## ac

### The Pledge of Allegiance

**Before we begin our show, please rise for the pledge of allegiance:**

#### I pledge allegiance to the flag of the Amazonian States of Mars, and to the dominion for which it stands, one nation under God-Emperor Bezos, indivisible, with liberty and speedy delivery times for all

### employee report (it’s the rob I’m just being quirky)

**At the end of the orientation session, each of you will receive an employee report and you need to fill it out so please pay attention.**

#### Here at Amazon, we’re always watching you so make sure you’re always performing. We have four goals that you must fulfill while working this job as part of our core mission.

1. **Inclusivity in Arguments**

You can choose to perform by role-playing as a policymaker or by rapping lyrics from a young thug song.

1. **Inclusivity in Debaters**

If we treat debate as a performance, it can allow debaters to address the inequities that they wish to voice, whether with the debate space, American rhetoric, or the entire world.

1. **Prep Burdens**

Small schools can compete through better performances because they don’t need to be card factories or hire ten coaches for each debater.

1. **Close the lay-flow gap**

Lay judges already evaluate based on persuasiveness and performance. By closing this gap, it allows debaters to make the transition to the national circuit more easily which makes debate more accessible

#### Memorability

An effective performance communicates the message in a way that it doesn’t become ritualized and conveys the case in a unique way, fostering more education

**Upholding these standards is necessary to receive a favorable employee review.**

#### And so, the role of the judge is to give the ballot to the performer who best satisfies these four goals through a performance.

### the story

#### Welcome to Orientation

At the 100th factory on Mars, a recently promoted manager began giving the orientation.

“You should all be very honored to be given the opportunity to work at God-Emperor Bezos’ most recent advancement here on Mars. This is going to be the fastest and most efficient factory in the known universe.

I’d like to introduce you to the roles that you can fulfill here.

First, we have the drone-flyers. The drone-flyers will be piloting the drones which drop off everything from life-saving medication and food to children and Alexa’s to the homes across our beautiful dominion. Remember, when you do this, you need to drop off the camera and microphone at the front of their homes so that we can hear and see everything happening. Don’t worry everyone has consented to this and there is no reason why you can’t do it!

Second, we have the support system. These stand like the great Atlas that held up the sky back on Earth. As you know, before God-Emperor Bezos saved us from the crumbling Earth, a man named Atlas actually had to hold up the sky, here you will be representing that for us. You will be holding up the delivery tubing and other parts.

Third, we have the burners. Your job is to slowly burn parts of your body to boil the water. The resulting steam will turn all the necessary parts that power this factory. You will have new body parts fabricated at the end of each workday that are way better than the natural ones you have, do not worry about it.

Thanks everyone, now let’s get to work.”

#### Q and A

When he finished speaking, he looked down to his Alexa-watch, something he proudly accepted when promoted.

“The artificial intelligence has determined that for maximum productivity we can take three questions that amount to three minutes of discussion. Yes, you.”

“Are any stimulants allowed on the job?” An old man said. He had clearly seen a lot in his days.

“If you’re referring to the new night-wakers that are being distributed in the ghettos of Venus, no, those are not allowed. For those not familiar, night-wakers are drugs that when injected into the eyelids can eliminate the need for sleep in humans. These are strictly forbidden in Amazon factories, and you cannot get them from the dealer on Twelfth Street on Venus. On an unrelated note, if you work 24 hours a day you will get a bonus of a job opening for your children. Whenever your child matures to the ripe age of 11, there will be a job opening for them at a factory and we will keep it open as long as you work 24 hours.”

“Where are the bathrooms?” A clearly pregnant mother asked.

“God-Emperor Bezos has decided that the best method forward to reduce fossil fuel use is to eliminate bathrooms in Amazon factories. A study confirmed that you, the average consumer, are actually using more fossil fuels than any corporation, and back on Earth when the Earth collapsed, it was because they drank almond milk from unhealthy forests and not because of any corporation. Last question?”

“I was just wondering-” an 11-year-old kid began.

The manager glanced down at the Alexa-watch; there was an emergency signal.

“Sorry, I’m going to have to go now,” he blurted out before rushing off.

#### The Interruption

“What’s wrong?” The worried manager asked. He could not afford a screw-up here.

“We have a report of a night-waker overdose in the back of the factory,” the scientist said. She shrugged it off like it was nothing, which stunned the manager.

“What?!” The manager shouted before calming his voice when he caught the new workers in the corner of his eye.

“That’s the fifth one this week, Jeff, what are you worried about?” She said as she started synthesizing a more efficient night-waker.

“Doctor, you can’t be serious! We’re going to get in trouble from God-Emperor Bezos,” he screamed.

#### Elysian Fields

Little did the manager know, God-Emperor Bezos had been gone for nearly 5,000 years. The space colonies, so disconnected from Earth, had no idea that Bezos, in the safety of Earth, peacefully passed away at the age of 578. It was determined that no matter the science, human bodies could not live much longer passed that. Now, Earth was perfectly clear for human habitation, with 7 billion people being moved off it and onto the neighboring planets, and the climate change free planet served as the Elysian Fields for the ultra-rich who never “escaped” from Earth.

### impact

**Wow it’s a good thing that none of us live like that and that was just a crazy story that I was saying just to say some funny stuff.**

#### There’s nothing like the terrible working conditions described

**Picchi 21** [Aimee Picchi, CBS MoneyWatch reporter, “Amazon apologizes for denying that its drivers pee in bottles,” <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/amazon-drivers-peeing-in-bottles-union-vote-worker-complaints/>, April 5, 2021, Accessed on 12/17/21, rpHS-VM]

Amazon apologized for disputing a lawmaker's claim that its workers urinate in bottles, admitting in a Friday blog post that it was "incorrect" to deny the report. The online retailer said the issue affects drivers, not employees in its many warehouses across the U.S. Questions about whether Amazon workers operating under severe time constraints sometimes resort to urinating in bottles surfaced in a 2018 book by British journalist James Bloodworth, who went undercover to briefly work at an Amazon warehouse in documenting the hardship of low-wage work in the U.K. In his account, he came across what appeared like a bottle of urine hidden on a warehouse shelf, which he assumed was one worker's solution to the difficulty of squeezing in bathroom breaks at the massive facility.

#### Yep, no way that Amazon would track workers or use their personal information in that way lmaoo

**Gurley 20** [Lauren Kaori Gurley, senior staff writer for Motherboard, “Why Is Amazon Tracking Opioid Use All Over the United States?” <https://www.vice.com/en/article/qj47b7/amazon-tracks-opioid-use-to-see-how-it-could-threaten-business>, October 2, 2020, Accessed on 12/17/21, rpHS-VM]

As one of the largest tech companies on the planet, we already know that Amazon obsessively collects all kinds of data related to its workers, its customers, and the social and political situations in communities all over the country. Amazon uses tools such as navigation software, wristbands, security and thermal cameras, and scanners to track warehouse and delivery workers productivity and whereabouts. Meanwhile, as Motherboard recently reported, it monitors the social media activities of its Amazon Flex Drivers.

#### Wow the idea of humans being so disposable in a manner that they serve as support systems is so preposterous, we would never let that happen right? RIGHT?

**O’Brien 21 (5 days ago)** [Matt O'Brien, Associated Press, “OSHA opens investigation after Amazon warehouse collapses during tornado, killing 6” <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/osha-opens-investigation-after-amazon-warehouse-collapses-during-tornado-killing-6>, December 13, 2021, Accessed on 12/17/21, rpHS-VM]

The federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration said Monday it has opened an investigation into the collapse of an Amazon warehouse in Edwardsville, Illinois after it was struck by a tornado on Friday, leaving six people dead and another hospitalized. OSHA inspectors, who have been at the site since Saturday, will look into whether workplace safety rules were followed and will have six months to complete the investigation, said spokesperson Scott Allen. Amazon, meanwhile, said workers at the warehouse had little time to prepare when the National Weather Service declared a tornado warning on Friday night. The tornado arrived soon after, collapsing both sides of the warehouse and caving in its roof. “There was a tremendous effort that happened that night to keep everybody safe,” said John Felton, Amazon’s senior vice president of global delivery services, speaking alongside Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker in Edwardsville on Monday and pledging a review of all the events that took place Friday. Amazon spokesperson Kelly Nantel said the warehouse received tornado warnings between 8:06 p.m. and 8:16 p.m. Friday, and site leaders directed workers to immediately take shelter. At 8:27 p.m., the tornado struck the building. Felton said most of the 46 people in the warehouse known as a “delivery station” headed to a shelter on the north side, which ended up “nearly undamaged,” and a smaller group to the harder-hit south end. The company said those are not separate safe rooms, but generally places away from windows considered safer than other parts of the plant. Amazon has pledged to assist workers and their families affected by the tragedy, including donating $1 million to the Edwardsville Community Foundation. The company declined to answer questions Monday about its disaster plans at the plant, including whether employees were required to perform drills. John Gasper, associate professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business, cautioned that he didn’t know the particulars of what happened at Amazon. But he said for companies like Amazon that have high turnover in labor, it likely is harder to conduct regular emergency training schedules, particularly during the busy holiday season when there are many seasonal workers. “The cost of the time to do the drills is also time they are not (moving) the packages,” he said. “They have to think about these tradeoffs. But I don’t think any company wants to harm its employees.” The tornado that hit Amazon’s facility was part of a swarm of twisters across the Midwest and South that leveled entire communities. Another tornado destroyed a candle factory in Mayfield, Kentucky, killing multiple workers on an overnight shift. OSHA, which is part of the U.S. Department of Labor, said federal investigators are not investigating the Kentucky factory collapse because the state has its own workplace safety agency. The Edwardsville warehouse is part of a vast patchwork of concrete-and-steel structures that have popped up in the St. Louis region over the past decade, drawn by its confluence of major highways and railroads, cheap costs and Americans’ expectations for getting packages delivered soon after they click a link to order them. A researcher who studies the warehouse industry and the pressure put on Amazon workers to meet strict productivity quotas said even if Amazon’s team did everything right in responding to a devastating tornado, it raises the question about the structure of enormous warehouses popping up across the Midwest as some climate experts warn of more frequent severe storms.

#### Night-wakers are so craaaazy right, drug addiction being known, and borderline encouraged by corporations is so far off from reality

**Kaliszewski 21** [Michael Kaliszewski, PhD in biomedical sciences and science writer, “Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Blue-Collar Workers,” <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/rehab-guide/workforce/blue-collar-workers>, October 18, 2021, Accessed on 12/17/21, rpHS-VM]

Blue-collar workers suffer from high rates of alcohol and drug abuse. Many blue-collar jobs are physically demanding and involve intense manual labor that can lead to work-related injuries. Consequently, blue-collar workers may turn to drugs and alcohol for coping with stress and pain. Some may develop a dependence on pain medications that have been originally prescribed by a doctor. Addiction among blue-collar workers is a serious problem that can lead to accidents, termination of employment, and health problems. A recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration used survey data to compare substance abuse patterns across various industry sectors in the United States. Some of the study findings pertaining to blue-collar workers include:1 Workers in the mining industry 17.5% report heavy alcohol use (the highest rate among all industries) 1 in 20 report illicit drug use in past month 1 in 8 report drug or alcohol dependence during the past year 1% report an opioid use disorder2 Workers in the construction industry 16.5% report heavy alcohol use 1 in 9 report illicit drug use in past month 1 in 7 report drug or alcohol dependence during the past year 1.3% report an opioid use disorder (nearly twice the national average)2 Workers in the manufacturing industry 1 in 10 report heavy alcohol use 1 in 13 report illicit drug use in past month 1 in 11 report drug or alcohol dependence during the past year Workers in the food services industry 11.8% report heavy alcohol use 1 in 5 report illicit drug use in past month (the highest rate among all industries) 1 in 6 report drug or alcohol dependence during the past year (the highest rate among all industries) Factors that Lead to Substance Abuse in Blue-Collar Workers The abuse of alcohol and drugs is a significant problem among blue-collar workers, with various industries differing in the preferred substances of abuse. Among all industries, the food service industry is perhaps the most affected by substance abuse and addiction. Food service workers are the most at risk for illicit drug use and substance use disorders and the third most at risk for heavy alcohol use.1 Substance abuse among workers in the food industry can be attributed to several factors, including:3-4 High-stress environment. Relatively young age of workers. Low pay. Irregular schedules including late‐night shifts. Lack of worker surveillance by management. Work culture norms (end‐of‐shift drinks, after-work parties). Availability of alcohol in the workplace. Peer pressure from coworkers. Drug abuse is also a major issue among the construction industry. Everyday physical wear combined with extremely high rates of injuries and falls result in construction workers having to constantly deal with pain.5 Workers are often prescribed opioids to provide comfort and pain relief, with one study showing 73% of injured construction workers have been prescribed a narcotic painkiller.6 Not surprisingly, many workers in the construction industry have become dependent on these highly addictive drugs. The rate of pain medication and opioid misuse in construction is among the highest of any industry in the United States.

#### Bezos will become God-Emperor of Earth and beyond

Book 21 [Adrien, Tech observer, The Pourquoi Pas, https://www.thepourquoipas.com/post/jeffrey-bezos-god-emperor-of-earth]

Jeffrey Bezos : God-Emperor of Earth A week ago, Jeffrey Bezos went to space. You of course know about this, because his few minutes off Earth got as much coverage in a day as climate change got all last year. Who knew irony was penis-shaped? It’s been a busy year for the multi-billionaire: through 2020/2021, Bezos (and/or his minions) paid no taxes, busted unions, failed to comply to basic health guidelines, illegally fired workers, forced employees to live in squalor, killed hundreds of small businesses… But, hey, at least Jeffrey acknowledged that we are all paying for his midlife crisis. The fact that we let a private citizen do this says a lot about the length we’re willing to go to keep the uber-rich happy, regardless of the overall net negative they may bring to society. The impunity is staggering. At this rate, we’ll let Jeffrey become the de facto God-Emperor of earth within the decade. Money, armies, propaganda, spies… after all, he’s already got everything he needs to do it. God-emperor BezosGod-emperor Bezos Jeffrey controls an economy larger than most countries To become an all-powerful leader, you need money to buy weapons, soldiers and political favours. And Jeffrey has plenty, thanks to Amazon. $210B, to be exact. To put that into perspective, that’s enough to purchase 20,000 tanks, or to match the UK, India and Russia’s combined defence budget for 2020. But Jeffrey has more than just his own personal wealth: he also controls one of the world’s largest company (though he is not its CEO anymore). And all metrics point to Amazon being one of the world’s super-power, worthy of being part of the G20. Its yearly revenue of over $386B puts it on par with Denmark, the 35th richest country in the world. This may not seem impressive until you realise that the company actually makes 300,000$ per employee, which is much higher than the richest countries in the world make per capita. Sure, a lot of that money is tied up in the company, and is therefore illiquid. But Amazon does have $84B in cash at this very moment, for only $34B in debt. That’s a debt to revenue ratio of 9%, which would make it one of the healthiest countries in the world, financially speaking (for reference, the US has a debt amounting to 102% of its GDP). When all is said and done, if Jeffrey wants to fund an army to take control of part of the world, he can. Jeffrey employs as many people as the world’s largest armies Obviously, it’d be hard to create an army from scratch. Thankfully, Jeffrey wouldn’t have to. Having recruited 427,300 employees between January and October of 2020, his company now has a 1.2 million-strong workforce. That’s enough to match the size of the 5th largest military in the world in terms of manpower, ahead of Russia. Amazon storm-trooperAmazon storm-trooper Beyond the grunts, Jeffrey could also use Amazon’s 175 fulfilment centers, totalling 150 million square feet of space, as bases of operations. Furthermore, Amazon already operates in most of the world, so no operational beachheads would have to be won by force. With 85 aircrafts, Amazon Air has a fleet that’s roughly the size of the Portuguese air force. We’re unsure of how many drones the company has at its disposal, but it’s safe to assume that they number in the tens of thousands given their delivery ambitions. Amazon’s overwhelming AI and robotic superiority would make it easy to transform these drones into killing machine, thus handing Jeffrey control of the air. Finally, we now know that Jeffrey has the power to go to space, giving him the ability to take out key satellites, if needed. Only 20% of the world’s nation have gone to space, so that ought to give him quite the advantage over many potential adversaries. Jeffrey owns the government’s technological infrastructure Obviously, presidents and prime ministers alike wouldn’t let their nations be over-run without a fight. The problem, however, is that Amazon has already sunk its nails deep inside the world’s governments. Not deep enough to control them, but to an extent that Jeffrey would be able to inflict a significant amount of logistical and operational damage before any shots had to be fired. In the US, Amazon has spent the past decade carefully working its way toward the heart of Washington, and today is on the brink of becoming one of America’s largest defence contractors. In 2013, AWS became the CIA’s cloud computing supplier; it also sells web services to Palantir, the data analytics company that works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Finally, it’s currently vying to control a substantial portion of the federal government's future off-site data centers, IT systems and web-based applications through the infamous JEDI contract. Elsewhere in the world, Amazon has won : 66 infrastructure contracts in the UK in the past year alone (including within its national health service), a $273 million cloud contract with the Japanese government, a $39 million cloud contract with the Australian government… all in all, over 6,500 government agencies use Amazon technologies today. That’s enough to throw the world into chaos at the flip of a switch, regardless of military might. That’s unlikely to change anytime soon, too. Since 2018, Amazon Web Services has hired at least 66 former US government officials with acquisition, procurement or technology adoption experience, more than half of them from the US Defence Department. Additionally, Amazon has spent $5 million on lobbying in 2021 (so far). At this rate, Jeffrey might get the world’s throne without having to fire a single shot. Jeffrey controls the media Of course, any serious coup requires the public’s support. We’d otherwise take to the streets. And God-Emperor Jeffrey has thought about this! That’s why (I guess) he’s spent the better part of the last decade building a media empire with the capability to brainwash us into thinking that we’d be better off with him in charge. Indeed, the key sign of a good empire is an efficient propaganda apparatus. Jeffrey owns the Washington post, and can thus control the opinion of its millions of readers with headlines such as “It’s easy to hate billionaires. But they can fill voids”. He can also undermine trust in the current government and picture himself as a messiah by publishing things like “Congress can’t agree on big things. Let billionaires handle space”. But let’s be honest : no one reads newspapers anymore. The battle for public opinion will be fought and won in the entertainment space. And what do you know, Amazon controls that too. It can pay streamers on Twitch to say positive things about the God-Emperor. It can promote books favourable to the regime on Audible, Goodreads and Kindles, and bury dissenting opinions. It can create propaganda music specifically for Amazon Prime Music, and produce films to rival 1956 Soviet Russia thanks to Amazon Studio. By making them free on Prime Video, Jeffrey would be sure to put them in front of enough eyeballs to pacify the population. And if that’s not enough, he can still sink the ratings of the movies he doesn’t like on IMDb. Yes. Amazon owns all these companies. That’s a lot of media firepower in just a few hands. Jeffrey has spies everywhere Beyond an army and propaganda, what’s another staple of totalitarian governments the world over? If you guessed spying on ordinary citizens, you’d be right. About 18 million US households own Alexa smart speakers, and that number is fast growing throughout the world. Ever since its introduction in 2014, Amazon’s Alexa has grown its global footprint, quickly expanding from Amazon’s own hardware to what are now tens of thousands supported devices from various manufacturers. Since Alexa never stops listening to you, this makes it the perfect spying device, already implemented in millions of homes. Jeffrey would be able to know who is plotting to overthrow him, and send drones to put a stop to the rebellion in a heart-beat. But that’s not all. Amazon’s Ring, the home doorbell and surveillance company, has about 2,000 partnerships with law enforcement entities. In fact, local law enforcement asked for Ring videos for a total of more than 22,335 incidents in 2020. Once Amazon takes control of the world’s police, it will have no problem having a visual on everyone, as well as audio files provided by Alexa. Ring also owns social network Neighbors, which is the perfect platform to rat out rebellious friends and family members in exchange for sweet Prime goodies. Furthermore, Amazon has honed its cloud-based facial-recognition software, which can detect age, gender, and certain emotions as well as identifying faces, by providing it to police forces for years. So they know that the concept works well, should they ever need to deploy it massively to keep us in check. Finally, the company is experimenting with the perfect tool for an autocratic state : biometric technology, which it is implementing in some of its Amazon Go physical convenience stores in Seattle. The name itself, “Amazon One”, is reminiscent of a dystopian novel. Make no mistake : God-Emperor Jeffrey is watching you. Jeffrey has more tools of repression than the average dictator If a revolt does manage to take place despite Jeffrey’s army and its surveillance apparatus, retaliation would be swift and ruthless. Amazon accounts for 50% of all US e-commerce sales. So expect to lose online shopping privileges if you misbehave. If you think that won’t hurt you, remember that the title of “everything store” has never been more true post COVID-19 pandemic. Now that more and more grocery shopping goes through Amazon too, one way or another, expect your family to go hungry if you spite the god-emperor. Jeffrey has also gotten into healthcare with Amazon Care. It’s not widely used today, but if its use were to become more widespread under an Amazon empire, seeing a doctor might become difficult for those not inclined to sing Amazon’s praises. Finally, financing one’s life might become difficult for those taking up arms against the empire; Amazon owns Amazon Pay, Prime Credit Card and Amazon Landing. It would be a shame if your money were to… disappear. So be a good citizen a snitch on your neighbours.

### so?

#### I am going to slay God (-emperor bezos)

**Sandu 12** [Frunza Sandu, Babeş-Bolyai University, Political Ethics between Biblical Ethics and the Mythology of the Death of God. Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies, 11(33), 206–231, 2012, rpHS-VM]

It is almost impossible for man to separate himself from religion. As the history and the philosophy of religions prove, when the individual does not invest in the connection with transcendence understood as a transmundane reality, he will seek to discover sacredness in intramundane manifestations, or he will project the dimension of sacredness upon significant elements of his aspirations and his daily life. This presence of sacredness belongs to the logic of religious symbolism which belongs to the creation mechanisms of a community. The myth of the death of God is probably the most significant myth of the contemporary world. It has the ability to generate a new beginning, a new genesis; it allows the possibility to seek and to discover the manifestation of the Presence. It is the myth that mediates the revelation of a final reality in a world in which this hides in forms that are unrecognizable from religious perspectives. The myth of the death of God is also relevant from an ethical point of view. It can be used in different circumstances, from the founding of individual morals, to the formulations of professional ethics, to the foundation of a minimal ethics or to the elaborated forms of social and political ethics.