

THE SPEAKER MEETING

Characters: Bill, the Chairperson
Bill's Higher Power
Mother Nature, (a tree)
Good Orderly Direction
Group of Drunks
A Door Knob

Bill: (at podium): Welcome everyone to our weekly speaker meeting! My name is Bill and I'm an alcoholic. We are very excited tonight to have a special guest, someone I've known all my life, but it wasn't until I came to these rooms that I really, really got to know him. Anyway, he is kind of modest and doesn't usually do this sort of thing, but after a lot of PRAYER on my part, I convinced him. So could you all please help me welcome, all the way from heaven above, The God of My Understanding!

(Bill's Higher Power enters. He is wearing a white robe, beard, etc. He modestly gestures for the applause to end)

Bill's Higher Power: Thank you, thank you, really, you're too kind. My oh my, thank you.

(He surveys the crowd and sees familiar faces and waves, calling names here and there. He spots a person, for instance, and makes a gesture up to his ear that says "call me") Hello there Don, I didn't see you! Nancy, sweet heart, you've lost

an
that weight, I see. You're welcome, no problem, Well now. First of all, wasn't this absolutely GORGEOUS day, my friends? *(he grins for a moment)*. You're welcome. REALLY!. When Bill asked me to speak tonight, I thought, who? ME? But he was so charming in his prayer that I thought maybe there WAS something I could offer you. And service work keeps you Holy, as I like to say. And as I look around at your beautiful faces this evening... *(He realizes something)* Oh my, you know, I've just noticed, and this is a bit embarrassing, but I see Charlie over there and he

doesn't RECOGNIZE me. Not a problem, I know I come in MANY forms. I try not to have an EGO about these things, truly. Charlie? Please hang on just a sec, and folks could I please introduce my good friend and colleague, and the God of Charlie's understanding, Please help me welcome, Mother Nature!

(Mother Nature enters, dressed as a tree. She takes her bows and surveys the room)

Mother Nature: Well goodness me, thank you, what a gorgeous garden of bright colorful flowers we have here! Just beautiful. It almost makes up for all those CARS I saw parking on the grass outside. Goodness! Oh Hello, Bobby, Hello, Susan -- and Susan, I haven't been ignoring you, I'm just waiting for you to start RECYCLING like you promised, dear... and George, your yard is simply DIVINE !! Isn't it easier to mow in a straight line.... now that you're SOBER? Keep up the good work!

(she notices something) Oh hold on just a moment... I see a few of you are only PRETENDING to recognize me. You poor sweet twigs of spirituality, you don't have to settle for a God you don't recognize. That's just not NATURAL! You are welcome to find and use whatever you draw your strength from. Find what feeds you, and nourishes you, and be thankful for that. Would I ask an ORANGE to thank the APPLE TREE? That would be silly! If you're an apple, find your apple tree! Oh my, that WAS a GOOD one, I hope someone is writing this down...

I CAN get a little "TOUCHY-FEELY" sometimes, can't I? I know that some of you appreciate a more practical approach. Your understanding of God could be a little different. I wouldn't think of leaving you out, so I have a little surprise for you.

Everyone, please put your branches together and help me welcome my good friend, Good Orderly Direction!

(Good Orderly Direction enters. She is all business, with a sharp suit, glasses, holding a large clipboard, pencil over her ear, and a large watch hanging around her neck to which she refers often. . She walks swiftly to front and center, gives a stern low bow, and heads to the podium)

Good Orderly Direction: Thank you, Thank you.....please discontinue the applause.

(checks watch) If this event is to remain timely and productive we must move on.

I shall now take a moment to become familiar with my audience, so please remain seated and act natural. *(She steps to the front and paces slowly across, eyes focused on each row of people)*. Uh huh. Hmmm. I see. I feel a strong group conscience here. That's excellent. *(she spots someone)* Aha! *(referring to her clipboard)* John P. I was pleased to hear from you this morning at exactly 8:06 AM Central Time, but I could not help but notice your prayer was 6 minutes late and as a result I feel that you may have RUSHED through your gratitude list. But it is PROGRESS, after all, (sighs), not PERFECTION. *(sees another face in the back)* Oh, yes, Margaret D., there in the back. I appreciated your sharing in the Tuesday meeting last week,...heh, heh, heh. At least for the first 3 minutes. The remaining 13.5 minutes, my friend, was a bit... *(she stares over her glasses)* EXCESSIVE.

May I remind you that you have several years of sobriety and it was a BEGINNERS' meeting? But, Nooooo judgments HERE.. None at all, MADAM. *(Finishes inspection of crowd)* All right. This group looks reasonably sober to me. And fairly open minded and willing. Those are good signs. Nothing to add here. Just remember the DRILL. *(she pulls down "window shade" visual aid, or produces a large poster and a pointer)* It goes like this. *(she barks these out*

meetings! Go to bed!..... Get up, and Do it again! ...Now, everyone, let's try it all together. In unison. Ready? (Points to each item on the list as the audience joins in) Well....(not really satisfied with audience's performance) Progress,, not perfection.....(Looks a Bill's Higher Power) Back to you, God.

Bill's Higher Power: Thank you, God.

Good Orderly Direction and Mother Nature:(in Unison) YOUR WELCOME.

Bill's Higher Power: Well now. This evening, I have chosen the topic of "THE MEANING OF LIFE" Because the truth is, the REAL meaning, the real REASON we live and die and suffer and –

Good Orderly Direction: Excuse me. Could I offer some GOOD ORDERLY DIRECTION, Here, please?

Bill's Higher Power: Well, yes, of course...

Good Orderly Direction: It is clear to me that some of our members here have a God of their understanding that isn't something SPIRITUAL, like us. Don't you agree?

Bill's Higher Power: Oh yes, and that's quite understandable. I should have remembered That.

Good Orderly Direction: Nobody's perfect. *(walks to the front)* There are those of you who see a power greater than yourselves when you look at your friends and fellow members of AA. We appreciate your approach, so please welcome, IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, PLEASE, our friends, the Group Of Drunks!

(Group Of Drunks enter. They are grouped together in a tight circle, shoulder to shoulder, and shuffle their feet to move into the front as a single group. As they move they are pumping their joined hands, chanting together, over and over)

Group of Drunks: Keep coming back, it works if you work it, so work it every day!

Keep coming back, it works if you work it, so work it everyday! (etc)

(The Group of Drunks continue across the front of the room and then exit the other side. The other Higher Powers applaud them and the Group of Drunks wave back happily as they exit)

Good Orderly Direction: Well done! Very, VERY orderly!

Mother Nature: And what beautiful flowers they are! They may not be DIVINE, but they certainly have spirit! God bless them, every one!

Bill's Higher Power: I do! I do! Well, before I share with you the meaning of life, there is one more God of someone's Understanding that should be recognized.

Good Orderly Direction: *(to herself, but loudly)* Oh God!

Bill's Higher Power: Yes?

Good Orderly Direction: You KNOW he hates it when you do this. He gets embarrassed.

Mother Nature: He is a little shy, yes. But every bloom is beautiful! And many people here have a God of their understanding just like him. He SHOULD be recognized.

Bill's Higher Power: I agree with that. And maybe he just needs to share more in meetings. You know, this might HELP. So everyone, please help us welcome our friend and another God of someone's understanding, A DOOR KNOB.

(Door Knob enters, dressed as a door with his face where the door knob should be, He is indeed embarrassed and shuffles haltingly to the front. The other Higher Powers lead the applause, encouraging the audience to keep applauding to support him)

Door Knob: Hello... Okay, no need for all that, thanks... *(He sighs)* I know what you must be thinking: "Dumb as a Door Knob", "That guy's a big door knob." "Wow look at that Door Knob!" "Hey Ralph, have you ever seen a talking door knob?" "We've never had a big Door Knob speaking at a meeting before!" That's okay, it's funny, Ha, Ha, Ha. Well, the truth is, a lot of you guys have said you didn't believe in ANYTHING, and so you would just make your Higher Power a radio, or your dog, or,

as you can clearly see, A DOOR KNOB. And that's okay. (*his confidence is growing*) I have as much value as any of these other guys. I may sometimes be a temporary, or TRANSITIONAL Higher Power, but that's a very important job, if you ask me. (*He is getting more excited*) If you see God as a toaster, I'll be your toaster! If you see a bookcase, I'm ready! If you want a chair, I'll be your Lazy Boy! And why? Because I'm worth it, Darn it, I am SOMEBODY and I LIKE ME !!

ALL OTHER HIGHER POWERS: (*applauding him*) Good for you! You tell them,

Door Knob! Amen! Good Job!

(*Door Knob bows proudly and step back with the other Higher Powers*)

Bill's Higher Power: Just wonderful. And now that we're all collected here, I'm

happy to get on with telling my story. As I was saying, my topic is "the meaning of life". I guess you caught me in a good mood tonight, and I feel like finally revealing some of the great secrets of the universe to you nice people. The meaning of life is all about –

Good Orderly Direction: (*checking clipboard*) Excuse me, your Higher Poweredness?

Bill's Higher Power: Yes?

Good Orderly Direction: The chairperson gave you a specific amount of time to share, (She points to her watch) and I'm afraid you have reached the limit. You should conclude your talk now.

Bill, the Chairperson: (*standing up from his seat in the front*) No! It's okay! Please, he can go on for a couple minutes, really! (*to his Higher Power*) Go on... you were saying... the meaning of life....is....

Good Orderly Direction: I'm afraid that's really impossible. We have a beginners meeting

in Ruston that starts in 45 minutes.

(All the Gods check their watches)

Bill's Higher Power: Oy. That's true. I'm sorry folks, but we really do have to load up the
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Rocket and blast off into the fourth dimension.

Door Knob: I call SHOTGUN!

Mother Nature: But don't worry, ANY of you. We're always here, just a prayer or a
meditation away.

Bills's Higher Power: Well said. So have a great evening everyone. My name is
God, and thank you for letting me share!

*(The Gods exit, with Good Orderly Direction collecting them and directing them out.
They all wave and blow kisses as they exit)*

THE END