The Book of Mormon- I Believe

**318 words** *The Book of Mormon*, an award-winning Broadway musical written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone, satirizes the idea of blind faith. In this production, Elder Price embarks on his mission to convert a tribe in Uganda. The writers use humor in an exaggerated, offensive way to. . .. Because songs propel the story . . . [[1]](#footnote-1)

One particular song titled ‘*I Believe’* marks the point at which Elder Price directly questions his beliefs. As he is faced with the task of trying to a convert a Ugandan warlord (who is known to violently castrate and kill people) he comments on his situation and says, “A warlord who shoots people in the face, What's so scary about that, I must trust that my Lord is mightier, And always has my back.” This line exemplifies the play’s skepticism about religion; Elder Price is so convinced that this entity will protect him, he is willing to walk into a terrorist camp without any protection but prayer. Ultimately though, Elder Price ends up getting his Book of Mormon shoved literally up his ass, thwarting his confidence in his religion. Although the character intends to say this line seriously, the creators say it satirically (Perhaps talk about irony here.). ~~Several lines have~~ Elder Price often recites his beliefs in ~~such~~ an innocent way but the audience understands the lines in a different way, as when he says that “the ancient Jews built boats and sailed to America….the current President of the Church, Thomas Monson, speaks directly to God….in 1978 God changed His mind about black people…that the Garden of Eden as in Jackson County, Missouri…” These lines have in common the convenience factor of relating a spiritual entity to something man-made. The closing line of the song-- “You'll be a Mormon And, by gosh, a Mormon just believes” --comments on how this kind optimism can fail without some kind of rational critique.

Revision without stray markngs:

**423** *The Book of Mormon*, an award-winning Broadway musical written by Trey Parker and Matt Stone satirizes the ~~very~~ idea of blind faith. In this production, Elder Price embarks on his mission to convert a tribe in Uganda. ~~What makes this a satire is~~ the fact that they use humor in an exaggerated, offensive way. ~~a way that is so exaggerated and offensive that people tend to laugh at the ridiculousness~~. ~~Regardless of the fact,~~ it is definitely a conversation starter. ~~What makes a musical different from any other platform is that~~ Because songs ~~are used to~~ propel the story . . . [[2]](#footnote-2)

**ALWAYS be suspicious of “the fact that”**

**Try to be more specific here.**

One particular song titled ‘*I Believe’* marks the point ~~in~~ at which Elder Price directly questions his beliefs. As he is faced with the task of trying to a convert a Ugandan warlord (who is known to violently castrate and kill people) he comments on his situation and says, “A warlord who shoots people in the face, What's so scary about that, I must trust that my Lord is mightier, And always has my back.” This line exemplifies the play’s skepticism about religion; ~~he~~ Elder Price is so convinced that this entity will protect him, he is willing to walk into a terrorist camp without any protection but prayer. The problems of blind faith could perhaps be ~~perhaps~~ related to today’s issues; ~~one maybe being the question of~~ ‘should people take medicine or can they just pray the sickness away?’ A solution perhaps could be ~~perhaps~~ “a balanced sense of faith” instead of full on devotion. Ultimately though, Elder Price ends up getting his Book of Mormon shoved literally up his ass, thwarting his confidence in his religion. Although the character intends to say this line seriously, the creators say it satirically (Perhaps talk about irony here.). ~~Several lines have~~ Elder Price often recites his beliefs in ~~such~~ an innocent way ~~to him~~ but ~~to~~ the audience understands the lines in a different way, ~~sounds slightly ridiculous and almost fictitious~~ as when he ~~states~~ says that “the ancient Jews built boats and sailed to America….the current President of the Church, Thomas Monson, speaks directly to God….in 1978 God changed His mind about black people…that the Garden of Eden as in Jackson County, Missouri…” ~~What~~ These lines have in common ~~is~~ the convenience factor of relating a spiritual entity to something man-made. The closing line of the song-- “You'll be a Mormon And, by gosh, a Mormon just believes” --~~really nails the coffin shut as it~~ comments on how this kind optimism can fail without some kind of rational critique. (“nails the coffin shut” is a cliché.)

1. Revise to pull together “offensive,” “exaggerate,” and “songs propel the story” in one sentence to make a claim.

   In addition, **ALWAYS be suspicious of “the fact that”**You consistently use (overuse) the construction “What makes . . .” The construction is not incorrect, but it defers your meaning. Your main assertion is “What is.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Revise to pull together “offensive,” “exaggerate,” and “songs propel the story” in one sentence to make a claim.

   You consistently use (overuse) the construction “What makes . . .” The construction is not incorrect, but it defers your meaning. Your main assertion is “What is.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)