

It Didn't Happen

(but tells the truth)

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier (www.thefaithkit.org)
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If someone had told me it was going to happen, I would have expected to be terrified. But I did not expect it, and, somehow, the appearance of my brother who had died two years earlier did not scare me.

“How can it be you?” I asked quite calmly.

“God is making an exception,” he said. “Normally, this doesn't happen. But God decided that people could use more information about life where we are, and you are a writer, and God knew that you would ask good questions, so..., here I am. What do you want to know?”

“Really?” This is all I could think to say.

“Really.”

“Is it really good?”

It is *really* good. It's all your dreams come true, and so much more. What else do you want to know?”

“How does it work? I mean..., what's so good? I mean, some people say it's just about seeing God.”

“Well, you *do* see God—and this is everything. Seeing God is not like seeing me. Seeing God is knowing everything, being able to do anything, *being* so much more than you can imagine now. Seeing God is everything.”

“Is that all you do in heaven?”

“In a sense. But seeing God is not like doing one thing. I guess we can say that seeing God is like seeing the world, knowing the world really well. You get beauty; you get variety; you get adventure. There are infinite, really an *infinite* number of places to go, things to do, great things to accomplish.

“All at once?”

“In a sense. But the actual experience is more like what happens on earth over time. In other words, on earth, over the course of time your life is good because you have Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall; in heaven, you get the richness in variety, and even the joy in rarity, without having to wait.”

“Do you see Mom and Dad?”

“All the time. Actually, in heaven we all are so close—and still we all have more than enough space for ourselves!”

“Do they still look like Mom and Dad?”

“Well, I can tell you this: You will recognize them right away. But they look a lot better than I can describe. You see, in heaven you see a person’s soul—that’s why you can recognize them—but now their soul is as bright and beautiful as it can be. That’s why everybody loves everybody else so well.”

“Doesn’t that get a little complicated?”

“It would be if we tried to do it here. But in heaven everyone’s heart is so-o-o-o big, and time is no problem, and nobody is insecure.... When you see it, you’ll get it right away. You’ll have no problem fitting in and loving everybody, and everybody will love you.

“Even that slime ball that used to live next door to us? Even Hitler?”

“That slime ball isn’t a slime ball any more. When we get here we are changed. We see God and this changes us. We become a lot nicer than any of us ever were here, *any* of us. We learn so much from our mistakes. We are sorry for the bad things we did. We understand why we had to learn the hard way. We see this in others.... Do you remember when you made peace with Betty? ...how you thought you would never talk to her again but then you did and both of you saw your own part in the whole mess, and you talked it through, and now she’s your best friend, isn’t she? And, by the way, with regard to Hitler, I think you should know that infamous or famous people are not in any way famous in heaven. The stuff that makes us who we are in heaven has almost nothing to do with fame. It has so much more to do with the choices we make when no one is looking.

“Do *you* see the things that happen when no one is looking?”

“Yup.”

“Do you see everything, I mean everything?”

“Yes, but don’t worry about it. When you see God and understand everything, you will see human stuff for what it is. You will understand the work of life for what it is, and how little we start with, and how mistakes and sins are part of the process. You’ll want to say you’re sorry for some things, and there are some other things you’ll just be glad you’ve gotten past, but you won’t be embarrassed by anything.”

“Do you watch people go to the bathroom.”

“We don’t really watch for it, but we understand perfectly what it means to have a body, and why we had to have a body, and anyway, now our main attention is on MUCH bigger things.”

“Do you hear us when we talk to you?”

“We know everything that happened on earth. We know what you said. We know how you felt. And don’t worry that we know everything you sometimes felt; I told you: we understand perfectly what it means to be human, and how it is necessary that we struggle with stuff. The truth is what you were told: From the point of view of heaven, the good things are a lot more remarkable than the bad things. The bad things mean you are human. The good mean you have struggled and succeeded to grow.”

“Is this what you see me doing? Am I doing good enough?”

“Well, I would never tell you that you are doing good enough because then you might stop trying to do better; and I would never want you to stop doing better. Every little bit you grow will give God more to work with when you die. And wait until you see what God can do with a ‘little’!”

“Really?”

“Really. Let me tell you—I guess that’s why I’m here—if people could see what God can do with what you give Him every single time you try to do what’s right... let me tell you, history would make progress a far sight faster!”

“It was true what they told us?”

“It *is* true what they told us.”

“Is it scary when you go?”

“No. Think of it this way: You don’t go on your own. God has to change you. And in the process of changing you, He gives you what you need to be able to understand Him, and so you see clearly that you have absolutely nothing to fear.”

“Really?”

“Really. If you could see it, for even a second, you would not want to wait, even a second, to get there.”

With that my brother was gone. But now, I noticed, I no longer felt that he was gone.

Dear reader, I hope you believe my story. All of its teachings are true.