

Las Cruces
By Timothy Braun

(On a mesa outside of Los Cruces NM. Its' 110 degrees and 2:00 in the afternoon. 10,000 people, or so, in white robes with cameras in hand gather to take pictures of the sun. THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT stands in the middle of the crowd, shielding himself with a black umbrella.)

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

If you believe in God, if you believe in the Virgin Mary, then why do you need a picture?

BELIEVER #1

Her image reminds us to be kind. She reminds us we aren't alone.

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

Why does she appear in the sun?

BELIEVER #2

Because the sun is the closest place to God.

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

Couldn't the picture be a distortion of the sunbeams on film?

BELIEVER #3

No. You can feel the Virgin Mary in your heart when you take the photo. That's why we live here. And that is why we will never leave.

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

You do this every day?

BELIEVER #1

Everyday. When the sun is hot.

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

Are you ever disappointed?

BELIEVER #3

Everyday.

THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT

Then why do you keep coming out here? To take pictures of a God you never see?

BELIEVER #2

Because. The Virgin Mary can't ignore us forever.

(The people in the white robes put their cameras down and look at THE MAN IN THE BLACK SUIT, as he lowers his umbrella to take a closer look at the sun.)

END