

Questions relating to Morris, T. (2006) God, the Devil and Matt Murdock IN T. Morris and M. Morris, *Superheroes and Philosophy*. Illinois, Open Court.

This relates to *DareDevil* season 1 episode 9

‘There aren’t many references to God in the mainline superhero stories. Religious activities hardly ever figure into these narratives. We don’t see Superman sitting in church or Bruce Wayne poring over a Bat-Bible for inspiration or guidance. The Fantastic Four don’t have prayer times together to discern the direction their work should take. The world of the superheroes is for the most part a pretty secular place. The only Preacher who serves as a prominent character in the world of popular comics at all isn’t a very typical example of the life of faith.

Some of the superheroes like Thor and Wonder Woman, are presented as minor deities themselves, but otherwise there is very little mention in any mainstream comics of a Creator, any sort of divine plan for humanity, or even a role for anything like a personal faith in God throughout the course of anyone’s life... One of the few minor exceptions to this involves the life and faith of Matt Murdock, at least as he has been represented in a few of the more prominent Daredevil stories over the years. It’s not that Matt is depicted in normal religious settings or as engaged in typical religious activities –for the most part, he isn’t. But there are just enough hints in the neo-classical Daredevil origin story, as conceived by Frank Miller, and in many of the more interesting developments of his ongoing life as a costumed crime fighter, especially at the hands of the very philosophical Kevin Smith, that we can be led to ask some compelling questions about him as a man of faith.’

Questions

1. What elements are there in relation to religious faith?
2. Some argue that the superheroes themselves are portrayed as minor deities. Does it matter whether or not some of these Superheroes have a faith?
3. Are there elements of other faiths portrayed in positive/negative ways in films/television? Give Examples?