

# Mike the Trucker

by [Walt Garlington](#) (November 2022)



*Birds' Hell*, Max Beckmann, 1938

**In the fifth** year of universal tolerance  
(The year of our Lord twenty-thirty-six),  
Mike the simple trucker man transgressed the law,  
Yelling out instinctively, 'Help me, Jesus!'  
As he dove to the dirt to avoid being crushed  
By a loose, rolling trailer. Brought before  
The Human Resources Director, he was asked  
To confirm his fidelity  
To the Global Religious Creed,  
That all beliefs are equally true.

'No ma'am, I won't,' he said plainly, calmly,  
To Director Strokeland. And she irately,  
'We will make you!' She summoned Ari  
From the Tech Department, tasking him  
To construct a brain-machine interface  
That would extract the right confession  
From the mouth of the loathsome trucker.  
But as he began to build his torture tool,  
Mike began to pray: 'Lord Jesus Christ,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.'  
And, lo! The parts of the BMI  
Would not stay joined, and Ari's hands turned numb.  
Frightened, he cried out, 'God of Michael, heal me!'  
Feeling returned quickly to his hands,  
But as he gave thanks to Christ, the Son of God,  
The enraged director stabbed him in the heart  
With a broken piece of metal, sending his soul  
To heaven. Her demonic anger unabated,  
She fell on Mike, beating and cutting  
His body, and in a final act of fury,  
Sawed off his head, for which the angels  
Greeted his soul and hailed him as a martyr  
And a brother. With a terrible  
Twisted smirk disfiguring her face,  
She took the severed head of Michael,  
Intending to set it before the Black Cube,  
The symbol of the pan-religion,  
As a trophy of its victory  
Over Christ the God-man. But as she approached  
With his holy head, the solid stone cube blew apart.  
Her body, too, was struck with death,  
And the foul, dung-reeking demons  
Dragged her soul to the depths of hell  
For torments that will never end.

Looking on with cool, unflustered gaze,  
The never-sleeping, never-blinking

Eye of Efficiency generated  
A report for corporate HQ  
That a new HR Director  
Would be needed for Building 8-8-E,  
And that sterilization procedures would commence.

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**Walt Garlington** was born and raised in that part of Dixieland called Louisiana. A chemical engineer by training, he has spent the last several years writing full-time. He has written essays and poems for *The Hayride*, *New English Review*, *The Tenth Amendment Center*, *The Abbeville Institute*, *Reckonin'*, *Katehon*, *Geopolitica*, and *USA Really*. He writes regularly at his own web site, [Confiteri: A Southern Perspective](#).

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