



ACHOO !

There's nothing like a good sneeze; maybe a hot shower or an ice cream sandwich, but no – nothing else even comes close. A sneeze is, to be candid, sort of half erotic, a release of pressure that feels oh so good either before or just after the Achoo!



The air, along with 100,000 germs, comes shooting out of your nose faster than a race car at the Indy 500. It feels sooooo good that people used to sneeze on purpose. They'd use snuff and stick it up their nose; the tobacco high and the resultant nasal explosion being the fashion of the times. Healthier than some of the stuff people stick up their nose these days I suppose, but then that's a generational thing. My generation is closer to the snuff than that other stuff.

One of the problems with sneezing though is that there can be an embarrassing aftermath. People in the old days used to carry around handkerchiefs for just that purpose, but now nobody carries a handkerchief. As a substitute you could walk around all day with toilet paper in your pocket, but then you'd stand accused of being a bumpkin and people would probably be right. So usually sneezers just let it rip, cover with their hand, and pray there's nothing visible behind it. If there is, there might be a pocket to wipe away the evidence, at least for guys like me. Ladies? Their outfits are obviously less sneeze proof. So they need to pray harder.

Speaking of praying, there's just no stopping people from saying "God bless you" or "bless you" for short. If you're in a crowded room with more than 50, the "God bless you's" sort of create a rather constant cacophony like the communion line at a Catholic church. The shorter and more frequently used "bless you" though, may take the religion out of it somewhat and make it ok for atheists to sneeze and still get noticed. Actually, way back when, there was a legitimate purpose for the "God bless you" part. Lots of people died from influenza and associated epidemics and God's blessing would certainly