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Isn't this game a bit too much on the religious side?

(self.swarmsim)
submitted 6 months ago by [deleted]

Just have a look at all these achievements:

- prophet
- intelligent design
- adam and
- lord have mercy
- unnatural selection

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[–] **pivotalpawn** 11 points 6 months ago

Are you serious? Does this upset you?

permalink

[–] **Dorten2nd** 3 points 6 months ago*

It appears, that he's serious. Yep, there are such people...

That's the same person, who found Kittens Game to be too religious.

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** -10 points 6 months ago

I'm not sure what you're getting at here. Serious about what? I'm quite serious that the game appears to have religious and creationist views in particular.

permalink parent

[–] **Dorten2nd** 7 points 6 months ago

It's just sad to see a person, who appears to have some kind of anti-religion paranoia.

Because, you know, not only this game does not have or propagate any religious views, but doesn't even appear to do so for anyone not having such paranoia.

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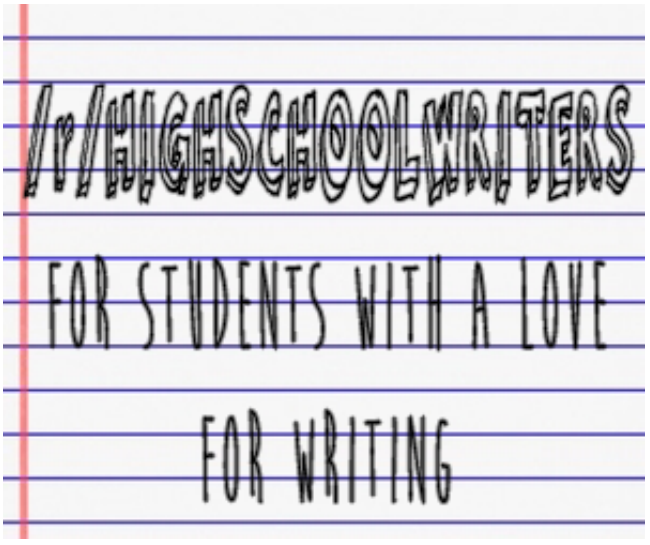
created by kawaritai Developer a community for 1 year



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[–] **[deleted]** -10 points 6 months ago

> anti-religion paranoia

I respect your opinion, but in my opinion, the points in my post do come across as religious and creationist.

> this game does not have or propagate any religious views

That is good to know if it is indeed the case.

permalink parent

[–] **Dorten2nd** 5 points 6 months ago*

ok.

Prophet

You know, theres that meme:

- 1. something
- 2. ?
- 3. PROFIT

That's it. But there's a pun added, because the unit in question is neuroprophet.

Intelligent Design and Unnatural Selection

Achievements about using controlled mutations. What's religious about them?

Lord have mercy

The sentence that became idiomatic, which means, that it's just the part of the language now and does not actually propagate the beliefs of one saying it.

Adam and

I actually, don't even understand the meaning of this name on this Achievemnt, so can't say anything about it :)

permalink parent

[–] **asherven** 7 points 6 months ago

Adam and [the Ants] was an English rock band in the 80's. So another bug pun.

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** -8 points 6 months ago*

[edit] That's a bit up to interpretation isn't it? Some commentators have mentioned that religion "makes sense" for this game.

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** -8 points 6 months ago

I was pointing out that the game has some religious and appears to also have some

< > discussions in /r/swarmsim X

1 points
PSA on initial swarm pure clone strategy: amplified Hive Queen cascade did not exhaust larvae!

creationist views in particular.

permalink parent

[–] **intrafinesse** 3 points 6 months ago

Maybe the designer was mocking religion or creationism, did that ever occur to you?

Since it bothers you so much, why don't you contact the designer directly. See what he/she says.

permalink parent

[–] **kawaritai** Developer 7 points 6 months ago

Before v1.0, Swarmsim also had Goddesses Of The Hive and Brood Pantheons. You missed those :)

I think religion's a really interesting topic. Different cultures all have their own unique stories and characters. The more you learn about different religions, the more you'll see them referenced in non-religious places, and it's fun to make those references myself. It's also convenient that religion isn't copyrighted (mostly).

Many years ago, I wrote another online game about Heaven vs. Hell where you could play as either side, far more religiously themed than Swarmsim. The sequel was going to be a war among 5 different deities. (I don't suppose anyone here played Zeal? It was far less popular than even pre-1.0 Swarmsim, and no longer playable. Google won't find it anymore.)

But personally, I'm agnostic-atheist. Our stories, while true, are *boring*.

permalink

[–] **[deleted]** -4 points 6 months ago

Thanks for an official response. It's good to know that the intent wasn't promotion of religion or creationism. Religion stories could indeed be an interesting work of fiction for inspiration, creative stories are easier for people to absorb blindly and that's part of what made religion spread after all. I guess the words used in the achievements were too close to real life that had me worried.

permalink parent

[–] **MysteriousArtifact** 1 point 6 months ago

While everyone is certainly entitled to an opinion, I find yours to be ill-reasoned.

The Halo franchise had "Prophets" as well, and in fact the Covenant society was quite religious. However, the use of religious words, imagery, or concepts is almost never used to promote real-world religions in video-games. Quite the opposite actually, the vast majority of all religions in videogames turn out to be evil -- if anything they are trying to demonstrate a dark side of religion.

Disclaimer: Am religious and I am perfectly ok with the depiction of religion in fiction as good *or* evil. It's fiction, go nuts.

permalink parent

[–] **intrafinesse** 0 points 6 months ago

Why is it good to know that the intent wasn't religious or creationist?

What does it matter what a game designers religion is?

WTF are you to render judgment as to what games are too religious?

Just admit it that you are anti-Christian and move on. (BTW I am not Christian)

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** -2 points 6 months ago*

Well that's some strong and angry language there. You did accuse me of trolling, I hope you are not doing so yourself. Since you have asked for my stance on religion, I do not mind what kawaritai's religion is and am quite open to religious freedom, so long as it does not harm society. But many religious practices, including the spreading of creationism, and what I've seen today, can be quite harmful. That does say some things about religion itself doesn't it?

permalink parent

[–] **intrafinesse** 1 point 6 months ago

Your posts are consistent. You come for a fight and accuse people who respond of being angry. Sounds like a troll to me.

If you want to argue creationism, who don't you go to a biology website and try and convince them to accept Intelligent Design.

Have fun. Bye Bye

PS - try playing the game instead of trolling. Its a great game.

permalink parent

[–] **Caleddin** 5 points 6 months ago

I think it is understandable since the swarm is basically becoming smarter and more aware, and perhaps starts to feel the workings of some greater being directing their actions - that is, you, as the player, are their god. So it makes sense for there to be some religious undertones.

permalink

[–] **[deleted]** -8 points 6 months ago

> that is, you, as the player, are their god. So it makes sense for there to be some religious undertones.

You can say that for all games though. I'm not sure how that justifies spreading creationism. The achievements section is also aimed more at players instead of in-game characters.

permalink parent

[–] **Caleddin** 3 points 6 months ago

The achievements section is largely just puns and plays on words. I would not take them that seriously. And no, in many/most games you play as your character, which is an avatar of yourself. In this one there is no single avatar of you but rather you are directing an entire population/society.

permalink parent

[–] **intrafinesse** 2 points 6 months ago

Mr. Troll, You are the one insinuating that the designer is spreading creationism. You've entirely missed his sense of humor. Read the designers response below.

It's clear you came to this forum to stir up a fight. Why not just play the game instead.

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** 0 points 6 months ago*

Isn't that presumptuous. As stated earlier, I came here for intelligent

discussion instead of venting anger, which by what you have said so far:

> If you find it offensive ... then don't play it.
>
> It's clear you came to this forum to stir up a fight.

Appears to be what you are doing.

permalink **parent**

[–] **intrafinesse** 2 points 6 months ago

You did not come here for intelligent discussion, you came here looking to pick a fight. Look at how you phrased your original post

1. Who are you to make that determination? a - that it's religious and b - that its too religious
2. Lets pretend that a game designer is very religious (ex: Born again Christian). What business of yours is their religion? Are you saying you wont play a game because you don't agree with a game designers religion? What if the designer is Black? Will you refuse to play the game?
3. Looking at the history of your posts in other threads you have a track history of looking to stir up fights.

Hence you are a troll.

Rather than trolling, why not play the game, and read some of the excellent mathematical analysis posts from a few months ago.

permalink **parent**

[–] **[deleted]** -1 points 6 months ago*

> Who are you to make that determination? a - that it's religious and b - that its too religious

I'm not making that determination. I'm coming here for intelligent discussion about whether the game is religious and what, if any it's intents are.

> Lets pretend that a game designer is very religious (ex: Born again Christian). What business of yours is their religion? Are you saying you wont play a game because you don't agree with a game designers religion? What if the designer is Black? Will you refuse to play the game?

So first you accuse me of religious bigotory, now racism. I think you're the one whose trying to stir up fights here, so I'm not going to respond to that.

> Looking at the history of your posts in other threads you have a track history of looking to stir up fights.

It's called track record, and no, I don't recall making any such posts with that intention in mind.

permalink **parent**

[–] **MNick** 0 points 6 months ago

Of course it's creationist. I created the whole fucking swarm, what else could it be?

permalink **parent**

[–] **intrafinesse** 2 points 6 months ago

MNick, don't feed the troll. Look at simon_zacks modus operandi. He comes to threads, makes stupid comments, then accuses those who respond of being angry and losing the argument.

He hasn't come to discuss the game, just to pick fights.

permalink **parent**

[–] **[deleted]** 1 point 6 months ago*

My method of debate is to use hard evidence and hard arguments, and not be the loser who cannot defend against any of this, and instead stack up baseless claim upon baseless claim.

permalink **parent**

[–] **intrafinesse** 1 point 6 months ago

Your "method of debate" is to come here and make silly comments, trying to provoke a response, then claim the responder is angry and that you've won. Smells like a troll.

Have fun with your creationism.

permalink **parent**

[–] **[deleted]** 0 points 6 months ago

> Smells like a troll.

Well someone is making grand claims again.

permalink **parent**

[–] **[deleted]** -4 points 6 months ago

It could be a game. It could be a simulation. Creationism deals with dieties, and there are no dieties here. Perhaps your anger is clouding your judgement.

permalink **parent**

[–] **PanaceaPlacebo** 5 points 6 months ago

As an atheist, references to religion don't bother me at all, especially in the arts, unless they're incredibly offensive, which this is hardly. And yes, it may seem like a stretch to call swarmsim art, but games are a media form of art, and this is a game. (It certainly is a beautiful example of complex minimalism.) While I don't personally believe in religion or creationism, I recognize that religion provides inspiration, thus breeding creativity. Similar to what /u/Dorten2nd pointed out, this game is FAR from trying to shove religion down your throat, like some folks elsewhere in the world are. So give the Dev a break. We're playing a game about a swarm evolving and coming into full conciousness. I'm surprised there aren't MORE religious/evolutionary overtones/references.

permalink

[–] **MysteriousArtifact** 2 points 6 months ago

Exactly. I'm religious and don't have any problem with depiction of evil religions in fiction, or glorification of religious or anti-religious philosophies. In fiction you can do whatever you want, and if it's well-made I'll enjoy it.

permalink **parent**

[–] **live4lifelegit** 3 points 6 months ago

is that an issue? does it any were that It can't be relgious?

permalink

[–] **intrafinesse** 5 points 6 months ago

If you find it offensive ... then don't play it.

It's one of the best, if not the best, incremental game I've played.

By the way, your name is too religious for me:

1. Simon was a biblical character - do you have some hidden agenda here? Are you trying to convert us?
2. Zack => Zechariah - another biblical name

permalink

[–] **[deleted]** -6 points 6 months ago

> If you find it offensive ... then don't play it.

Did I ever say that I found it offensive? No need to put words in people's mouths here. I too find it to be quite a good game, otherwise I would've gone so far to discover the achievements in the first place.

> your name is too religious for me

This is quite a common name, and the interpretations are not well known, nor do most people find names religious. Compare that to the references above which are clearly quite religious at first glance.

permalink parent

[–] **Kazeto** 3 points 6 months ago

Considering how you worded it, it is normal for people to assume that you did find it offensive. So if you want to avoid misunderstandings like that, learn to phrase what you say better; otherwise, learn to live with people thinking you are far more angry and annoyed about everything than you think yourself to be.

permalink parent

[–] **[deleted]** -2 points 6 months ago

> learn to live with people thinking you are far more angry and annoyed about everything than you think yourself to be.

I'm all for intelligent discussion instead of anger issues, and that is what I'm hoping to achieve with this thread.

permalink parent

[–] **Kazeto** 1 point 6 months ago

Then you really should have worded it differently; make it clear that you think it might be that way, without making it appear that you are sniping at the game because of it. Doing it that way would make it sound less aggressive, and that would make you appear less pushy and angry, and we know the discussion would have turned at least a bit differently had people not made the assumption that you are how you appear in this thread.

I am no expert at naming things, but I really think the general tone of discussion would have been warmer had the topic been named, for example, "Some achievements in this game make me think it's kind of religious. Is it supposed to be that way or am I missing something?".

permalink parent

[–] **BLOONINCINERATOR3000** 1 point 6 months ago

I don't think there's anything religious. If anything, it's more brain-related, with many

units having the words "neuron" or "mind" in them.

permalink

[–] **Octopictogram** 1 point 6 months ago

Its a management game about using bugs to take over the universe, dude.

permalink

[–] **NormaNormaN** -1 points 6 months ago

This person clearly hasn't a clue about what is truly religious. Not from a scholarly perspective, not from a religious or secular perspective, and most obviously not from any real experience with same. They take a superficiality, put it out of context, and the blow it up out of all significance.

This person not only doesn't understand a thing about what religion IS, they also don't understand a thing about what it is NOT.

permalink

[–] **Kazeto** 2 points 6 months ago

And that is relevant to the topic at hand how?

permalink parent

[–] **NormaNormaN** -1 points 6 months ago*

You speak nonsense. Worst trolling ever.

permalink parent

[–] **Kazeto** 1 point 6 months ago

Nah, not the worst ever. You weren't quite that pathetic.

permalink parent

[–] **NormaNormaN** 1 point 6 months ago

You do realize I'm referencing the topic originator, not the game dev, right?

permalink parent

[–] **Kazeto** 1 point 6 months ago

No, I didn't. And now I do.

Sorry about that. And yeah, he does appear to be quite that pathetic, so I guess I should have realised.

Still, in my defence, the way your reply had been worded at the time made it hard to realise that.

permalink parent

[–] **NormaNormaN** 2 points 6 months ago*

Since kawaritai put up his own reply in the thread if I wanted to dis him I could have done it directly. I thought just a reply to the thread would be sufficient, since I thought the implication is when one replies to a thread they are replying to the author.

Yet of course one is also replying to the subject, so I suppose that's where the confusion set in. My understanding was the subject of the thread was so absurd it was barely worth replying to in the first place, so I didn't feel a need to qualify my statement.

Sorry for any confusion I generated.

permalink parent

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