

FROM HERE
TO ETERNITY



For more information contact:
Dr. Saint Peter at
www.seeyouthere.hvn

ACT I

**Basil: Hey Jack, here we go again;
one more Athena society
meeting; this time in the
beautiful island of Crete**

Jack: Yes Basil; we're both lucky we made it. Some time ago I thought that we will be able to go around all the Greek islands with the Athena society but now, I have some doubts; maybe another 1-2 islands? And that's it.

Basil: How could you make such stupid assumptions Jack; do you know how many Greek islands exist? More than 1,000; and you expected to go around all of them, one every 3 years? (*Basil laughing loud here*). This means you want to live 3,000 years? You are greedy Jack!

Jack: who cares what I want Basil; but the good news is that we are not alone; every member of the Athena society is over 60; maybe with 1-2 exceptions; like Shannon Haymond who is a baby by comparison to the others.

(Show picture of Shannon Here and add some voice in the background)



**Basil: I know Jack; in fact, I was
thinking this time to make a proposal
to the membership**

Jack: what proposal?

Basil: to change our name from Athena society to ...Athena Geriatric society; somebody told me the other day that the definition of geriatrics is older than 60; so, we all qualify; and I was thinking of a sub-section of the over 80s; the near Centenarians; there would be about half of us.

Jack: you know Basil? I actually agree with you for once; the other day I was looking at some pictures from earlier meetings of the Athena society. The first Rhodes meeting was almost 20 years ago. I did not even own a camera then and I have no pictures; but I have some from later meetings. We were all young then. Do you want to see what I mean?

Basil: yes, sure why not?

Jack: Here, this is Nader Rifai, Roland Valdes, Mario Plebani and Eleftherios Diamandis in Spetses; along with their beautiful spouses ... *(Show photo)*

Handsome eh?

Do you want to see how some Athenians will look in a few years?

Basil: sure, show me

Jack: here you are (*show distorted pictures here*)

Basil: and what can I tell you more about Ann Gronowski? Look how she was in Rhodes;

(Wait for several seconds here as the picture is posted)



Jack: Basil, are you sure this is Ann? She looks more like Jennifer Lopez; also known as JLo. In fact, I am not even sure if Ann was in Rhodes.

Basil: I am very impressed Jack; I thought you only knew “Conan the Barbarian” from the actors. You know who J Lo is eh? And, I am not sure Ann was in Rhodes either; but I am sure she was in Porto Heli! Here is how she looked then.

(Wait for several seconds here as the picture is posted)



Jack: oh no! this is not Ann; What is going on here Basil?

Basil: hey, Jack; listen. I am not crazy yet; I know this is not Ann; but I just wanted to check if your brain is working all right or if you started having Alzheimer problems; but I can see your mind is razor sharp!

Jack: Basil; I believe we are side tracking here; we are supposed to talk about the Athena Society ; not J-Los Kate Upton and the like.

Basil: right; right; Let us talk Athena society now

ACT II

Basil: As I was telling you Jack, I have some thoughts about old age and how to handle it. Sometimes I sit down and think how our last moments would be.

Poooooooooooooooooooo and in one second we are going from here to eternity

How to you understand eternity jack?

**Jack: if I knew how eternity works,
Basil, I would not be here with you
and the other Athenian losers; I
would be a King, a Prophet, a God;
and I would charge \$100,000 to tell
others what eternity is, and how it
looks, and feels. Do you have any
ideas?**

**Basil: Well, I dream of eternity Jack; I
dream of paradise; and this makes me
soooooooooo happy!**

Jack: Tell me about your paradise Basil

**Basil: well, it is a big room; with a
large garden; and the room is fully
air-conditioned and equipped ...**

Jack: equipped with what?

**Basil: an SMA 6-60; do you remember
this marvel Jack? And the six channels
measuring creatinine, total protein,
albumin, glucose, bilirubin and your
favourite, total calcium? And the SMA
is operated by an....angel**

**Jack: is there such a thing as an Angel
technician Basil?**

**Basil: sure there is; Here is the picture of
my paradise.**

(Show “BASIL’s PARADISE”)

**Jack: hahahaha your paradise is an
SMA 6-60? You should ask for an
upgrade Basil; make it SMAC instead.**

Basil: Yeah Jack, but this one will be different; the bubbles will be colorful and the machine will also play classical music; the peaks will be colourful; and it will never, never, never break; flawless operation. And I did not tell you the best part; accuracy jack; hahaha the accuracy will be better than 99.99999% ... (*continues*)

I will make the Germans so jealous of my perfection. They will give up all of their standardizations and reference preparations. I will drive them out of business. I will be perfect, perfect, perfect Jack!

What is your paradise jack?

Jack: Well, you are stealing my dreams basil; my paradise is along similar lines but not with the SMAC crap. I am dreaming of the ultimate cardiac marker Basil; one that will put Fred, Nader, and the two Alans (Wu and Jaffe if you do not get it) out of business. An ultra-super-assay, like ... (*continues*)

fifteenth generation that will tell you,
not if you HAD a heart attack, but if
you will have a heart attack in 5 min,
an hour, a month, a year, or even 100
years

**Basil: hahahaha 100 years? Who cares if
I will have a heart attack in 100
years?**

(Wait for several seconds here)

Jack: God cares Basil; remember, this test will not be for here; it will be for paradise, and we will be immortal out there .

Basil: hahahahahahah...But Jack if we are immortal, why do we need the test?

**Jack: Now we are not immortal Basil;
we just said; we were dreaming;
remember?**

ACT III

**Basil: Jack I like this conversation
about immortals. Is there any chance
we become immortals?**

Jack: yes there is

Basil: so what is it? How?

**Jack: cloning Basil cloning. Go and
clone yourself and that's it; you
become immortal.**

Basil: what do I have to do?

Jack: they will take some hairs from you; you still have some, and it does not matter if they are snow white; then, they will put some chemicals to the cells they will get from your hair and culture them; they say that the chemicals will reprogram your cells to become pluripotent.

**Basil: you are getting too technical jack;
what is pluripotent?**

**Jack: your cells will become like a ...
mini Basil Doumas Basil; when they
grow, they will make the new Basil
Doumas.**

Basil: And can I keep my name?

Jack: sure you can, but you will need to modify it a bit to distinguish yourself fromyou!

Basil: So, what would be my modified name?

Jack: just told you, Basil C. Doumas

Basil: what is the C standing for?

**Jack: Cloned Basil; you will be known
as Basil Cloned Doumas; that's all.**

Basil: What is the cost Jack?

Jack: Usually \$100K but I am sure the AACCC will pay for you; they will need a new president in 50 years. Sherago will put the money-in. Do not worry.

Basil: may I ask a technical question

Jack?

Jack: sure

Basil: You said one cell; like little

Basil? How am I going to grow Jack?

Don't I need a womb or something?

**Who is going to feed me and nourish
me for 9 months?**

Jack: good question, I forgot to mention; the old technology required a surrogate mother; but the cost was too high and it was rather unethical. The new technology requires only a female goat! ... *(continues)*

(Basil grimaces here and wait a few seconds)

they will put your cell, little Basil as you said correctly, into the goat's uterus and you will grow there; nine months are you are out.

Basil: *(scratching his head)* **Jack I am a little worried now; what if I get some genes from the goat?**

Jack: well it is a very remote possibility;

the other day I was told that out of

100,000 cloned individuals, only 3 had a

gene transfer from the goat.

Basil: *(looks very scared and with a broken*

and stuttered voice): Ggggggo on; ggggggo

on, I want to hear more.

Jack: since you asked for it, here is more. One guy inherited a goat gene for hair, and he came out totally normal except that he had a goat tee; here is how you will look if this ever happens to you... (*continues*)

*(Show photoshop picture
here (half screen for basil))*



**It is not bad; the famous Brad Pitt has
the same goat tee.**

Basil: aaaaahhhhhh I am scared; stop showing this picture now. And what about the second guy?

Jack: well, the second guy had a more serious side effect. He inherited an arm from the goat and he looked like this.

*(Show photoshop picture
and then zoom on the arm)*



Basil:aaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh;that's terrible

Jack: terrible but rare basil; worth

taking your chances unless you

prefer to die!

Basil: *(looks very agitated)* **tell me about
the third guy**

Jack: **do you really want to hear? Here
you go; the third guy had a something
that is called a catastrophic event; he
lost 90% of his DNA to a goat cell and he
came out like this.**

(Show photoshop picture here of basil head on a whole goat. Goat



makes a moooooooooo noise here (wait for several seconds before proceeding).

[Basil: termoring; shaking; desperate; loses consciousness and falls down for a few seconds . Jack tries to revive him with various tricks]

Basil: (after he calms down) Jack I prefer to die than being reborn a goat!

ACT IV

Jack: Basil, I do not blame you; I share your fears that cloning may degrade you from a great man to a goat. I have recently heard of another immortality technique that you may want to consider

Basil: what is it?

Jack: It is called fermionic regeneration. very, very high tech; it was published in Nature magazine a few months ago and invented by a guy by the name of James Wesley Rogers; he claims that he can adjust your new life to age 21; forever!!

Basil: how can I learn more?

Jack: well it is by interview only; if you want to learn more you will have to go by yourself ; they will not even allow Maria to be there; strictly confidential; somebody told me the first thing they do it to estimate your time of death; they go by an accuracy of a few milliseconds; this is how good they are... *(continues)*

Then, they tell you if you want to be regenerated after your death; you apply, sign the contract and then wait for the time; when it comes, you go in and after a short interview they do it on the spot; you do not even need to be fasted.

Basil: is it safe?

**Jack: hahahahaaha safe? Do not ask
stupid questions Basil; we are talking
after you die here; not before; so, it is ...
very safe. Do you want to try?**

**Basil: well I have no option really; it is
between death and immortality; and I
choose the second.**

Jack: what should I tell Maria if she asks?

Basil: tell her that I will be immortal and if

I am the same as before, and I am sure I

will be, I will keep loving her; but never

promise I will marry her again; tell her I

will look for her in the new life and leave

it at that.

Jack: what does “look for her” means?

Basil: *(looking annoyed)* It means jack that I will look for her and I may look for others; but never say that; ok? Who knows if an Angelina Jolie comes my way? I will exercise my options at that time.

Jack: ok; got it; here is the tel # of this company; they call themselves “from here to eternity” And here is a telephone. Call them.

(Basil hesitates a bit and then decides calling the number ...)

Basil: Hello; is this from here to eternity?

(Show split screen with the two talking people on their phones; the lady could be in a living room or something)

TL: *(kind of laughing)* from here to...

what? Eternity? No sir, eternity is not here.

Basil: where is she?

TL: How should I know where is she sir?

Eternity is gone, forever.

Basil: But I want to have an appointment with her!

**TL: You want to have an appointment
with who?**

Basil: Eternity

TL: Why?

**Basil: Iwant to be immortal with this
new method; fermionic regeneration.**

*(Some voices or laughs from the line;
showing the other person in split screen)*

TL: what is your name sir?

Basil: Basil

**TL: Well...Basil, you need to see a
psychiatrist right now, oryou must be
a complete moron**

**Basil: Hey, do you know to whom you are
talking to? The great Basil Doumas, ex-
President of AACCC!**

**TL: Yeah, yeah,and do you know who
am I? I am the President of the United
States; you have the wrong number; you
moron!**

ACT V

FRR: this is an important message from the Central Existence Committee.

First, we would like to check our equipment. It is about life and death here; make sure you do not make lethal mistakes Mr Doumas! Press

button 1 please. (*Basil presses 1 and the sound comes; he tries to dance to the rhythm*)

(continues)

FRR: Ok Mr Doumas; press button 2

now. (*Basil presses 2 and the sound comes;
he tries to dance to the rhythm*)

Ok Mr Doumas; press button 3 now.

(*Basil presses 3 and the sound comes; he
tries to dance to the rhythm*)

(continues)

**FRR: I can see you are in good mood Mr
Doumas; Press 1 to receive this
message in English. Press 2 to receive
this message in Greek. Press 3 to have
this message directly injected into
your brain using Chomsky universal
grammar. You have three seconds to
choose. .. (*continues*)**

(Basil seems hesitant and a little confused but then presses a button. There will be childish music from the drum here, but it is ok; Basil moves to the rhythm; looks in great mood. From here, FRR appears on a TV monitor with tech around her)

FRR: Congratulations, Mr. Doumas. We have confirmed that you have less than 6 weeks to live. You are now eligible for total fermionic regeneration. *(continues)*

Your application has been approved with a continuity coefficient of 0.8 (80%). You will be regenerated via a process originally developed for quantum teleportation.

First, you will be subatomically scanned, using what is referred to as a....

‘destructive read’. Essentially, your body will be completely destroyed as it is converted into pure information. *(continues)*

Next, we will apply powerful error-correcting algorithms to your data, and reconstitute your body with all pathological conditions eliminated. Your data will not be shared with any third party. During reconstitution, your personality will be slightly altered, using a simple linear interpolation between yourself (80%) and a standard personality template (20%). *(continues)*

Your continuity coefficient of 0.8 (80%) was determined by a number of factors:

- 1) Your current profession, Clinical Chemist, is considered nonessential or even, totally useless. (*Basil grimaches here*).**

By adjusting your aptitudes, we hope to nudge you towards a more useful vocation, such as obesity counselling or motivational performance art. (*continues*)

2) You have a poor record of separating your recyclables. (*Basil grimaches here*).

To have any chance at all of being an effective obesity counsellor, you will need a greater sense of civic

responsibility. 3) We have detected a disturbing pattern of negativity

towards Canadian pop stars on your social media accounts. (*continues*)

(Basil grimaces here). Such cynicism and poor aesthetic judgment have no place in an enlightened society. As your continuity coefficient is less than the legal threshold of 94% established by Jones-B v. California, your derived self will not legally be Basil Doumas, but rather your direct descendent, Basil Doumas-B. *(continues)*

You may transfer up to 100% of your current assets to Basil Doumas-B without probate or inheritance tax. (*Basil grimaces here but looks approving and happy*). Your academic and professional qualifications will also be transferred, contingent on a series of review examinations. Basil Doumas-B's age will be legally established as 21 at the time of regeneration. (*continues*)

(Basil grimaches here but looks very happy- thumbs up here). **Any contractual agreement, including marriage, to which Basil Doumas is a party may be voided at this time. Press 1 to review frequently asked questions about fermionic regeneration. Press 2 to proceed directly to the next section. You have three seconds to choose.**

Basil: three seconds?

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

What are you mad or something? And ...

bangs the drum

(Another music piece from drum here but Basil moves to rhythm with hesitance).

FRR: You chose Frequently asked questions.

Basil: yes, I have some questions; Will the reconstituted person really be me?

FRR: For a continuity coefficient of 1.0 (100%), the general consensus is yes, both legally and ontologically. For lower continuity coefficients, like yours (I remind you, 80%) there is much debate. But ask yourself this: am I the same person when I wake up in the morning as I was the night before? (*continues*)

Research has shown that during periods of intense synaptic reorganization, the continuity coefficient of someone waking from a deep sleep can be as low as 0.996 (99.6%) As neural adaptation and memory degradation accumulate every day, are you still the same person you were one year ago? (*continues*)

It has been postulated that a human being is not one continuous person throughout his or her life, but rather a sequence of discrete persons, each with merely a perception of continuity with the preceding individuals. (*Basil grimaces here*). Perhaps it is this perception of continuity that is the functional definition of a soul. (*continues*)

If that is the case, and your derived self has this perception of continuity with you, then he or she will be you in the only meaningful sense.

The most we can say then, is that there is a very high probability that your derived self will have a perception of continuity with you.

Basil: What about my loved ones?

FRR: All memories of your friends and family members will be transferred, and your derivative self may retain some of your emotional attachment to them.

Basil: Some? Woooo; this looks interesting! Will I ever need to be regenerated again?

FRR: Barring accident, no. Genetic and cellular improvements made during error correction will result in a derivative body that can be indefinitely maintained in optimal condition by conventional therapies.

Basil: Will you keep a back-up of my data?

FRR: Unfortunately, this is a practical impossibility. The amount of information needed to encode a human being at the subatomic level is unimaginably huge. At this time, we possess only enough information-storage capacity to temporarily encode a single human being, and to keep one standard template. The standard personality template was chosen from among the giants of human intellect and accomplishment of the past seven decades.

**Basil: I've heard that the standard
personality template is legendary
Canadian pop star Justin Bieber. Is that
true?**

(Show a picture of Justin Bieber here)



FRR: We can neither confirm nor deny this rumour; and this is the end of the question period Dr Dumas. Once again, Mr. Dumas, congratulations. You are about to embark on a great adventure.

(Then sirens start to make noise (see youtube link of fire engine siren). We also need some flashing lights and a on-off light effect to show panic and a harsh voice (computerized) says:

Harsh Voice: Due to scheduling constraints, your regeneration must begin immediately. Should you choose to decline regeneration at this time, you will not be allowed to reapply. Press 1 to be completely regenerated into a functionally immortal form that will retain 80% of your current identity. Press 2 to decline regeneration and live for up to 6 more weeks as Basil Doumas. You have three seconds to choose.

*Basil screams and raises his hands in panic but
keep them up trying to decide from numbers
1,2,3. We end the act right there without showing
what he chose*

ACT VI

Epilogue

(Music and photos here)

**Jack: so, Basil, I do not see you being 21
years old and I do not see you happy;
what happened? You did not choose
eternity?**

Basil: those bastards jack; they had questions for me related to life and death and they gave me 3 seconds to respond; in fact, I answered all the questions on time except the last one; 3 seconds to choose between my current situation and fermionic regeneration; and with only 80% of retaining the real basil doumas I was scared and finally declined.

Jack: 80% seems good basil; you should have chosen to regenerate; and now, according to their rules, you cannot reapply.

Basil: they never told me which 80% will be retained jack; what if my genius with clinical chemistry was in the non-retained 20%? What if in the 20% were my good looks , my energy, my.....I do not know what. I do not want to be anybody else jack; not even 20%; let alone that their standard template is no else than...Justin Bieber!

Jack: I get you basil; but it is getting late and our Athenians are waiting for a good dinner. Why don't we leave this depressing discussion and go and have some fun?

Basil: we will go but do not give up looking jack; maybe the next "eternal" technology is just around the corner!

(The End)

THE END

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