Comes and says: I am a little hasty. This, I cannot hide

This journey is not for me, even if I tried

I can only help you in the matters of this world

My force and power in the afterlife, would be blurred

I can't help you walk. I can't help you talk.

I can't even help you move the smallest rock

With your dying body, I die as well

I can't accompany you in heaven or hell

The closer we get to the enormous gates of judgement

You should know that I can't be your helping instrument

The closer we get to the end of this life

You should know that I feel a deep and intense strife

This is the moment of departure for me

Without my company you shall be

Good bye old friend, is my last word to you

This is not for me. I'm not coming with you

***Five Senses:** strength wait, I will come with you

Me? On this journey? My departure has long been overdue

Everyman, you should know, as we get closer to the destination

A kind of numbness is spreading through my entire foundation

I'm telling you this as a friend

I cannot be with you till the end

You should know, as I fade away, so do all your senses

You cannot see a thing, even if you try different lenses

You cannot smell, taste, or touch anything

Your senses are earthly, in the afterlife they don't mean a thing

Not that I don't want to come, it's just that I can't

There's nothing there, that I can implant

***Knowledge:** We try to remain relentless in all this hysteria

But let's face it life on earth right now is a disturbia

And you, Everyman, you have forgotten us

Those of us who you really could trust

And now as we begin our journey you will see

Those of us who stay and those of us who flee.

We've done what we were supposed to do

Soon, you'll know, who's your afterlife crew

***Narrator:** So, Everyman along with his virtues began to walk

Further from reality, and into a fog

Along the way Everyman had tons of time to think

And wished life's scroll was scribed in pencil, rather than in ink

He reflected upon the virtues there to guide him

And was shocked by the ones who remained beside him

The first one to go and leave was discretion.

It caused everyman to show frightening facial expression

Then shortly thereafter beauty started to fade

Such complaints she naggingly made

***Beauty:** can I mention we have not passed one stand for lemonade?

My legs hurt. I'm tired. I need some real aid.

We are so far over my daily steps

I have pit stains on my shirt, and my hair is unkempt

Everyman, I am so sorry but I have to stop

Like, I am literally about to drop

I do really need to go home

I need a good cleanser, a bath, and a comb

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There's no place in the afterlife for me

That is NOT the place I want to be

I'm done. Yes, I'm done. I don't belong to you or anyone else
Death fades my essence you know. So, I'm not going, no offence

***Narrator:** Beauty's departure made Everyman loose his pride

He couldn't look in the mirror, wouldn't go outside

The worst part of all was that Strength was close behind

Without his Beauty, he really lost his mind

And with every step Strength took, Everyman got weaker

His mind blurry and he got sicker

His muscles faded; eyes became red

It wasn't long before he couldn't leave his bed.

But after what felt like an eternity, they reached their destination

And Everyman felt just one moment of elation.

***Everyman:** Thank God we are finally here

No more walking! God I could cheer!!

I, uh, guess I'm prepared for what comes next.

Should we cross through the gates? Should we make our next steps?

Cmon! You've crossed mountains and rivers with me

Now all you have to do is step through with me.

***Five Senses, knowledge, beauty, goods, Strength:** farewell everyman, 🎵 11

as you were born you shall die alone.

***Narrator:** Everyman steps forward but no one else moves.

He looks at them so devastated and confused.

***Everyman:** No. No. You have to pass through

Knowledge, you know what to do!

Five Wits... please... you're not with me surely

Why is everything so blurry?

***Good Deeds:** Just try to breathe dear

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***Everyman:** I heard that HUNDREDS of times on Earth

And you know what? Their pleading didn't work!!!

I'm dead. I'm literally at the Gates of Hell.

Well wishes didn't make me well

And you all promised to stand by my side

And now you sit there and watch me die?!

I would do it all differently with empathy

I would pay some attention, have some sympathy

If I could touch down on earth one last time

I would own up the mistakes that I know are mine

But I can't do that, somethings are set in stone

And now I'm left in guilt, in guilt and all alone (pause)

And Goods! You swindled me and you knew you could

You're sneaky and you're no damn good
You twisted my perception of the meaning of valuable
Took advantage when I was young, naive and malleable
I wish people on earth would start to doubt you!
Paying no attention and candidly curse you
You're meaningless! And I cared so much
All I want now is a human touch
But no one can hear my screams at all!
No one is going to answer my call
Am I really at the edge of my downfall? (pause)
But I feel a weight lifted off of my shoulders
Knowing beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder
Knowing my external appearance means nothing at the end
Thinking of all the beauty standards that caused me to bend
And twist and starve and count and spend
Comparing to that model, that actress, that friend
When people begin their journey to the gate
Their beauty and strength will leave them, make no mistake
They'll abandon you, without question or delay
You would be alone and far away
And when I stood at the other side of the gate, alone
Wanting just one real friend of my own
I looked at all of the virtues, who stared back with blank expression

And began my long, sad, and painful confession
And as I poured my heart and soul out for each of them to see
One of them caught my eye that I could not believe. (pause)
(Crying, breaking down) And I'm so sorry I wish I could make it right!!!

***Good Deeds:** Everyman, Everyman. Hey. It's all right.

***Everyman:** Good Deeds? You're still by my side?

***Good Deeds:** Your conscience is clean, that's right!

And now everything would be alright
Take a breath, Everyman, you've made it through the night
The sun will soon rise here in the afterlife
And we will be a part of it, it'll be all right.
Don't you see? I'm that real friend by your side
With your confession, you gave power in your fight
Yes. Everywhere is bright and we are through with the night

***Everyman:** So... I'm okay?! I'm not going to disappear

And I can actually stay here?

And... Wait..... Did you say we?

***Good Deeds:** We are together again, my friend

I wish it didn't have to take travelling to the end

But I'm healthy now, light as a feather

And I'm ready to take this next step, together

***Everyman:** I don't believe it (pause)

I ignored you, treated you like a stranger

And for me, you still put yourself in danger

Left everything behind and were loyal and true

I don't deserve a... friend... like you.

***Good Deeds:** Sure, you do. And I will always be with you

***Death:** Come dear, there's nothing to fear

***Narrator:** Good deeds follows and extends her hand

The sun brightens the afterlife's land

There's a brazen moment here

And Everyman's worries all disappear

And now you dear audience, did you pay attention?

What do you do to get your redemption?

The material and physical world isn't what you need

All that matters is love and kindness, indeed

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