

An abstract painting with a vibrant color palette of blues, greens, and oranges. The composition is filled with various circular and oval shapes, some resembling cells or planets, set against a textured, layered background. The colors transition from deep blues at the top to lighter blues and greens in the middle, and finally to warm oranges and yellows at the bottom. The overall effect is one of depth and complexity.

The First Gospel

The Real Problem in Paradise
Class 3

The Serpent



Myth?

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Cor. 11:3)

The Serpent

In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing *serpent*, Leviathan that twisted *serpent*; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea. (Isa. 27:1)

From The Sea?

And another sign appeared in **heaven**: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads...**that serpent of old**, called the Devil and Satan, who **deceives** the whole world. (Rev. 12:3,9)

And I saw a beast rising up **out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name... Then he opened his mouth in **blasphemy** against God, ...His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven...(and) to **make war** with the saints and to **overcome** them. (Rev. 13:1,6-7)

The Serpent

What Is It?

Now the serpent was more cunning than any **beast of the field** which the Lord God had made. Gen. 3:1

- **Beast of the field => 4-legged animal**

The Serpent

What Is Its Name?

Now **the serpent** was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Gen. 3:1

- Beast of the field => 4-legged animal
- **nachash = hisser, enchanter, but...**

Now the men were watching closely to see whether any sign of mercy would come from him; and they quickly grasped at this word and said, Your brother Ben-Hadad.
1 Kgs 20:33, also see Gen. 44:5,15

The Serpent

What Is Its Name?

Now **the serpent** was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Gen. 3:1

- Beast of the field => 4-legged animal
- **nachash = careful watcher**
(compare NT word – ophis = sharp vision)

The Serpent

What Is It Like?

Now the serpent was more **cunning** than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Gen. 3:1

- Beast of the field => 4-legged animal
- nachash = watcher; ophis = sharp vision
- **arum = able to uncover, make bare**

The simple believes every word, but the **prudent** considers well his steps. Prov. 14:15 (also v. 8; 22:3)

=> keen observer, watches very carefully

The Serpent

What Is It Like?

Now the serpent was more **prudent** than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. Gen. 3:1

- Beast of the field => 4-legged animal
- nachash = watcher; ophis = sharp vision
- **arum = able to uncover, make bare**

An animal blessed with greater powers of perception & reasoning.

The Serpent

What Was The Consequence?

... in the day that you eat of it
you **shall surely die**. Gen. 2:17

You may **freely** eat (Gen. 2:16) = “eating you shall eat”
=> Hebrew meaning = when you **certainly eat**

And (Saul) said, “**You shall surely die**, Ahimelech, you
and all your father's house!” (1 Sam. 22:16)

For it shall be, on the day you (Shimei) go out and cross
the Brook Kidron, know for certain **you shall surely die**;
your blood shall be on your own head. (1 Kgs. 2:37)

Conclusion? Adam will certainly die!

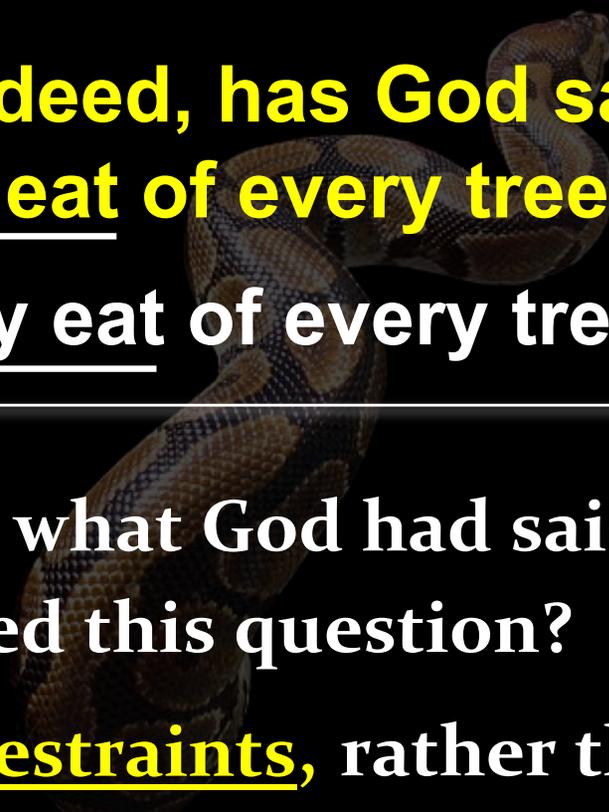
The Serpent

When Would It Happen?

... **in the day** that you eat of it
you shall surely die. Gen. 2:17

- Conclusion? Will certainly die!
- **Shortly after transgression?**

The Serpent



Indeed, has God said,
You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
You may freely eat of every tree of the garden.

- Questioning what God had said. What did he see that raised this question?
- Focuses on restraints, rather than freedoms.
- *But this was only an animal...*

The Woman

We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Gen. 3:2-3

- **Woman said: “we may eat the fruit of the trees”**
- **God said: “you may freely eat of every tree => *Shifted focus from freedoms to restraints?*”**

The Woman

We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Gen. 3:2-3

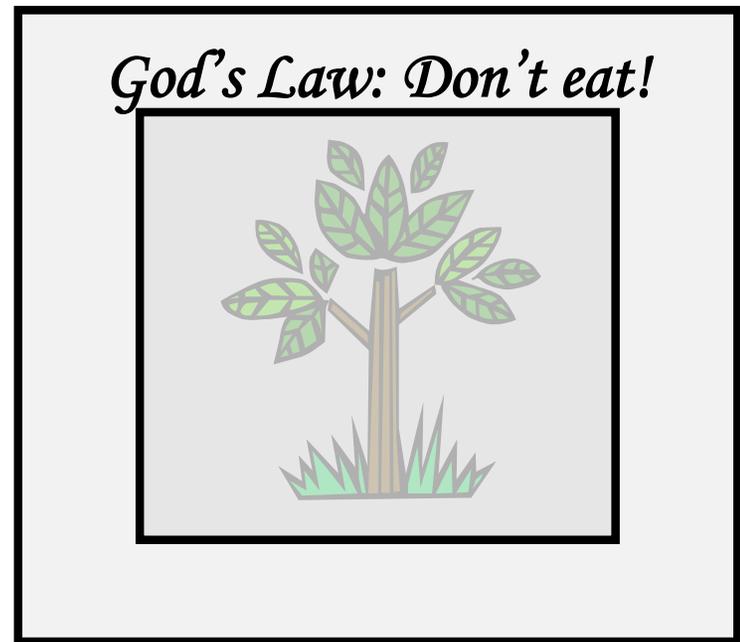
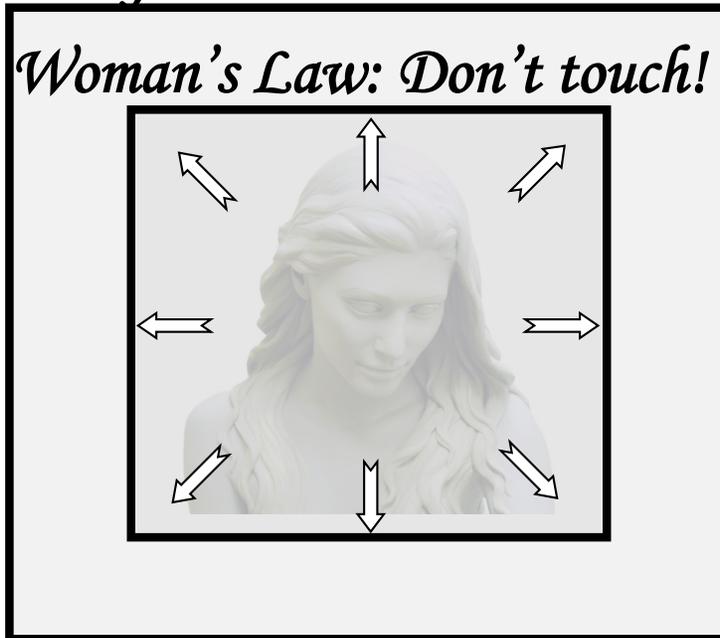
- **Added to God’s Word! Why?**

The Woman

“Why do you subject yourselves to regulations, do not touch, do not taste, do not handle?”

God's Law: Don't eat!

Woman's Law: Don't touch!



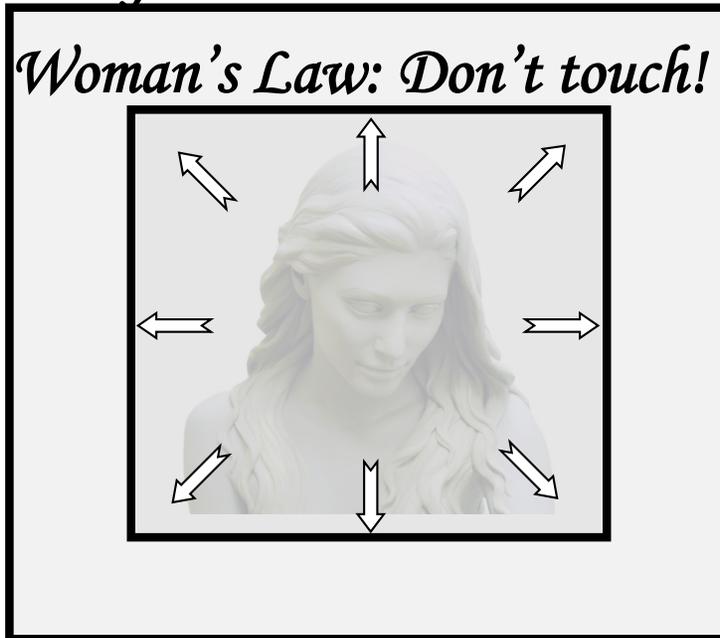
“These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.” Col. 2:20-23

The Woman

Why do you subject yourselves to regulations,
do not touch, do not taste, do not handle?

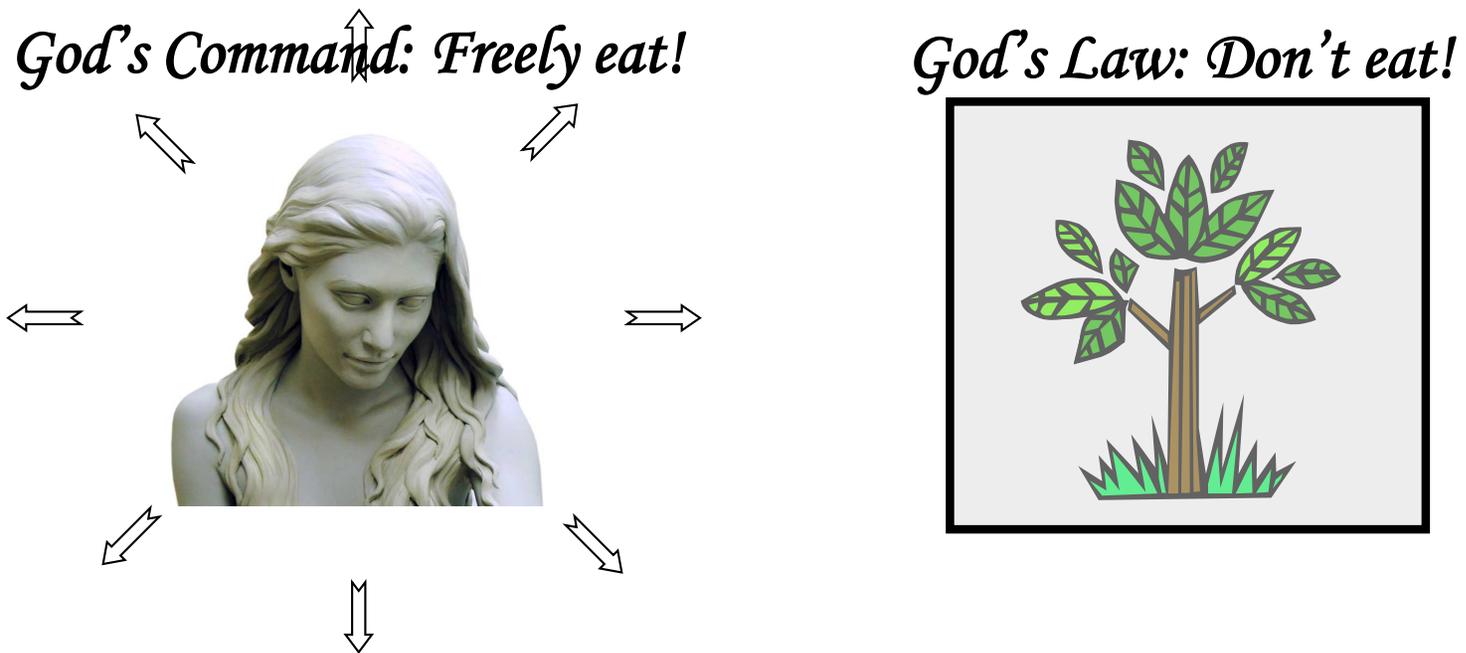
God's Law: Don't eat!

Woman's Law: Don't touch!



*When desire grows and resistance weakens,
then we set up fences to stop ourselves!*

The Woman



For you have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh... Gal. 5:13

The Woman

We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.” Gen. 3:2-3

God said: You will certainly die!

She said: You will probably die.

⇒ Minimizing the consequences?

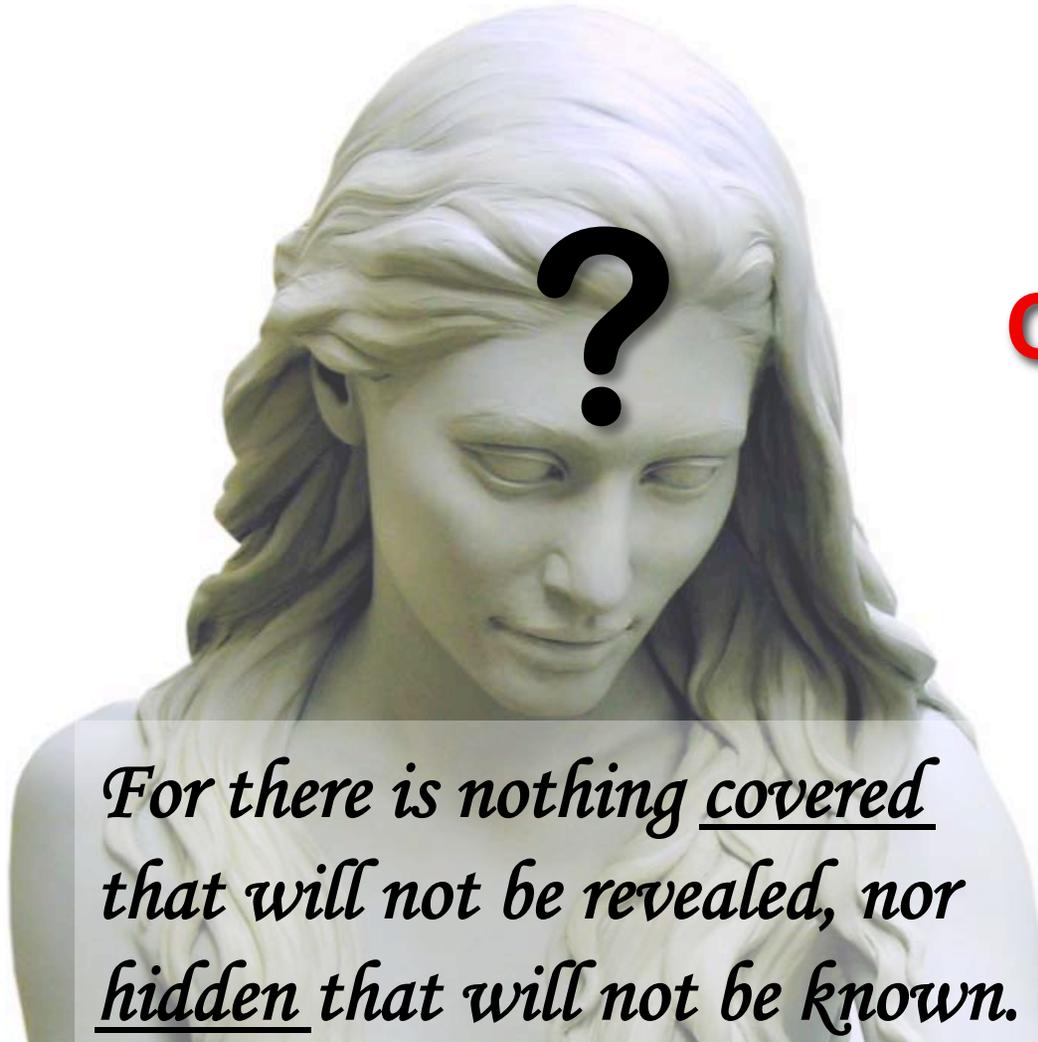
What was going on in the garden?

The Woman

We **may eat the fruit of the trees** of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it, lest you die.**” Gen. 3:2-3

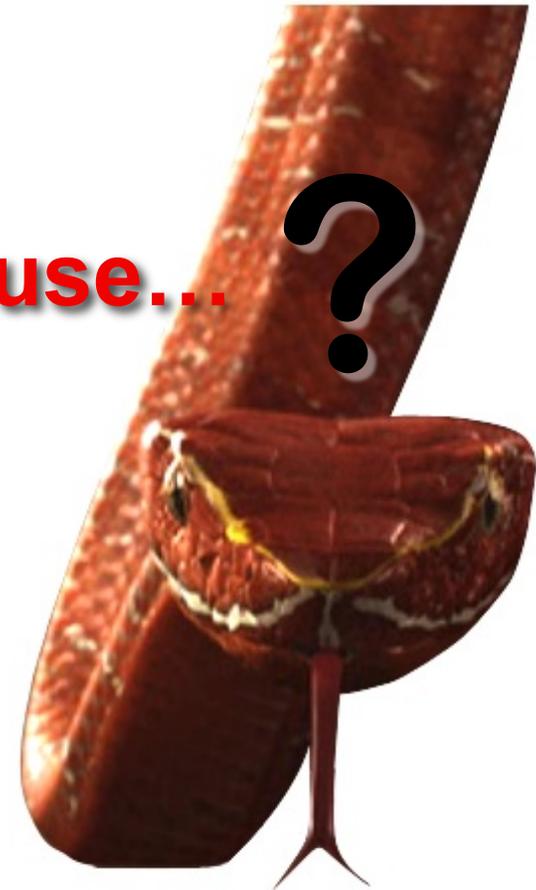
- Focused on **restraints**...*rather than freedoms.*
 - **Added restraints**...*to control her desires.*
 - **Minimized consequences**...*just in case.*
- Something was very wrong in the garden!*

What was wrong in the Garden?



Lk. 12:1-2

Cause...



or Instrument

Serpent = Mirror of the Heart



The Serpent's Argument

Gen. 3:4-5

Did God really say this?

“Do you know why God won't let you eat of this tree?” (Paraphrase Gen. 3:1)

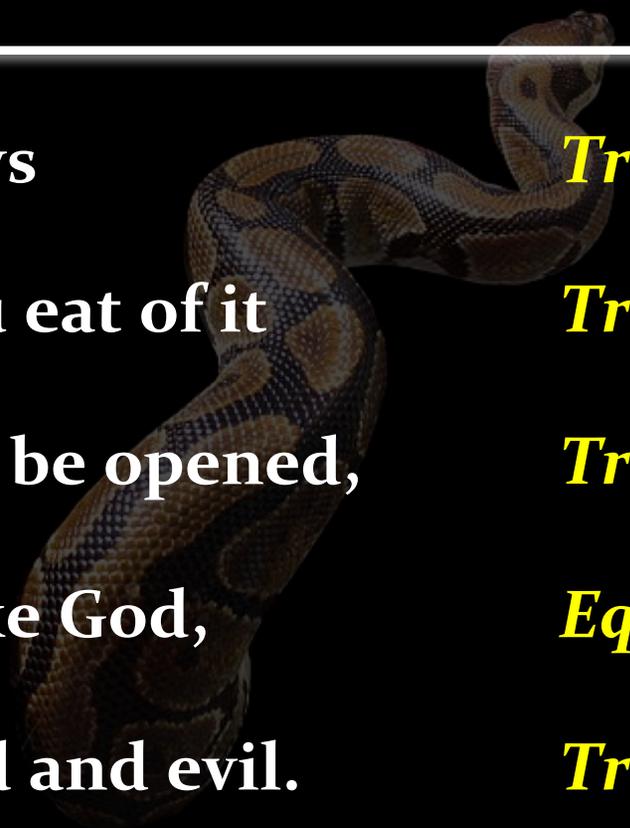
The Serpent's Argument

You will not surely die.

I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Rom. 16:17-18

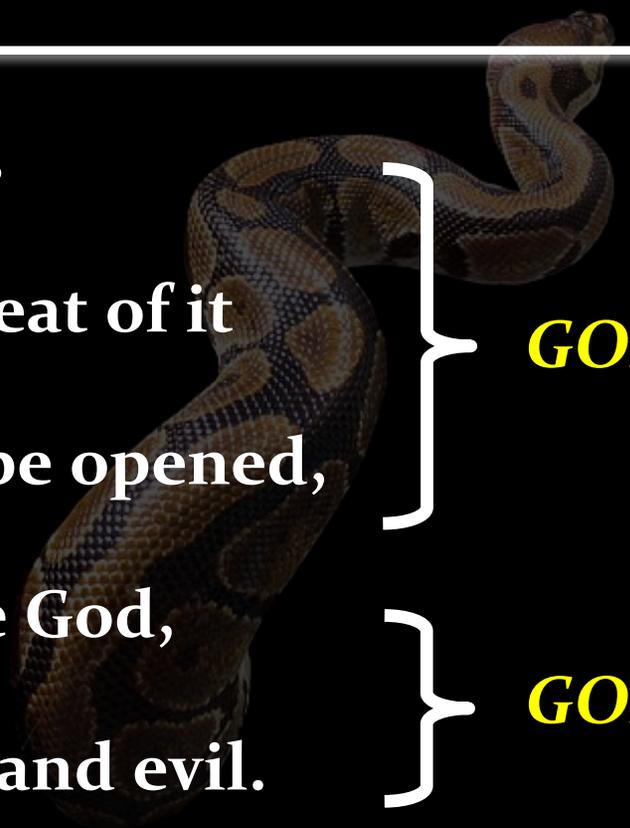
**The power of personal experience:
I tried it and I'm still alive!**

The Serpent's Argument

- 
- For God knows *True.*
 - in the day you eat of it *True.*
 - your eyes will be opened, *True.*
 - you will be like God, *Equal to God!*
 - knowing good and evil. *True.*
-
- You will not surely die. *FALSE!*

The Serpent's Argument

- For God knows
- in the day you eat of it
- your eyes will be opened,
- you will be like God,
- knowing good and evil.



GOD IS DECEPTIVE!

GOD IS SELFISH!

- You will not surely die.

GOD IS LYING!

The Serpent's Argument

DEVIL

Accurser



SATAN

Adversary

• **Does God know best?**

Not if He is a deceiver.

• **Can God be trusted?**

Not if He lies to you.

• **Should I obey God?**

Obey a selfish god?

The Serpent

REMEMBER...

- The Serpent was just an animal.
- It drew conclusions based on what it saw and experienced.
- It can provide no answer for its behavior other than it acted according to its instincts.
- ***But what of those who accept this thinking in a moral heart? Will God look on them the same way?***

