

Excerpt from "2000 Candles"

Black Peter (traditionally a helper of Santa Clause in German mythology) muses on the origins of the Christmas tree, mistletoe, holly, and even the church's decision to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25th. The following is the culmination of his research and investigation into the season.

BLACK PETER - Christmas is the time when we celebrate Christ the saviour being born. Or, is Christmas the time we *should* celebrate when Christ the saviour being born (but we don't). Or, *is* Christmas the time we should celebrate Christ the saviour being born? Couldn't we just celebrate His birth everyday in a slightly less frenetic manner? Celebrate His life, not just His birth. Anyone can be born!

Well, come to think of it... everyone is.

But we have created a monster called Christmas, and it's not real. And just as unreal, we have created a baby who doesn't give his mother morning sickness; he doesn't give his mother labour pains, "no crying he makes". We wrap him in comfortable swaddling-clothes, and lay him in a sterile feeding trough, in an antiseptic (but rustic) barn.

We're missing the point.

The point is it was a step down. Now, thinking of a baby being born can be sweet and sentimental (especially if you've never actually had one), but little baby Jesus does little to change my life.

What that baby grew up and did, does.