

Travel arrangements

Notes: *This is very much a tongue-in-cheek sketch and so it should be hammed up accordingly! The sketch is simply used as a vehicle to introduce the fact that most people don't know what Heaven is like, or have even to get there.*

Agent: Good morning sir, can I help you?

Cust: Yes, thank you, I'd like to book a holiday please.

Agent: Excellent, well I think we can certainly help you there sir. After all, we are a travel agency. Ha, ha, ha, ha. *(Laugh peters out as Customer gives Agent a stony stare.)* Right, yes, anyway, well, we do have some marvellous holidays to offer you, and – if I say so myself – some excellent deals that you might be interested in.

(Looks through holiday brochure) So where would you like to go? What can we tempt you with? South of France perhaps? Or something further afield. Bermuda maybe? Or how about Dubai and the Palm Hotel?

Cust: No, none of those, thank you very much. In fact, I've already decided where I would like to go.

Agent: Excellent sir! Well done! Let me just get pen and paper, and I'll take a note of your requirements. Here we are! So, where are we going then?

Cust: 'We' are not going anywhere. But I, would like to book two weeks in Heaven. Round trip. 1st class.

Agent: *(Leafing through brochure and thinking out loud)* Heaven, Heaven. No, no, don't think, no, I've not heard of that resort. Erm, is it in, Asia, perhaps...?

Cust: No, no, no, you don't understand. I mean Heaven. *(Agent looks blank)* HEA – VEN. Heaven, as in, opposite of Hell.

- Agent:** *(Still looking puzzled, as penny hasn't dropped yet)* I still don't quite know -
- Cust:** *(Interrupting)* For goodness sake, I mean Heaven. You know. Big place, God, Angels. Eternity.
- Agent:** *(Flustered as penny has now dropped)* But, but, but, we, we, we don't do holidays to – You just can't go – I mean, its Heaven!
- Cust:** Why are you getting so upset? I only want to go for two weeks. It's not as if I'm asking you to plan a three month '*round Heaven*' cruise, is it? I just want to go for a short break.
- Agent:** *(Loud and upset sounding)* Short break?... Round Heaven cruise?... *(Pauses and takes a big breath)* If you don't mind me asking, sir, are you completely off your trolley! Have you checked out, but left the light on? Are you one slice short of a loaf? Are you – to put it in the common vernacular – completely bonkers?!
- Cust:** *(Looks calmly at travel agent)* Finished, have we? *(Pause as Agent nods rather tensely)* Well, in reply to your rather insensitive and rude question, I am in fact completely in command of my faculties and -
- Agent:** *(Under her breath)* Yeah, right!
- Cust:** What was that?!
- Agent:** Nothing, nothing.
- Cust:** Yes, well, as I was about to say, I just want to *visit* Heaven. You know, get a *feel* for the place. Find out what it's like. See if I like it. I've heard so much about it; it sounds like a wonderful place, and I'm just *dying* to have a look.
- Agent:** *(Pause)* Funny you should mention dying, sir, because that's the problem. No one gets to go to Heaven until they're dead. And even then, they've got to be a Christian. But the dead bit is the real sticking point at the moment sir, because clearly, you are very much alive, except for your brain of course...sir.

So let's just be sensible – for a moment – and look at possibly going somewhere else.

Cust: *(Looks knowingly at Agent)* Oh, I get it! You're all booked up, aren't you? That's what it is. Must be popular!

Agent: No, no, it's –

Cust: *(Soothingly)* Don't worry, it's not your fault. I'll go another year. *(Pause)*
So...

Agent: So...?

Cust: Well, I still want to go on holiday.

Agent: *(Looking relieved)* Oh, excellent, sir. Somewhere hot, perhaps?

Cust: What a good idea! And I know just the place. Hell, two weeks full board. How much? *(Pause)* Oh, and do they take Euros there?

END

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