**Hell**

**Why is it that when we grab for heaven -- socialist or capitalist or even religious -- we so often produce hell? (Margaret Atwood)**

**My No. 2 Wonder of the World is a bacterial species never seen on earth until 1982, things literally straight out of hell. Or anyway what we used to think of as hell -- the earth's hot unlivable interior. Such regions have recently come into scientific view from the research submarines designed to descend 8000 feet or more to the edge of deep holes in the sea bottom. These open vents spew superheated sea water in plumes from chimneys in the earth's crust, known as "black smokers." This is not just hot water, or even steam under pressure as exists in a laboratory autoclave. This is extremely hot water under extremely high pressure, with temperatures in excess of 300 degrees Celsius. At such heat, the existence of life as we know it would be inconceivable. Proteins and DNA would fall apart, and enzymes would melt away; anything alive would die instantaneously. We have long since ruled out the possibility of life on Venus because of that planet's comparable temperature; we've ruled out the possibility of life in our planet's earliest years, four billion or so years ago, on the same ground. But now oceanographic scientists John A. Baross and Jody W. Deming have discovered the presence of thriving colonies of what they believe are bacteria (other scientists aren't sure) in water fished directly from these deep-sea vents. Moreover, when brought to the surface, sealed in pressurized chambers heated to 250 degrees Celsius, the "bacteria" not only survive but reproduce themselves enthusiastically. They can be killed only by chilling them down -- in boiling water. And yet they look like ordinary bacteria. Under the electron microscope they have the same essential structure. If they were, as is now being suggested, the original archebacteria, ancestors of us all, one overriding question remains: How did they or their progeny ever learn to cool down? I cannot think of a more wonderful trick. *(Lewis Thomas, in Reader's Digest)***

**An explosion killed the Navy boiler man, and he wound up in hell. But being used to stoking fires and extremely hot temperatures, he found hell actually quite comfortable. When Satan went to greet the new arrival, he found him sitting in his room smiling. “You like this?” asked Satan. “Yes sir,” said the sailor. “This feels like a spring day to me.” Not wanting the new guy to get too comfortable, Satan turned up the heat -- a lot! But when he went back to see how his new arrival was doing, the sailor was still happy. He hadn't even broken a sweat. “I like this kind of weather,” he told Satan. So Satan decided to try something different. Rather than turning the heat up, he turned it off. He made it so cold in the sailor's room, icicles formed. When he checked on the guy, the room was icy and he was shivering -- but smiling from ear to ear. “Why are you so happy?” Satan demanded. “It's freezing in here!” “I'm from Denver,” said the sailor. “And this must mean the Broncos have won the Super Bowl!” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**A comedian died and found himself in a bright, empty room. In front of him stood a spirit in flowing robes, looking at a ledger. “I've examined the record of your life, and I think you deserve this,” he told the man, handing him six typewritten pages. As soon as the comedian began reading, he realized he was holding “The Golden Routine” -- the best humor material ever written. “I must be in heaven!” he shouted. “Not exactly,” replied the spirit, “What will you do for an audience?” (George Burns, in All My Best Friends)**

**George dies and goes to hell. He notices one sign that says “Capitalist Hell,” and another that says “Socialist Hell.” There’s a long line of souls waiting for socialist hell, but no one waiting to get into capitalist hell. George asks the guard, “What do they do to you in socialist hell?” “They boil you in oil, whip you and then put you on the rack,” says the guard. “And what do they do to you in capitalist hell?” George asks. “Same thing,” replies the guard. “Then why is everybody in line for socialist hell?” “Because in socialist hell,” the guard explains, “they’re always out of oil, whips and racks.” *(Reader’s Digest)***

**“You know, you really should have one of these,” the car-phone salesman said to me. “With this portable cellular model, anyone who wants to can reach you at any time of the day or night. You’ll never be out of touch.” He calls that an advantage. I say if Dante had known about it, he would have come up with another level of hell. (Pat Tearney, in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, News Graphic, quoted by Tina Maples in Milwaukee Journal)**

**Two guys are walking down a street in hell when it begins to snow. One guy looks up at it and says, “Well, it finally happened. The Chicago Cubs just won the World Series.” (Tidbits of Denver)**

**Perhaps hell is nothing more than an enormous conference of those who, with little or nothing to say, take an eternity to say it. (Dudley C. Stone, in Journal of Systems Management)**

**It is a gripping notion that above the entrance of Dante's hell is the inscription: “Leave behind all hope, you can enter here.” (Phil Barnhart, in Seasonings for Sermons , p. 92)**

**My definition of hell is having to spend from now until eternity watching curling matches. (Rex V. Roades)**

**My friend Bill Anderson tells a great story about this problem. It seems that one day the devil decided to go out of business, and he decided to sell all his tools to whoever would pay the price. On the night of the sale, they were all attractively displayed. Malice, hate, envy, jealousy, greed, sensuality, and deceit were among them. To the side lay a harmless wedge-shaped tool, which had been used much more than any of the rest. Someone asked the devil, “What is that? It's priced so high.” The devil answered, “That's discouragement.” But why is it priced so much higher than the rest?" the onlooker persisted. “Because,” replied the devil, “with that tool I can pry open and get inside a person's conscientiousness when I couldn't get near with any of the others. Once discouragement gets inside, I can let all the other tools do their work.” (Al Williams, in All You Can Do is All You Can Do)**

**After standing in line at the DMV for what felt like eons, my brother finally got to the counter. As the clerk typed his name into the computer, she said, “That’s odd.” “What’s wrong?” James asked. “My computer says you’re deceased.” Surveying his surroundings, James muttered, “Great. I died and went to hell.” (Fae Bunderson, in Reader’s Digest)**

**ONE HOT DOMAIN: Hell.com was among hundreds of Internet domain names offered at auction in Hollywood, Florida, last week by domain asset management provider Moniker.com. The owner put a minimum price of $1 million on the underworld’s domain, confident of high interest after the salacious address, Sex.com, sold for about $12 million this year. Bids failed to reach the reserve price. (Reuters, as it appeared in the Rocky Mountain News, November 7, 2006)**

**Ancient boiling oceans: In its early days, Earth became hell. About 3.3 billion years ago, new research indicates, at least two massive asteroids 30 to 60 miles in diameter smashed into this planet, boiling the oceans and sending atmospheric temperatures soaring to an unimaginable 932 degrees Fahrenheit. Stanford University scientists have found evidence of this extreme era in a geological formation in South Africa called the Barberton greenstone belt, which is riddled with telltale round spheres of silica -- rock that was molten and flung skyward, and then settled back to Earth. The energy from the asteroid impacts, researchers say, made Earth so hot that the oceans boiled for a year, with evaporation dropping sea levels by about 328 feet. The cataclysmic events on ancient Earth likely had a dramatic effect on the evolution of the primitive life-forms then in existence. "They'd keep getting whacked by these giant impactors and driven to extinction or near extinction," the study's leader, Don Lowe tells ScienceNews.org. Scientists say deep-sea dwellers and bacteria that thrive in heat, known as thermophiles, may have been the main survivors. (The Week magazine, June 5, 2015)**

**One man in the office says to the other: "Had I known Hell was going to be exactly like work, I probably wouldn't have spent as much time there." (Mike Baldwin, in Cornered comic strip)**

**HELL EXPLAINED BY A CHEMISTRY STUDENT: The following is an actual question given on a University of Arizona chemistry mid term, and an actual answer turned in by a student. The answer by one student was so ‘profound’ that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well: Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant. One student, however, wrote the following: First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving, which is unlikely. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities: 1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose. 2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over. So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year that, ‘It will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you,' and take into account the fact that I slept with her last night, then number two must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over. The corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is therefore, extinct . . . leaving only Heaven, thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting ‘Oh my God.’ THIS STUDENT RECEIVED AN A+. *(Internet)***

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**If you call your brother a fool, Jesus said you will be liable to a hell of fire. The Greeks referred to this as “Gehenna,” which was the city dump at Jerusalem where there was a continual fire burning refuse, trash, and garbage, as we do today. *(Jack E. Addington)***

**One devil asks another devil when talking about hell: “You mean to tell me there are no fire exits?” (Glenn and Gary McCoy, in The Flying McCoys comic strip)**

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**A fisherman died and awoke in a strange and beautiful land. Next to him was a shimmering lake, in which he could see fish darting to and fro. A guide walked up to him and gave him a fishing rod. Before the guide left, he admonished the man, “To fish in this lake, you must follow the rules. The only rule is that you must cast to every rising trout.” The man excitedly cast his line. Soon, he had brought in three two-pound trout. This is great! Fishing had never been so easy. But after pulling in his 25th trout, the man was starting to get bored. He called to the guide and complained, “This doesn't feel like Heaven anymore.” “I never said it was,” answered the guide. (Field & Stream)**

**Last year a bishop I know was trying to make reservations at the United Air Lines desk for a nonstop flight from Birmingham, Alabama, to New York. The clerk told him, “I’m sorry, sir, but you will have to fly to Atlanta first.” Ruffled, the bishop asked, “What if I wanted to go to San Francisco?” She repeated, “You would have to go to Atlanta first.” The bishop then named several cities all over the United States. For each, the clerk said, “You would still have to go to Atlanta first.” The bishop asked ironically, “Well, my dear, what if I wanted to go to hell? Would I still have to go to Atlanta first?” “That, sir,” the clerk replied, “is a Delta flight.” (Marilyn Brown, in Reader’s Digest)**

**There is a ravine Southwest of Jerusalem known as the Valley of Hinnom which is called Gehenna in the New Testament. This name has been used as a metaphor for a place of fiery judgment since the first century B.C. During Old Testament times this ravine was the scene for a cult which worshipped the god, Molech, through human sacrifice by passing children through fire. Later, this same location was the sight of the continually burning fires of a garbage dump. *(Rev. Greg W. Neteler, in Unity Church Universal News)***

**Asked to pick the worst year ever, film director Peter Segal chose 1848, "the year gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill. Until then, you could find a nice piece of land in California, pitch your tent, and call it home. The housing market here has been a living hell ever since." *(The Atlantic)***

**When the avid golfer arrived in Hades, he was overjoyed to find himself in the most beautiful course he'd ever seen. Grabbing a complete set of top-line pro clubs sitting next to the first tee, he gleefully asked Satan, “Where are the balls?” Replied his host with a leer, “There isn't a single one in the whole place -- that's the hell of it!” (Funny Funny World)**

**One evening, a young woman came home from a date, rather sad. She told her mother, “An hour ago Anthony told me I was the most beautiful woman in the entire world, and then he proposed.” “Then why are you so sad?” her mother asked. “Because he also told me he is an atheist, Mom, he doesn’t even believe there’s a Hell!” Her mother replied, “Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we’ll show him just how wrong he is.” *(Tidbits)***

**Heads You Lose!: A self-centered, unbelieving man died and was delivered into the devil's hands. "You will be spending eternity here, but I'll let you pick your own room from three I'll show you," the devil said. In the first room, the man saw thousands of people standing on their heads on a brick floor. "I don't like that," said the man. "Show me the second." In the second room were thousands of people standing on their heads on a wood floor. "Well, that's better than brick," the man said, "but show me the third." In the third, thousands of people were standing ankle-deep in a foul-smelling, mucky substance, all drinking coffee. "I'll choose this room," he said. Immediately the voice of a minor demon rang out, "O.K.,, coffee break is over, back on your heads." *(Capper's Weekly)***

**Maybe this world is another planet's hell. *(Aldous Huxley)***

**In the 1700s in London, you could purchase insurance against going to hell. *(Noel Botham, in The Book of Useless Information, p. 150)***

**Bad week for: The Westboro Baptist Church, after the radical church said Steve Jobs was going to hell and called for a protest at his funeral. At the bottom of the church’s tweeted call for a protest, it said, “via Twitter for iPhone.” The church later explained that “God created the iPhone,” not Steve Jobs. *(The Week magazine, October 21, 2011)***

**While I was serving as a juror, I chanced to share the elevator one morning with a visiting judge. He asked me where the jurors parked, and I informed him that we had our own lot several blocks away. Then it occurred to me that he might be having a problem finding a place for his car, so I continued, “But, Your Honor, they have a special place reserved for judges down below.” “Yes,” he said dryly. “I’m sure they do.” (Helen Bays, in Reader’s Digest)**

**The road to hell is paved with adverbs. (Stephen King)**

**Lloyd Lewis, a biographer of General Ulysses S. Grant, weaves a tale of a chilly, wintry evening when the general came quietly into a tavern in Galena, Illinois. A group of lawyers was sitting in a tight circle around the stove, discussing an important case. One of them noticed Grant and commented, “Why, here’s a stranger, gentlemen, and it looks as though he’s traveled through hell itself.” “I have,” agreed Grant. The lawyer chuckled and asked, “How did you find things down there?” “Much the same as here,” admitted Grant. “Lawyers all nearest the fire.” (Captain Sam Grant, in Reader’s Digest)**

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**The safest road to hell is the gradual one -- the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts. (C. S. Lewis, in The Screwtape Letters)**

**In his classic, The Great Divorce, C. S. Lewis claimed no one is sent to hell. People go there by choice. At the end of life or beyond, God doesn't contend with us anymore. He finally says, “Have it your way.” (Dynamic Preaching)**

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**If you have to go through hell, make it pay you! (Georgia Tree West, in Prosperity’s Ten Commandments)**

**Hell, for a mechanic, is a land of grease – with no steering wheel to wipe it off on. (Earl Wilson, Field Newspaper Syndicate)**

**Many of the faithful in the Middle Ages believed God closed down hell every Sabbath to give tormented souls a chance to catch their breath. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Religion is for people who are afraid of hell. Spirituality is for people who have been in hell. (Liza Minnelli, actress)**

**The town of Hell, Norway, draws many tourists because of its unusual name. When our Lutheran friends Gene and Ardis visited this town, they were quick to send a postcard to their pastor back home. He read it at a meeting of the ministerial association, and it broke up the group. "Dear Pastor," it said. "We passed through Hell today, and we're concerned. Almost everyone here seems to be Lutheran. (Robert H. Brague, in Reader's Digest)**

**A politician awoke after an operation and found the curtains in his hospital room drawn. “Why are the curtains closed?” he asked the nurse. “Is it nighttime already?” “No,” the nurse replied. “But there’s a fire across the street, and we didn’t want you to wake and think the operation was unsuccessful.” (Rotary Down Under)**

**A pastor argues that hell doesn’t exist: What if hell doesn’t exist? That’s the provocative question posed by Michigan mega-church pastor Rob Bell in a book that has “ignited a new holy war in Christian circles and beyond,” said Jon Meacham in Time.. In Love Wins, Bell argues that the concept of a fiery pit into which all non-Christians will be thrown is theologically rigid, outdated, and dangerous. What kind of loving God, he asks, would only save those within the confines of His church? Would He really throw Gandhi into everlasting fire because he was a Hindu? Instead, Bell suggests that “the redemptive work of Jesus may be universal,” and that every soul might be guaranteed a place in heaven. Not surprisingly, evangelicals have erupted in outrage at Bell’s “universalist” treatise, accusing him of heresy and blasphemy. One Christian blogger dubbed him a “tool of Satan.” Evangelicals have every right to be furious, said Janice Shaw Crouse in The Washington Times. Bell may think he’s trying to modernize Christianity, but he’s actually undermining it. How can a Christian leader argue that accepting Christ is unnecessary? “When everyone is free to make up their own theology, the church becomes both impotent and irrelevant.” Believing in “universal salvation” may fit with the modern world’s anything-goes ethos, said Ross Douthat in The New York Times, but if we are guaranteed a place in paradise no matter what we do, then what use is free will? Without hell, all our actions are “like home runs or strikeouts in a children’s game where nobody’s keeping score.” Bell isn’t opposed to keeping score on people’s actions, said Richard J. Mouw in The Christian Post. He simply wants Christians to question the “stingy orthodoxy” that says that billions of our fellow human beings will go to hell because their beliefs differ from our own. Bell contends that everyone is worthy of God’s love, if they do not explicitly choose to reject it. And for what it’s worth, says Krista Tippett in The Washington Post, Bell does in fact offer a vision of hell in his book. It’s just not the primitive notion of a netherworld of wailing sinners. Instead, it’s a symbol of the evil and chaos that comes from moving away from God – the “hells on earth” that we see in war-torn and violent societies. The real hell is all around us, he says – and it’s time we Christians stopped ignoring it. (The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)**

**The people who don't believe in hell have never tried to get bubble gum out of a mohair sweater. (Phil Pastoret, Newspaper Enterprise Association)**

**In a court case, a man was giving such unbelievable testimony that the judge warned him he was in danger of perjuring himself. “Are you aware,” the judge asked, “of what will happen to you if you are caught lying under oath?” “Yes, Your Honor,” replied the witness. “When I die, I’ll go to hell.” “But what else?” The puzzled man thought for a moment. “You mean there’s more?” *(Willard Scott’s Down Home Stories)***

**Mac died at the controls of his plane and went to pilots’ hell, where he found a hideous devil and three doors. The devil was busy escorting other pilots to various “hell rooms.” “I'll be right back -- don't go away,” said the devil, and vanished. Sneaking over to the first door, Mac peeked in and saw a cockpit where the pilot was condemned to forever run through preflight checks. He slammed that door and peeked into the second. There, alarms rang and red lights flashed while a pilot had to avoid one emergency after another. Unable to imagine a worse fate, Mac cautiously opened the third door. He was amazed to see many beautiful, scantily clad flight attendants answering to a captain's every whim. He quickly returned to his place seconds before the devil reappeared. “Okay, Mac,” said the devil. “Which door will it be, No. 1 or No. 2?” “But I want No. 3,” answered Mac. “Sorry,” said the devil. “You can't have door No. 3. That's flight attendants' hell.” (Anna Florin, in Reader's Digest)**

**Devil asks the man behind the counter at the unemployment office: “Do you have anything for someone who’s good with a pitchfork BESIDES farming?” (Buddy Hickerson, in The Quigmans comic strip)**

**A college drama group presented a play in which one character would stand on a trap door and announce, “I descend into hell!” A stagehand below would then pull a rope, the trap door would open, and the character would plunge through. The play was well received. When the actor playing the part became ill, another actor who was quite overweight took his place. When the new actor announced, “I descend into hell!” the stagehand pulled the rope, and the actor began his plunge, but became hopeless stuck. No amount of tugging on the rope could make his descend. One student in the balcony jumped up and yelled: “Hallelujah! Hell is full!” (Pulpit Helps)**

**The pope drastically lowered the temperature of hell Wednesday when he declared that the physical side of eternal damnation for sinners was less painful than being cut off from God. It was part of a concerted effort by the Vatican to purge clouds, harps, pearly gates, devils with pitchforks and seas of flame from the popular image of heaven and hell, replacing the idea of infinite physical torture for the damned with something more akin to eternal loneliness. “The images with which hell is presented to us by sacred scripture must be correctly interpreted. They demonstrate the complete frustration and emptiness of a life without God,” Pope John Paul II told a general audience in Rome. “More than a physical place, hell is the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God.” (James Meek, in Rocky Mountain News, July 31, 1999)**

**One angel says to the other while reading his mail: “It’s another “wish you were here” postcard from my friend in hell.” *(Glenn & Gary McCoy, in The Flying McCoys comic strip)***

**The couple was looking to buy some property, and an overzealous Realtor showed them what can only be described as a totally worn-out old farm. The farm had been worked to death. Even the weeds were hardly growing. “Now, really,” said the smiling super-salesman, “all this land needs is a little water, a nice cool breeze and some good people.” “Yeah, I agree,” replied his client, “but couldn't the same be said of Hell?” (Rocky Mountain News)**

**From the Corvallis, Oregon, Gazette Times: “Lenten worship sermon: ‘The Safest Road to Hell.’ Transportation available. Please call before noon Saturday.” (Reader’s Digest)**

**George dies and goes to hell. He notices one sign that says “Capitalist Hell,” and another that says “Socialist Hell.” There's a long line of souls waiting for socialist hell, but no one waiting to get into capitalist hell. George asks the guard, “What do they do to you in socialist hell?” “They boil you in oil, whip you and then put you on the rack,” says the guard. “And what do they do to you in capitalist hell?” George asks. “Same thing,” replies the guard. “Then why is everybody in line for socialist hell?” “Because in socialist hell,” the guard explains, “they're always out of oil, whips and racks.” (Reader's Digest)**

**Tonight's Sermon: “What is Hell? Come early and listen to our choir practice.” (King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace)**

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**A perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

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**At her father’s funeral, a woman told the priest that, ever since she was a child, she and her father had discussed life after death. They had agreed that whoever went first would contact the other. A few days after his death, the smoke alarm in her garage went off. She had lived there 20 years, and it had never gone off before. She couldn’t turn it off, so she called the company that installed it. The next day the smoke alarm sounded again, and the reason finally dawned on her. She said aloud “OK, dad, I missed the signal yesterday, but I get it now. Thanks for letting me know that you are safe on the other side. Now turn the thing off so I don’t have to call the company again.” It went off. She immediately called her priest to tell him the good news. The priest said, “If you father’s message sets off the smoke alarm, where do you think he’s calling from?” (The Senior Voice)**

**Harry’s boss was an overbearing taskmaster, driving his employees to exhaustion. In the middle of a big project, Harry had a heart attack and died. The boss visited a medium to see if he could contact Harry’s spirit. “You may speak to him now,” said the medium. “Hey, Harry, how’s it going there?” shouted the boss. “It beats the office,” Harry answered. A bit miffed by his response, the boss asked, “Can you see from heaven where you left the Wilson cost study?” “Heaven?” replied Harry. “Who says I’m in heaven?” (Phil Hartman, in Ohio Motorist)**

**If you get gloomy, just take an hour off and sit and think how much better this world is than hell. Of course, it won't cheer you up much if you expect to go there. (Don Marquis, in Bits & Pieces)**

**Did I say Hell was in Norway? There is a Hell in Michigan, too. A Detroit car salesman writes to say so. Real Town. Not just a state of mind. (L. M. Boyd)**

**I never gave anybody hell! I just told the truth and they thought it was hell. (Harry S. Truman)**

**First boy: “So if they showed more Nordic skiing, you’d watch the winter games?” Second boy: “A lot more people would.” First boy: “Do explain.” Second boy: “Think of how the audience would grow.” First boy: “I’m trying.” Second boy: “What with hell freezing over and all.” First boy: “They don’t have televisions in hell.” Second boy: “They do, but they only show figure skating.” (Jeff Mallett, in Frazz comic strip)**

**Smith died and regained consciousness in the next world. He looked out over a vast expanse of pleasant country. After resting comfortably for a while in a delightful spot, he began to get a little bored. He called out, “Is there anybody here?” An attendant, appropriately dressed in white, appeared and said gravely, “What do you want?” “What can I have?” asked Smith. “Whatever you want.” “May I have something to eat?” They brought him delicious dishes, even the things he liked best on earth. Smith was having a wonderful time eating, sleeping, and calling for more good things. But presently he wanted something more. He called for games. They came in profusion. Then he called for books and read with excitement and pleasure. He called for anything that struck his fancy and received it in abundant measure. But at last the final boredom caught up with him, and he shouted, “I want something to DO!” The attendant appeared and said, “I am sorry, but that is the only thing we cannot give you here.” By this time Smith was frantic for something to do and in his terrible frustration cried out, “I’m sick and tired of everything here; I’d rather go to hell!” “Where do you think you are?” asked the attendant. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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