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For those of Christian beliefs: do you find Shin Megami Tensei II offensive?

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cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:49 PM)

Quote

For those of Christian beliefs: do you find Shin Megami Tensei II offensive? #1

Precursor: bringing atheist talk in this thread is not a wise idea.

OP and thread will contain massive spoilers for SMT II.

So I found this quote interesting:

> Originally Posted by **jineha**
>
> I'm surprised some people played SMT2. We Japanese believe SMT2 is quite offensive to western people.

I'm assuming this is because of how Shin Megami Tensei II critiques Christianity, and to some extent, its followers.

Background

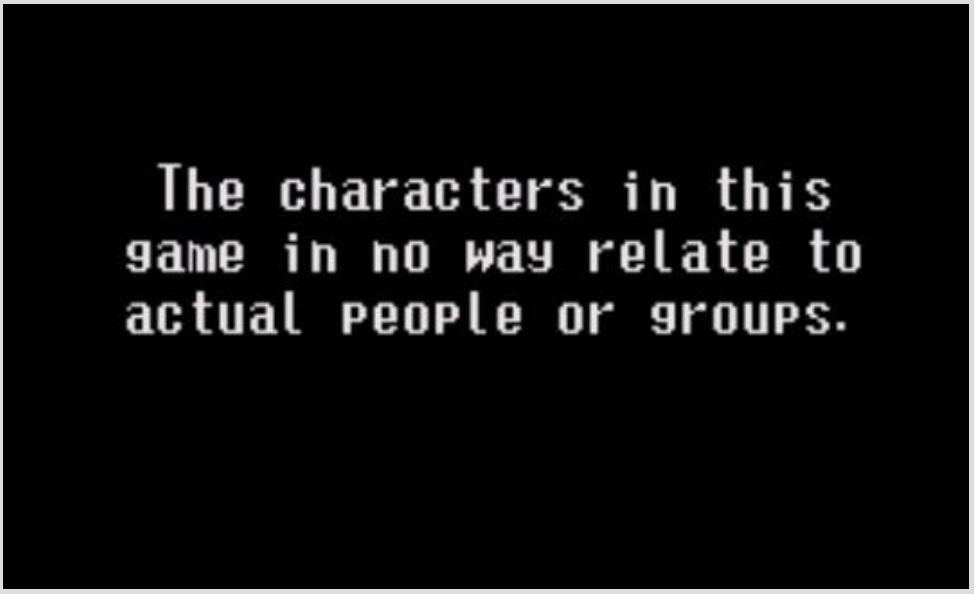
The first **Shin Megami Tensei** is chock full of religious symbolism.

You have demon worshipers sacrificing people, summoning devils, and every so often people on the other side of the law, so to speak.

SMT's Messians are pretty much Christians in all but name. They worship God/Yahweh, and seek to

rebuild the world in his name, and cast anyone out who don't see things their way; this usually means the demon-summoning Gaians who believe might makes right; the strong rule and the weak die.

It's touched on in SMT1, but in SMT2, the Messians are brought to the forefront.



Yeah right.

In SMT2, after the world is pretty much devastated by The Great Destruction(a lot of nukes and one giant flood), the Messians have taken over.

They run a massive city called The Center, and anyone not of the Messian faith pretty much live in the slums, or are all but slaves to their machine.

On the other side of the coin, the Gaians are still active, but resigned to operating from the shadows.

Their leader should seem familiar.

One Mr. Louis Cypher.

AKA Lucifer.

So your choices determine your alignment, but whether you go Law, Neutral, or Chaos, you eventually have to deal with Him.

Yahweh being the final boss. If you're Law, you're tested. Chaos/Neutral, you are a grave threat and must be destroyed.

If you go Chaos, Lucifer even joins up to help. If you go Law, I believe Satan does(here personified as God's avenging angel).

Last and definitely least, you go up against the be-all end-all of deities.

TL;DR- does anyone of faith find any of this offensive, or do you consider it creative freedom within a fictional realm(as I do)?

Last edited by cj_iwakura; 04-21-2013 at 06:20 PM.

Terbinator
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:52 PM)
Quote

#2

At least you can choose to be good/bad, so there is creative freedom there. I didn't have any choice on being [redacted] in Infinite.

DevelopmentArrested
Banned
(04-21-2013, 05:53 PM)
Quote

#3

Nah because it's all fiction, baby

Mung
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:53 PM)
Quote

#4

Not nearly as offensive as Indiana Jones Temple of Doom was to Hindus.

Man God
Non-Canon Member
(04-21-2013, 05:54 PM)
Quote

#5

It's only maybe slightly more offensive then something like Xenogears.

Chacranajxy
I paid good money for this Dynex!
(04-21-2013, 05:54 PM)
Quote

#6

No, I don't find it offensive, for the same reason you don't. It's a work of fiction, and this is just where they decided to go with it. SMT2 doesn't attack anyone's beliefs or anything along those lines. Like pretty much anything involving religion in Japanese games/film, they're using Christian themes more as a mythological background than anything.

Though I'm sure that if the game were to be officially released in the States, people would complain, because it's so much easier to get offended than to stop and think about what the game's intent actually is.

casiopao
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:54 PM)
Quote

#7

After being exposed to tons of Japanese who loves to utilize religion as the main theme whether it is on positive or negative point of view.

Nope. I would even love to see more of this kind of game.(Shadow Hearts. Why do you die on me???)

Shalashaska161
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:55 PM)
Quote

#8

That plot sounds kind of badass to be honest but I'm not a religious person so what do I know.

Kade
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:56 PM)
Quote

#9

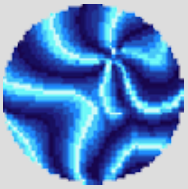
SMT is definitely the worst of it but a lot of JRPG designers/writers from the 80s and 90s really hated Christianity. It's hilarious.

Boss Riovane
Wait, I did WHAT?
(04-21-2013, 05:56 PM)
Quote

#10

Its a game and fiction. Its all good.

Mikey Jr.
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:57 PM)
Quote



#11

I'm Catholic.

And no, I don't shit my pants every time someone says/shows something bad about Christianity, those images included. I would gladly check out the game if I liked that series at all.

ULTROS!
People seem to like me because I am polite and I am rarely late. I like to eat ice cream and I really enjoy a nice pair of slacks.
(04-21-2013, 05:58 PM)
Quote

#12

As a Roman Catholic, those don't look very offensive.

Heck Silent Hill 3 is probably more offensive but it didn't matter to me at all.

Nekofrog
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:58 PM)
Quote

#13

I like the art direction in those screenshots over the art style of that character portrait.

Caelestis
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:58 PM)
Quote

#14

I personally have no problem with it. I imagine it would only turn heads if the series became super popular.

Also, this thread makes me wish they would remake the game for 3DS. :|

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:59 PM)
Quote

#15

> Originally Posted by **Nekofrog**
> I like the art direction in those screenshots over the art style of that character portrait.

Yeah, their sprites have always been great, but some of the concept art nails it.

Gonna call this NSFW because of Satan's design.

Credo
Member
(04-21-2013, 05:59 PM)
Quote

#16

As you said, I consider it creative freedom within a fictional realm. It's not like the developers were saying that the ideas in their game are an exact mirror of real life, and even if they were, it's not like I would have to agree with that in order to find enjoyment in playing the game. I've enjoyed every SMT mainline and offshoot game that I've played, regardless of how God, Satan/Lucifer, are portrayed within

the game universe.

Globox_82
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:00 PM)
Quote

#17

It's a freaking game, so no. It's like when fox news tells you some "killer" was playing a lot of FPS so he became nuts. Normal people can tell the difference between the game and reality. Never bothered by such stuff.

TreIII
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:01 PM)
Quote

#18

> Originally Posted by **DevelopmentArrested**
> Nah because it's all fiction, baby

This.

I don't get offended by this anymore than the likes of other games that refer to God/Gods/Goddesses and everything else in between.

For example, the Legend of Zelda and Castlevania are among my favorite video game series, and they both have employed their fair share of "religious" imagery and themes over the years. And I don't care.

Omikaru
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:02 PM)
Quote

#19

Being an atheist, but having gone to a Christian school, I have plenty of Christian friends who would find this pretty uncomfortable if they read the comparisons made by the OP, but probably not offended. I think they respect freedom of speech and works of fiction enough to know that this isn't an affront to their beliefs, and that's probably why we're still friends in my ex-Christian life.

Alas, I also grew up with people who refused to read Harry Potter because of its contents, so I'm sure there are people who would be crinkled by this.

---

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:02 PM)
Quote

#20

> Originally Posted by **TreIII**
> This.
>
> I don't get offended by this anymore than the likes of other games that refer to God/Gods/Goddesses and everything else in between.
>
> For example, the Legend of Zelda and Castlevania are among my favorite video game series, and they both have employed their fair share of "religious" imagery and themes over the years. And I don't care.

True, but the line here is that they have God as the final boss, which is widely considered why these games had no chance of being localized.

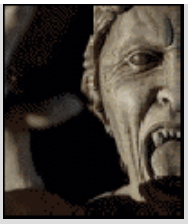
That and the Messians being carbon copies of the Church.

(For the record, I'm Catholic.)

WanderingWind
Mecklemore Is My Favorite Wrapper
(04-21-2013, 06:02 PM)
Quote

#21

Nah. In Xenogears [redacted]. Wasn't offended then either.



Foffy
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:03 PM)
Quote

#22

It's a video game. I can't get offended at something that isn't really physical.

Just take it with you.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:04 PM)
Quote

#23

I don't find it offensive at all.

Curiously enough, however, they have pulled back a bit on the Yahweh thing in later games.

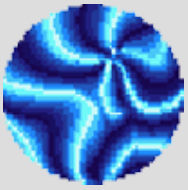
Xanadu
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:04 PM)
Quote

#24

> Originally Posted by **Foffy**
> It's a video game. I can't get offended at something that isn't really physical.

seeing a paedophile at action in a video game wouldnt offend you?

Mikey Jr.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:04 PM)
Quote



#25

> Originally Posted by **WanderingWind**
> Nah. In Xenogears [redacted]. Wasn't offended then either.

Also, you are [redacted].

Someone post that image. You know the one I'm talking about.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:04 PM)
Quote

#26

> Originally Posted by **-SD-**
> God is fiction too, so no-one with half a mind should get offended.

Thanks to you and the bible guy, OP is updated. Take the atheist talk elsewhere.

Reversed
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:04 PM)
Quote

#27

Most of the time, JRPG heroes defy deities, or even "god thyself."

UncleSporky
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:05 PM)
Quote

#28

It's supposed to be offensive because there's supposedly some element of "this is how it really is in real life," right? Like saying that the head of the church is actually evil or whatever?

But despite that, it's also making the claim that supernatural beings do exist, powerful forces outside of common knowledge and existence. If anything, it should be offensive to atheists.

If it was a game about the church covering up the fact that God doesn't exist, maybe that would be considered offensive to some extent.

Kyzon
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:05 PM)
Quote

#29

As a Christian who grew up in a Christian family (My Mother and Father are both Pastors), don't find it offensive at all. It's a game, and an expression of someone's imagination. If they choose to portray a Christian-like cult in this manner, then that's up to them. There's many games with overly religious cults that bare some similarity to real life organizations. No need to get butthurt because Christianity is also used.

-SD-
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:05 PM)
Quote

#30

> Originally Posted by **cj_iwakura**
> Thanks to you and the bible guy, OP is updated. Take the atheist talk elsewhere.

Well, to be fair, you should take the religious talk elsewhere.

Captainsweatpants
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:06 PM)
Quote

#31

> Originally Posted by **cj_iwakura**
> Thanks to you and the bible guy, OP is updated. Take the atheist talk elsewhere.

lol am I the Bible Guy?

> Originally Posted by **-SD-**
> Well, to be fair, you should take the religious talk elsewhere.

> Originally Posted by **Xanadu**
> seeing a paedophile at action in a video game wouldnt offend you?

There was a Game about the Pope?

Last edited by Captainsweatpants; 04-21-2013 at 06:09 PM.

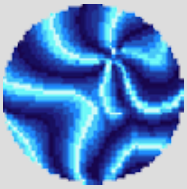
cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:06 PM)
Quote

#32

> Originally Posted by **-SD-**
> Well, to be fair, you should take the religious talk elsewhere.

I'm discussing the content of a game. Your beliefs have nothing to do with the topic.

Mikey Jr.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:07 PM)
Quote



#33

> Originally Posted by **-SD-**
> Well, to be fair, you should take the religious talk elsewhere.

Why? I'm religious. I can't participate in threads?

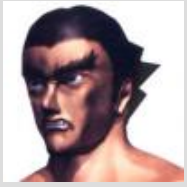
Pureauthor
Author of *GAF for Dummies* and How to write a Kingdom Hearts story.
(04-21-2013, 06:07 PM)
Quote

#34

First time I heard about it, I admit to being rather surprised.

But nah. If they were trying to make some kind of actual statement here or something then it might be worth talking about, but it's a video game.

nailbombxx
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:07 PM)
Quote



#35

This just makes the game even better.

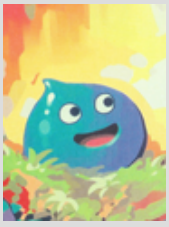
Foffy
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:08 PM)
Quote

#36

> Originally Posted by **Xanadu**
> seeing a paedophile at action in a video game wouldnt offend you?

Honestly? No, because it's a video game. It's a weird dichotomy; I can be perfectly fine with gore in games, but in person, even in images, makes me ill. I guess the same would go for what you were asking about, too.

Aeana
Medal Princess
(04-21-2013, 06:08 PM)
Quote



#37

This thread is *not* going to be an atheist vs. theist battleground. This discussion can be had without bringing the validity of faiths into the matter.

Just take it with you.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:08 PM)
Quote

#38

> Originally Posted by **Mikey Jr.**
> Also, you are [redacted].
>
> Someone post that image. You know the one I'm talking about.

Chu Chu died for your sins.

Roubjon
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:09 PM)
Quote

#39

> Originally Posted by **Xanadu**
> seeing a paedophile at action in a video game wouldnt offend you?

No it wouldn't. Just like it wouldn't in a movie or a book. I would get uncomfortable yes, but not in the least offended.

Credo
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:09 PM)
Quote

#40

> Originally Posted by **Omikaru**
> Alas, I also grew up with people who refused to read Harry Potter because of its contents, so I'm sure there are people who would be crinkled by this.

Did any of those people ever give the reason why they wouldn't read it? I knew some parents who refused to let their kids read the books, and I've never been able to comprehend why.

---

sakipon
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:09 PM)
Quote

#41

> Originally Posted by **Xanadu**
> seeing a paedophile at action in a video game wouldnt offend you?

Depends on context. Issues of child porn and abuse have been brought up in a decent manner in some cinema works. Taboos and complete silence isn't the answer.

Dongs Macabre

aka Daedalos42
(04-21-2013, 06:09 PM)
Quote

#42

I'm sure some fundamentalists would be offended by this, but I'd imagine most people would be fine with it (I'm not Christian, so I'm not sure). Tons of games have religious themes. I'm sure pagans aren't offended by, like, every game and movie ever made, or people who worship ancient extra-terrestrial gods by Halo.

fates
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:10 PM)
Quote

#43

Nope, I don't find works of fiction offensive at all.

And the SMT series is one of my favorite franchises, too.

BlackJace
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:10 PM)
Quote

#44

That's actually very interesting having Yahweh as the final boss.
And "Shin Megami Tensei" means "True Goddess Reincarnation" right?

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:11 PM)
Quote

#45

> Originally Posted by **BlackJace**
> That's actually very interesting having Yahweh as the final boss.
> And "Shin Megami Tensei" means "True Goddess Reincarnation" right?

Yep. It ties heavily into SMT1, as the Goddess is reborn near the end. I think it has the most relevance to MT1&2, since [redacted]

Pureauthor
Author of *GAF for Dummies* and How to write a Kingdom Hearts story.
(04-21-2013, 06:11 PM)
Quote

#46

> Originally Posted by **Credo**
> Did any of those people ever give the reason why they wouldn't read it? I knew some parents who refused to let their kids read the books, and I've never been able to comprehend why.

Because it portrayed magic as this cool thing to do and everyone knows magic is of the devil.

A lot of it is honestly just hearsay and a wariness of popular 'worldly' things. Remember, stuff like Pokemon was also campaigned against as demonic before too.

ULTROS!
People seem to like me because I am polite and I am rarely late. I like to eat ice cream and I really enjoy a nice pair of slacks.
(04-21-2013, 06:13 PM)

#47

> Originally Posted by **Daedalos42**
> I'm sure some fundamentalists would be offended by this, but I'd imagine most people would be fine with it (I'm not Christian, so I'm not sure). Tons of games have religious themes. I'm sure pagans aren't offended by, like, every game and movie ever made, or people who worship

Quote

> ancient extra-terrestrial gods by Halo.

Probably in my context (as a youth living in a predominantly Christian nation), the youth will not mind at all. It might brush some feathers for the older folk but I heavily doubt they'd react to this.

ixix
Exists in a perpetual state of Quantum Crotch Uncertainty.
(04-21-2013, 06:13 PM) #48
Quote

As a completely fungible piece of entertainment media the thematic and narrative content of SMT2 is, like all video games, inherently inoffensive as far as I'm concerned.

I'm more or less only nominally Lutheran though, so I'm pretty much on the extreme periphery of the target audience of this question.

bigace33
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:13 PM) #49
Quote

lol I really had no idea of it's contents until this OP. I'm not offended necessarily but it's not a game I would indulge in. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are real in my life so I would be uncomfortable playing a game that directly misrepresents them. That is just a personal choice of my own and should not be enforced upon everyone.

BlackJace
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:13 PM) #50
Quote

> Originally Posted by **cj_iwakura**
> Yep. It ties heavily into SMT1, as the Goddess is reborn near the end. I think it has the most relevance to MT1&2, since [redacted]

Fascinating. The series really does have some of my favorite overarching themes. Not too edgy, not too upfront.. It's got it all really.

Lulubop
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:14 PM) #51
Quote

Now I wanna play these games.

Tractopoulpe
Junior Member
(04-21-2013, 06:15 PM) #52
Quote

Yes, I find this offensive.

Soulflarz
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:15 PM)
Quote

#53

Christian here
It doesnt bug me because its not someones real belief or whats happening its a game meant to tell a story

So i take the "its fiction, nope" stance

Chacranajxy
I paid good money for this Dynex!
(04-21-2013, 06:15 PM)
Quote

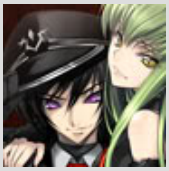
#54

And can I just say, this actually makes me much more comfortable with the game:

I can think of precisely zero things I would rather do than hang out with some dude named Louis Cypher in an early '90s, anime-looking bar in Japan.

Wyndstryker
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:15 PM)
Quote

#55



The whole Shin Megami series takes stuff from virtually every religion out there. In any religious context none of them really coexist in the same scenario so it's quite easy to dismiss it as fiction.

Kyzon
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:16 PM)
Quote

#56

> Originally Posted by **Credo**
>
> Did any of those people ever give the reason why they wouldn't read it? I knew some parents who refused to let their kids read the books, and I've never been able to comprehend why.

Well, at first my dad wouldn't let me read them because he thought they instructed kids how to perform witchcraft and sorcery. He calmed down about it after a while though after I explained that it was like this generation's wizard of oz, and had him watch the movie.

Credo
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:16 PM)
Quote

#57

> Originally Posted by **Pureauthor**
> Because it portrayed magic as this cool thing to do and everyone knows magic is of the devil.
>
> A lot of it is honestly just hearsay and a wariness of popular 'worldly' things. Remember, stuff like Pokemon was also campaigned against as demonic before too.

If they believe everything in the Bible and they say something about magic not being real or being evil, then they might want to reconsider their thinking since God commands Aaron to use it. This passage is pulled straight out of the Bible:

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

Back on topic, I don't really see content like the kind found in SMT2 could ever be a problem as long as you can separate fantasy from reality. I've never had a problem with doing that, so it's hard for me to empathize with someone who can't separate the two. For most of my life, I've had an overactive, overly sensitive conscience, and it hasn't bothered me once regarding anything in video games.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:16 PM)
Quote

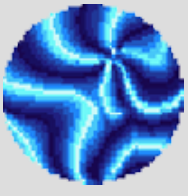
#58

> Originally Posted by **Tractopoulpe**
> Yes, I find this offensive.

Would you mind elaborating on this? To give some more context, before you fight Yahweh at the end of SMTII, you find out the Messians are planning to exterminate the entire world to wipe out all the demons and everyone who disagrees with their cause. Yahweh is the one who shows up to stop your party.

That's part of the reason why I'm not offended by it; their depiction of Yahweh is as a very cruel-hearted, merciless deity.

Mikey Jr.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:16 PM)
Quote



#59

> Originally Posted by **Just take it with you.**

Chu Chu died for your sins.

Fuck, the first time I saw that, I think I literally fell on the floor and laughed. It was the most batshit thing I had ever seen.

Trojita
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:17 PM)
Quote

#60

I find SMT more offensive for its lack of awareness on various world religions. It's not that hard to open up a world religions book. Satan and Lucifer are two different beings? You have Helel in there even though you already have Lucifer? That's not even go over how Lucifer should be referring to the Babylonian King.

It's best to look at the games in a bubble. Even the Law God appears to be something akin to a Demiurge since it can be defeated.

Figboy79
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:18 PM)
Quote

#61

No. Why would I? It's a piece of entertainment.There's no reason to get offended by those sorts of things in my opinion.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:18 PM)
Quote

#62

> Originally Posted by **Trojita**
> I find SMT more offensive for its lack of awareness on various world religions. It's not that hard to open up a world religions book. Satan and Lucifer are two different beings? You have Helel in there even though you already have Lucifer? That's not even go over how Lucifer should be referring to the Babylonian King.

I'm not too caught up on theology, but in SMT lore, Lucifer is the fallen angel and the betrayer, Satan is the avenging angel sent to test man.

Also, the Demiurge is in Strange Journey.

Chacranajxy
I paid good money for this Dynex!
(04-21-2013, 06:19 PM)
Quote

#63

> Originally Posted by **Trojita**
> I find SMT more offensive for its lack of awareness on various world religions. It's not that hard to open up a world religions book. Satan and Lucifer are two different beings? You have Helel in there even though you already have Lucifer? That's not even go over how Lucifer should be referring to the Babylonian King.
>
> It's best to look at the games in a bubble. Even the Law God appears to be something akin to a Demiurge since it can be defeated.

The way I look at it, the more versions of Satan/Lucifer there are, the more Meguro battle themes we'll get. And I'm okay with that.

That said, I do find it interesting to count how many versions of the same dude they put in any given SMT game. But that kinda highlights, again, how this is completely just the developers saying "how can we take these religious themes and turn it into our own thing."

Aeana
Medal Princess
(04-21-2013, 06:19 PM)
Quote

#64

Well, since you're going pretty strong into spoiling the whole game, cj, you should probably make that warning much more prominent in your first post.

Pureauthor
Author of *GAF for Dummies* and How to write a Kingdom Hearts story.
(04-21-2013, 06:19 PM)
Quote

#65

> Originally Posted by **Trojita**
> I find SMT more offensive for its lack of awareness on various world religions. It's not that hard to open up a world religions book. Satan and Lucifer are two different beings? You have Helel in there even though you already have Lucifer? That's not even go over how Lucifer should be referring to the Babylonian King.

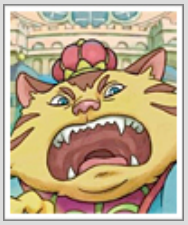
Various people have argued that Satan and Lucifer are indeed two different beings, even within the context of the Bible. Besides, insofar that there is an overarching SMT mythology it's fueled largely by the beliefs of the people, so if people start believing two different depictions of a deity to be two different deities it can be reflected in there.

michaelius
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:19 PM)
Quote

#66

Nope seems kinda hilarous actually like most of evil Christianity stuff in anime/japanise games.

The Lamp
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:20 PM)
Quote



#67

As a devout Christian, I find it ridiculous and pretty far-off from what I know Christianity to be so it doesn't really offend me because it's clearly just trying to be...you know...a video game with its own fictional plot.

The problem is it's not very creative. From your description (haven't played the game) it sounds like a really dry, soulless (lol) take on an evil, flawed stereotype of Judeo-Christian lore. Pretty lame.

Krelian91
Junior Member
(04-21-2013, 06:21 PM)
Quote

#68

> Originally Posted by **DevelopmentArrested**
> Nah because it's all fiction, baby

Yup.

> Originally Posted by **Man God**
> It's only maybe slightly more offensive then something like Xenogears.

There is actually nothing offensive in XG since [redacted] with no relation whatsoever (symbolism aside) to the Abrahamic one, unlike SMT.

> Originally Posted by **Just take it with you.**
> You know, now that you mention it, I wonder what Hinduists would think of the DDS games.

now THIS would be an interesting thread.

Last edited by Krelian91; 04-21-2013 at 06:26 PM.

Just take it with you.
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:21 PM)
Quote

#69

> Originally Posted by **Wyndstryker**
> The whole Shin Megami series takes stuff from virtually every religion out there. In any religious context none of them really coexist in the same scenario so it's quite easy to dismiss it as fiction.

You know, now that you mention it, I wonder what Hinduists would think of the DDS games.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:21 PM)
Quote

#70

> Originally Posted by **Aeana**
> Well, since you're going pretty strong into spoiling the whole game, cj, you should probably make that warning much more prominent in your first post.

Yep, updated.

If this actually gets anyone interested in playing the game, that's even better, though be sure to play SMT1 first for the full story.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:22 PM)
Quote

#71

> Originally Posted by **Just take it with you.**
> You know, now that you mention it, I wonder what Hinduists would think of the DDS games.

THAT would be a great topic.

Feel free to open up that can of worms. :P

nailbombxx
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:22 PM)
Quote

#72

> Originally Posted by **Tractopoulpe**
> Yes, I find this offensive.

TheBaronOfNA

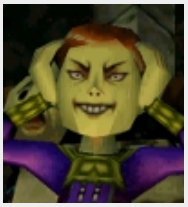
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:22 PM)
Quote

#73

No because I don't think that God, if exists, would look like Zordon.

But, joking aside, is a work of fiction and creative art, so really no.

Makki
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:23 PM)
Quote



#74

The greatness of having the freedom to play it or not. I've come to hate reading about someone being offended because it means nowadays that whatever caused a few to be disturbed is censored or removed from circulation.

Hadn't heard about this game before but I want to play it now.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:23 PM)
Quote

#75

> Originally Posted by **nailbombxx**
>
>

Well if he really is a Cthulan(is that a word?), I'd find his stance even *more* interesting.

Chacranajxy
I paid good money for this Dynex!
(04-21-2013, 06:24 PM)
Quote

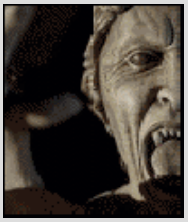
#76

> Originally Posted by **Just take it with you.**
>
> You know, now that you mention it, I wonder what Hinduists would think of the DDS games.

I always wondered that, too. I mean... you go out of your way to slice up or just gun down obviously sacred cows, and then DEVOUR them. And then proceed to kill every Hindu god possible in a single game.

And there are *two* of them.

WanderingWind
Mecklemore Is My Favorite Wrapper
(04-21-2013, 06:24 PM)
Quote



#77

> Originally Posted by **TheBaronOfNA**
>
> No because I don't think that God, if exists, would look like Zordon.
>
> But, joking aside, is a work of fiction and creative art, so really no.

Which disciple would be the Green Ranger?
...or the pink one?

Trojita
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:24 PM)
Quote

#78

> Originally Posted by **Pureauthor**
>
> Various people have argued that Satan and Lucifer are indeed two different beings, even within the context of the Bible. Besides, insofar that there is an overarching SMT mythology it's fueled largely by the beliefs of the people, so if people start believing two different depictions of a deity to be two different deities it can be reflected in there.

Satan = Angel chosen by God to watch over man and serve as a sort of opposing side. Sort of like a critic to give God advice on the state of man.

Lucifer = Mistranslated sentence referring to a Babylonian King falling (from grace).

Helel = The original hebrew word for Lucifer, a latin word.

Charoncaori
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:26 PM)
Quote

#79

My mom wouldn't let me celebrate Halloween as a kid because of what it represented. We weren't even particularly religious.

She would have FLIPPED HER SHIT over this game, haha.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:26 PM)
Quote

#80

> Originally Posted by **WanderingWind**
> Which disciple would be the Green Ranger?
> ...or the pink one?

Man God
Non-Canon Member
(04-21-2013, 06:26 PM)
Quote

#81

SMT 1 could also be seen as offensive to Christians AND Americans.

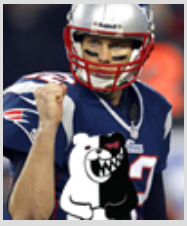
TheBaronOfNA
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:27 PM)
Quote

#82

Just to say: I liked how Devil Survivor 1 make God and the law faction not such a dicks. Also, I would like that they remember to the player in the main games that Lucy is actually, for all intents and purpuse, also a Dick.

we.are.the.armada

Member
(04-21-2013, 06:27 PM)
Quote



#83

I'm not so embarrassed by it. It's just another etic endeavor into the fantastic. Just as a Western developer making a game about Japanese lore would touch upon areas that are so general that it comes off as stereotype, I suppose.

Also, is Satan with multiple breasts/pectorals biblically accurate?

---

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:28 PM)
Quote

#84

> Originally Posted by **TheBaronOfNA**
> Just to say: I liked how Devil Survivor 1 make God and the law faction not such a dicks. Also, I would like that they remember to the player in the main games that Lucy is actually, for all intents and purpuse, also a Dick.

Actually, in SMTII, they portray Lucifer as practically a saint compared to Yahweh. Lucifer tries to save the lesser people from the Messians, and in the Chaos ending, he lets them all free.

Trojita
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:28 PM)
Quote

#85

Also Xenogears isn't even offensive. I even did a write up in a different thread about it.

TheBaronOfNA
Banned
(04-21-2013, 06:30 PM)
Quote

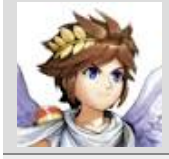
#86

> Originally Posted by **cj_iwakura**
> Actually, in SMTII, they portray Lucifer as practically a saint compared to Yahweh. Lucifer tries to save the lesser people from the Messians, and in the Chaos ending, he lets them all free.

Yeah, kind of annoying.

---

blitzwolf215
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:31 PM)
Quote



#87

It doesn't bother me, its just a video game.

Pureauthor
Author of *GAF for Dummies* and How to write a Kingdom Hearts story.
(04-21-2013, 06:31 PM)
Quote

#88

> Originally Posted by **TheBaronOfNA**
> Just to say: I liked how Devil Survivor 1 make God and the law faction not such a dicks. Also, I would like that they remember to the player in the main games that Lucy is actually, for all intents and purpuse, also a Dick.

DS1 actually came the closest out of all the CYoA games to showing that all sides had something going for them instead of everyone being a massive, raging dick.

SykoTech
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:31 PM)
Quote

#89

Nah, especially since it sounds like it offers you a choice.

Onemic
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:32 PM)
Quote

#90

doesnt bother me. Though it is a little weirld.

How good are the original SMT games anyway? Might consider getting them for my vita.

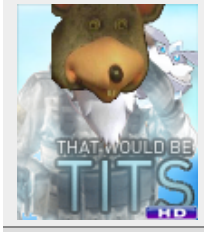
Dongs Macabre
aka Daedalos42
(04-21-2013, 06:32 PM)
Quote

#91

> Originally Posted by **Trojita**
> I find SMT more offensive for its lack of awareness on various world religions. It's not that hard to open up a world religions book. Satan and Lucifer are two different beings? You have Helel in there even though you already have Lucifer? That's not even go over how Lucifer should be referring to the Babylonian King.
>
> It's best to look at the games in a bubble. Even the Law God appears to be something akin to a Demiurge since it can be defeated.

It's a story. It doesn't have to be accurate to Christian (Jewish?) mythology. That's like saying God of War lacks awareness of Greek mythology.

Neiteio
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:33 PM)
Quote



#92

I'm not religious and tend to be critical of religion, insofar as I see it as hurting more people than helping, in many cases. That being said, I love the lore of religions around the world, and SMT suddenly looks *fascinating* to me. How accessible is the gameplay? Their design for Satan looks AMAZING.

Pureauthor
Author of *GAF for Dummies* and How to write a Kingdom Hearts story.
(04-21-2013, 06:33 PM)
Quote

#93

> Originally Posted by **onemic**
> doesnt bother me. Though it is a little weirld.
>
> How good are the original SMT games anyway? Might consider getting them for my vita.

Compared to modern RPGs, SMT1 is honestly not a good game. SMT2 holds up better.

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:34 PM)
Quote

#94

> Originally Posted by **Pureauthor**
> Compared to modern RPGs, SMT1 is honestly not a good game. SMT2 holds up better.

Pretty much. SMT1 has endless random battles, but it has a much better story, and it's easy to break the game with charm bullets.

I guess if you have to skip 1, the cliff notes version was that Messians were jerks and took over the world after they caused it to be destroyed.

DidntKnowJack
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:35 PM)
Quote

#95

Sorry, but I have a hard time believing most of the people saying, "No its perfectly fine," are actually Christians. I haven't played the game, but if I can glean anything from these pictures, it sure seems like Satan is a good guy and God and his followers are the evil to be reckoned with.

Now I'm not saying I'm up in arms over stuff like this. It's a fucking video game and as such I can just shake my head and walk away. But come on, this is clearly the writers giving a big middle finger to Christianity. Which is fine, I support freedom of speech, but lets call a spade a spade, hmm?

UncleSporky
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:36 PM)
Quote

#96

> Originally Posted by **Credo**
> Did any of those people ever give the reason why they wouldn't read it? I knew some parents who refused to let their kids read the books, and I've never been able to comprehend why.

Personal experience:

My very Christian mom read Harry Potter as it was becoming popular and decided it was a harmless, fun fantasy book. She didn't have an iron grip on what we read or anything, but wanted to know what we were getting into and discovered it was just a cool story. My sister and I also read it, all was well.

A couple months later someone in the church youth group brought in a documentary about why Harry Potter was super evil and nobody should ever read it. Apparently there's quite a bit of pagan symbolism in there, I mean Rowling wanted it to be slightly authentic in some ways. It was wrapped up in a lot of scary visuals and language. Movie ends, everyone looks at me and my sister.

What can you say against something like that? I didn't have any way to refute it. All I knew was that I'd read a fun, awesome book and I didn't feel any worse off for it. I tried to say so but it's tough in a situation like that. Ultimately everyone was really uncomfortable and I think the youth leader kind of realized it wasn't as bad as the video made it out to be and it was a mistake to show the video. We never talked about it again. I read the rest of the books up through 5 but stopped because Harry became a huge dick to everyone and it really turned me off the series.

> Originally Posted by **Credo**
> If they believe everything in the Bible and they say something about magic not being real or being evil, then they might want to reconsider their thinking since God commands Aaron to use it. This passage is pulled straight out of the Bible:
>
> *The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake." So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.*

That's really easy for someone to refute if they want, though. There's clearly nothing godly/christian about the magic they perform in Harry Potter. God doesn't say "and lo, though shalt speaketh 'wingardium leviosa' in a cleare voice."

And there are other passages against witchcraft, not allowing a witch to live, etc.

Trojita
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:36 PM)
Quote

#97

> Originally Posted by **Daedalos42**
> It's a story. It doesn't have to be accurate to Christian (Jewish?) mythology. That's like saying God of War lacks awareness of Greek mythology.

That's why I said to look at the games like they are in a bubble lol.

---

richiek
steals Justin Bieber DVDs
(04-21-2013, 06:36 PM)
Quote

#98

Like Evangelion, the Judeo-Christian imagery in Shin Megami series is used because to Japan, it's all exotic and alien to them. It's like Orientalism in reverse.

Man God
Non-Canon Member
(04-21-2013, 06:37 PM)
Quote

#99

Lucifer isn't a good guy, he just wants his revenge and craves true freedom over everything else. Joining with him turns the world into a survival of the fittest paradise where might makes right.

---

cj_iwakura
Member
(04-21-2013, 06:37 PM)
Quote

#100

> Originally Posted by **Daedalos42**
> It's a story. It doesn't have to be accurate to Christian (Jewish?) mythology. That's like saying God of War lacks awareness of Greek mythology.

SMTII has some Judaism references in it, too.

And a bit of Eldritch horror too!

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