

The Magic Box of Ecks

A Creation Myth of the Otaku¹ People

In the beginning, there was nothing to do. The people worked long hours, and had nothing to entertain themselves with when they came home. Smiles were not upon the children's faces, and happiness was not in their hearts. The rivers of Mountain Dew ran dry, and the fields of Cheetoos lay burned and desolate. Life, it seemed, was empty and meaningless.

And so it was that the gods were looking down from their high places. They saw the boredom in the people's hearts, and the frowns upon the children's faces, and they did not know what to do. The wisest among them, the great god Gates², said unto the other gods, "Lo and behold! What shall we do to return happiness to the people? Come, let us work together to end the plague of boredom."

Gates was the wisest of the gods. He was known as the God of Em-Ess. Taking the other gods to his magic workshop, in the heart of the Temple of Em-Ess, he showed them many wonderful creations.

It was he who created the powerful board of Sea-Pea-You.

It was he who created the enchanted looking glass known as El-Sea-Dee.

It was he, through his great wisdom, who created the Magic Box of Ecks.

For three hundred and fifty nine days, Gates toiled away in his workshop, making the Magic Box of Ecks. It was on the three hundred and sixtieth day that he brought the other gods to his workshop.

As the gods beheld the Box of Ecks, wonder filled their hearts. "What a delight this is! This is the magic that we need to restore happiness to all the peoples of the world!" And so it was decided that Gates would descend into the world and give the people the Magic Box of Ecks. First, he gave the Box to the people of Japan. They beheld the Box, and they were pleased. Joy filled the faces of the children, and laughter filled the living rooms of the nation. Then, he gave the Box to the people of America. There too, joy filled the faces of the children, and laughter filled the living rooms of the nation. Within three hundred and sixty days, Gates had brought the magic Box of Ecks to all the peoples of the Earth, and happiness reigned supreme. The rivers of Mountain Dew ran freely, and the fields of Cheetoos grew tall and cheesy.

But there was one god who was not pleased with the Magic Box of Ecks. He was Miyamoto³, god of the Nintendo. "What a fool's contraption," he said to himself. "Any dim-witted spirit could make such a trinket. I shall make my own box, and bring it to the peoples of the world. They will be so pleased with my creation that they shall curse the name of Gates for all eternity!"

And so it was that Miyamoto hid from the other gods. In secret, he forged his own accursed Box. It was much smaller and much simpler than the Box of Ecks, yet still it possessed some of the same magic. He created a new Magic Wand of Controlling. It was much like the Wand of Controlling that worked in perfect harmony with the Box of Ecks. However, Miyamoto's Wand required more effort to use, and it is said that many innocent children suffered when they mistakenly threw Miyamoto's Wand through their El-Sea-Dee looking glasses, bringing much weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. The children spilled their Mountain Dew and crushed their Cheetoos beneath their feet as they mourned the loss of their El-See-Dee.

Miyamoto called his Box the Wee. He chose the name because the Box was a wee bit smaller than the Magic Box of Ecks, and he thought in his heart that when the children beheld his Box, they would exclaim, "Wee! Wee! Wee!" in happiness and delight.

When the gods learned of Miyamoto's deception, they were furious. "What wicked alchemy is this!" they exclaimed, "You have created a forgery Box of Ecks! Your box does not even possess an HDTV connection! Take this cheap devilry and begone!"

¹ Otaku: Japanese for "extreme fan." Many Americans use this word to refer to people who play a great deal of video games and/or watch a great deal of cartoons.

² Bill Gates is the founder of Microsoft (MS), the company that developed the X-Box 360.

³ Shigeru Miyamoto has been the creative genius behind Nintendo since the 1980's.

Miyamoto departed the company of the other gods, but rather than destroy the Wee, he decided to go among the peoples of the Earth and give it to them anyway. When the peoples of the Earth beheld his Box, confusion and despair filled their hearts. In their souls, they were afraid that they had gotten the wrong Box. "Which Box is better?" asked the people to themselves over and over again. Many said to themselves, "I like the magic of Miyamoto's Wand of Controlling, but I like the larger selection of games that comes with the Box of Ecks. Oh noes! What if I made a huge mistake?" Furthermore, there was much conflict across the face of the Earth. For many noobs⁴, not knowing any better, fought violently over the argument of which was better: the Box of Ecks, or the Wee. Again, the rivers of Mountain Dew ran dry, and the fields of Cheetoos lay burned and desolate. Life, it seemed, was empty and meaningless once again.

When Gates learned of Miyamoto's evil doings, he spoke among the peoples of the Earth. "Peoples of the Earth," proclaimed Gates, "Be ye not afraid! Be ye not confused! I leave to you one last proof of my power over Miyamoto's power. For when you use your Magic Box of Ecks, you will be able to see each other, no matter where you are on the great Earth. You will be able to hear each other, no matter where you are on the great Earth. You will be able to interact with each other, no matter where you are on the great Earth. This you cannot do with the power of the Box of Wee. But with the Box of Ecks, I leave you this gift, that you may remember all I have done for you. I shall call it the Box of Ecks Live. I do this so that your lives may be happier and brighter."

And when Gates spoke to the people, anger grew in Miyamoto's heart, for he knew he had been defeated. Out of desperation, he threw his final Magic Wand of Controlling at Gates, but it missed Gates and instead landed through the glass of a magic El-Sea-Dee looking glass. When Gates saw what Miyamoto had done, wrath filled his heart. "That El-Sea-Dee belonged to a noob! They are the youngest, most precious, and most innocent of the children of the Earth! For that, you shall surely pay!" Gates then pulled the Right Trigger of his own Magic Wand of Controlling, and bursts of light fired from his fingertips into the heart of Miyamoto. And Miyamoto screamed in agony, yelling, "Lo! You have totally pwned⁵ me! I shall not forget this insult, Gates! Your time shall come, and when it does, I shall be the one doing the pwnage!"

When all the noobs saw what Gates had done, they rejoiced in their hearts. From that day forward, all the peoples of the Earth delighted in the short time they had between homework and bedtime, for that was the time of the Box of Ecks. They used the Box of Ecks Live to rejoice with people and noobs alike all over the world. And Gates saw that it was good. And the other gods saw that it was good. The rivers of Mountain Dew ran freely, and the fields of Cheetoos grew tall and cheesy.

This is our people's legend of how the Great Gates totally pwned the evil Miyamoto. Even today, Gates watches over us. From the time you come into this world as a noob, he is watching. He is watching as you live and work, as you laugh and cry, and he is there to give you strength whenever you get totally pwned. It is said that through the power of Gates, you will be respawned⁶ after you are killed, and pwnage shall ensue for all eternity.

However, legend also has it that the evil Miyamoto will one day respawn, too. It is said that when he does, Gates will come down to the Earth to stop him. All the peoples of the world, noobs included, will stand with Gates, and using the power of the Magic Box of Ecks, and the Box of Ecks Live, all the peoples of the world shall totally pwn Miyamoto once and for all! The rivers of Mountain Dew shall run forever! The fields of Cheetoos shall grow lush, green, and cheesy for all eternity! No noob shall ever get pwned again!

All hail Gates and the Magic Box of Ecks!

⁴ Noob: "Newbie." Someone who is new to something.

⁵ Pwned: Common misspelling of the word "owned" when typing. Some people use this word when referring to getting killed in an embarrassing manner in a video game.

⁶ In some video games, respawning is when one's character is brought back to life in a random location.