

# Three Wise Guys

a knowingly written myth

By and Based on the Books of Robert J. Cormier ([www.thefaithkit.org](http://www.thefaithkit.org))  
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# Three Wise Guys

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These guys were really wise. They saw that there in the East where they were from, there really weren't many good ideas. Actually, it was amazing to Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar that their society, as big and ancient as it was, had so few ideas about the world and life. The world—what is it? Life—what is it for? Happiness—what's that? No one seemed to know or even care!

But Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar cared, and they resolved to find the truth.

But where? Where could they go to find the truth?

They were pondering this question when, there in the West, a star appeared. To them, this appeared to be a sign. "Follow me," the star seemed to say, "follow my light; it will lead you where you need to go."

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar set out. As they went, the star before them appeared to get brighter and this made them feel that they were making progress, and that they were being led to a definite destination.

Over hills and through valleys they went, and they crossed a couple of streams. Finally they came to a place with people. They called their place "The Land of Many Miracles." Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar asked if they might speak to someone in charge. They were led to someone called "The Wizard." He appeared to be talking to himself, and doing something with two sticks. He stopped to acknowledge his visitors.

"What can you tell us about the world and life?" they asked.

"Please The Great Dispenser," he said, "And He will give you every good thing."

"Is The Great Dispenser something like God?" asked Gaspar.

"The Great Dispenser IS God."

“What do you think when He doesn’t give you what you ask for?”

“The Great Dispenser is testing you. He wants to find out if you really believe.”

“If The Great Dispenser is God,” questioned Gaspar, “wouldn’t you be showing Him greater faith if you trust Him for whatever He sends you?”

“The Great Dispenser wants you to ask so you know that He’s listening.”

“Aside from asking for things,” asked Melchior, “is there anything else on your mind when you talk to The Great Dispenser?”

It took The Wizard a few moments to think of something, but he did say that often you should ask The Great Dispenser for forgiveness for those times you break His rules, or else you should not expect Him to give you what you ask for.

With this, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar asked The Wizard whether obedience is always rewarded, and he could not say that it always was. He explained it by saying that The Great Dispenser works in mysterious ways, and you just have to trust Him and keep praying.

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar did not think that they were getting a very good explanation of how the world really works. Instead, they got the idea that the inhabitants of The Land of Many Miracles felt a little desperate and helpless to get the things they wanted; and this did not feel like what you should find in a land based on truth. They thanked The Wizard for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

The next place they came to called itself “The Land of Science.” The person in charge was The Chief Scientist. He, too, had time for Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

“What can you tell us about the world and life?” they asked.

“Life comes from knowledge,” he said, “and knowledge comes from study, and from experiments and proof!”

“What, exactly, do you get for this knowledge?” asked Balthazar.

“Knowledge is *power*,” said The Chief Scientist; “it is the power to make life better!”

“What is *better*?”

It took The Chief Scientist a few moments to think of something, but he then explained that “better” is having more of whatever a person needs to make him happy.

“What is *happy*?”

This time it took The Chief Scientist more than a few moments to think of what to say. Finally, he said this: “*Knowledge* is happiness.”

“Then,” asked Gasper, “can you tell me where the world is from?”

“The world is not from anywhere,” said The Chief Scientist, “the world is just here.”

“How can that be?” asked Melchior.

“It just is.”

“Can you prove this to us?” asked Balthazar.

“I do not have to prove this to you. The world is just here; it’s obvious.”

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar continued questioning but they quickly noticed that the responding had become circular. In this Land of Science it appeared to be a “doctrine” that the most important things that people want to know could not be known. Certainly they saw this when they asked The Chief Scientist about what happens to people when they die, or what, really, is the importance of knowledge if everyone who gets it is soon enough destined to lose it when he or she dies. They thanked The Chief Scientist for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

The next place they came to was called “The Land of Health and Safety.” Here the person most important was The Great Doctor. He explained that here in The Land of Health and Safety people had a passion to protect themselves from every sickness or accident, and to heal everyone who somehow still got sick or had an accident.

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar had many questions and they noticed that in The Land of Health and Safety there were many, many rules. It seemed to them that the inhabitants were so concerned to preserve their lives and that they did not permit themselves to live their lives.

“Oh no,” said The Great Doctor, “with proper precautions you can do things and have fun... but you must obey the rules.”

Gaspar questioned whether there *is* life if there are so many rules. The Great Doctor said that they were necessary.

“Necessary for what?”

“A long, healthy life.”

“Then what?”

It took The Great Doctor a few moments to think of something. “We have a wonderful system,” he said, “to allow people to manage their end-of-life issues in comfort and dignity.”

“You mean die?” asked Melchior.

“Yes.”

“Then what?”

The Great Doctor tried to answer but he didn’t really say anything. Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar thanked him for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

The next place they came to was called “Thinglandia.” It was most notable for its many stores. The leader of Thinglandia was called “The

Grand Acquisitor” and he graciously invited Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar to his home. He was quite eager to show them his many things.

“When was the last time you used that?” asked Balthazar; “and when was the last time you made use of that one there?”

The Grand Acquisitor didn’t remember exactly when; but he knew for sure what he was planning to buy next.

“Then what?” asked Gaspar, “how long do you expect to make use of that?”

“Hard to say.”

“Then what?”

“No problem there,” said The Grand Acquisitor, “there’s always something else to buy.”

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar saw quickly that there wasn’t much purpose in questioning him further and so they thanked him for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

The next place they came to was called “The Land of Milk and Honey.” But what it was really all about was money. The leader here was called “The Big Banker.” Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar found it difficult to sit him down. He was very busy. Actually, they noticed, everyone was very busy. They were making money, managing money, and talking about money.

“What’s the point?” asked Melchior.

“You have to have money,” said The Big Banker. “Money buys you what you need. Money buys you bigger and better. Money is security and the very best medical care in the land.

“Then what?”

“Then what *what?*”

“When there’s nothing left for doctors to do?”

The Big Banker pondered this question for what seemed like a long time. He really didn’t know what to say.

“Can you take it with you?” asked Balthazar.

“Of course not.”

“Then, if you can’t take it with you, why do you invest your whole life getting it?”

The Big Banker didn’t know what to say.

Balthazar had a follow-up question. “And if you are hoping for something after you die, how is spending your life getting money a good way to get ready?”

The Big Banker didn’t know what to say. Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar thanked him for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

The next place they came to was called “Babyland.” Its leader was called “The Big Baby” and she and everyone else was crazy for babies. They said it right out loud, “we live for our babies.”

“Then what happens?”

No answer. Just a puzzled look.

“When the babies grow up.”

“Then they have babies!” The Big Baby seemed to think that this was an answer and so Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar knew that there was no point asking any more questions. They thanked her for her time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

Now they came to “The Place of Pleasure”; at least that’s what the sign said. Here, however, it was hard to find someone to talk to. There didn’t

appear to be a leader. Most people paid no attention if you tried to talk to them. And some others looked drunk.

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar did not spend much time in The Place of Pleasure. They figured that, if pleasure is the only thing that counts, nothing really counts. People, surely, are going to be selfish. And what, anyway, is pleasure? It looked like nothing more than distraction—killing time ‘til time kills you.

They found the same thing in “TV Land.” Here, again, there was no one to talk to—it hardly seemed that anyone could talk—and so they looked for their star and continued on their way.

This time they traveled for a distance before arriving at a place that called itself “The Holy Land.” The leader here called himself “The Pastor.” He was eager to talk to Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

“What can you tell us about the world and life?” they asked.

“Save yourself,” he said; “save yourself from eternal damnation.”

“Why would we need to save ourselves?” asked Gaspar.

“Because we are all sinners, and worthy of damnation before the divine goodness of God.”

“But doesn’t goodness also mean love?” asked Melchior. “And doesn’t love mean understanding and forgiveness?”

“You can’t be forgiven if you don’t ask.”

“But what if what you need to be forgiven for is that you don’t know enough to ask?”

“People know they’re sinful. But because they’re sinful they’re prideful and are not willing to ask forgiveness.”

“But if people really only care about themselves, wouldn’t they do whatever they have to do to get a great life and avoid damnation?”

“People are stubborn.”

“Would they still be stubborn if they really saw what was best for them?”

“I think you are stubborn,” said The Pastor. “And you had better get over it before it’s too late.”

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar tried to understand what The Pastor was saying but they just couldn’t imagine an all-good God—someone kinder than anyone on earth they had ever met—choosing to send someone to suffer FOREVER. Especially when you consider that no one here asks to be born. Especially when it is usually obvious that people who live badly were never taught better.

Their journey had taught them that to live for something worldly is no life at all. It had made them see that we were made for a better life that will never end. And, certainly, it must be true that what we do affects the life to come. But it cannot be that we are here to be saved or damned. They thanked The Pastor for his time, looked for their star, and continued on their way.

Finally, the star became as bright as it could be. Clearly, if they went any farther the star would appear less bright.

It was night now, and the light from the star allowed them to see a curious scene. It was a manger wherein there was a baby and his mother and father and a couple of shepherds.

They looked in and one of the shepherds came out to speak to them. “I am not what I appear to be,” he said. “I am here to tell you that you have completed your journey. You have found the truth. This little boy will grow up to teach with his mouth and show with his blood that we were made by a God who loves us. He wants to give us as much as He can but He needs us to help Him. He wants us to have the pride and joy of helping Him make the people that WE want us to be. We do this by loving as we ourselves are loved. And His love is behind everything He will send into our lives, so that we will be able to receive everything else that He wants to give us. And knowing this will give us peace. Peace to you today.”

“But why,” asked Balthazar, “would He send a baby to teach us?”

“He sent us a baby so that we could see in him how we must grow.

He sent us a baby so He could speak to us, and not scare us.

And He sent us a baby, a vulnerable baby, so that we might understand He is vulnerable to us—in other words, in order to support us in the work of life, He will suffer with us our problems, and pains, and even sins.”

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar could see that they had found the truth.

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Epilog:

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthazar returned home much wiser for their journey. Moreover, with time, each was to become heroic spiritually, each with emphasis on a particular aspect of the wonderful explanation of life that they had learned.

Gaspar learned to use all his experiences, past, current, and dreams, in order to gain an ever clearer and more exciting idea of life with God. Notably, this allowed to him to need fewer things here on earth, and to enjoy what he did have better.

Life required Melchior to lean heavily on the glorious recompense of love. Much sacrifice was required of him in caring for his friends, and much forgiveness in caring for his family.

Balthazar leaned more on faith in God’s plan. Most people thought that he was the victim of a lot of bad “luck.” He, however, saw everything as sent by God to help him grow, and so it did.