

## **God alone knows**

...A one act play.

{The stage is set to represent heaven. There are two large golden gates that are the pearly gates. There is a slight hint of a fog around. There is soft music playing at the background. On the stage there are two characters- one is an old man with a long white beard. He wears a long white gown, and there is a halo around his head- St.Peter. The other guy is wearing a suit. He holds a briefcase in his hands, and looks around the stage. It seems that he has just arrived there.}

{St. Peter looks up from his book, in which he was writing something using his quill. He beckons the man.}

St. Peter:- So, Mr. Gandhi...nice to see you here. And how are we today...?

[The guy named Mr. Gandhi looks at St.Peter and takes uncertain steps towards him.]

Mr. Gandhi:- Who in GOD's name are you...?? And where the hell am I. If this is some kind of joke...I need to meet the judge in...(he looks at his wrist and is surprised to find that there is no watch), where in hell is my watch...

St. Peter:- (calmly) My son, you have reached heaven. Welcome to the pearly gates. I am St.Peter. You had an accident and died on the spot. So please come here and sign on the register.

Mr. Gandhi:- Jesus Christ! Shit! I don't...I don't...feel dead (touches his limbs)...I feel very much alive. Oh GOD! Wait a minute...how come I am in heaven??? I am lawyer...I should not be here...I should be in hell...

St.Peter: (smiling) Oh! I have to keep explaining this to everyone. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The concept of heaven is long lost, and so is that of hell. There is just one location. Have you heard of integration, that of acquisition? You lawyers are the ones that draw up the contracts for all such acquisitions, so you should know. The organization that runs in loss is more that ready to sell the company, is it not?

Mr.Gandhi: (surprised) But...I thought that...well...such things happen only on earth. What profit are you talking about...??money? but money does not have any meaning here...

St. Peter:- Who the hell told you so? Money is GOD...haven't you heard...

Mr.Gandhi:- But, I thought that all this was materialism, and money is nothing, and there is a superior power...there is a higher good, a higher intention....

St. Peter: (laughing): Who told you this...some people who wore saffron-coloured clothes, and called themselves saints. Some authors who wrote books, which sold a

*Anush Moorthy*- God Alone knows.

million copies – sending them laughing all the way to the bank? Ah! When you grew up you realized that money is GOD. They just manipulated your thoughts so as to make more money for themselves.

Mr. Gandhi (Shaking his head in disbelief):- Shit...wait a minute...how is that the Devil and GOD live in the same arena...aren't they opposites??

St.Peter:- You earthlings will never learn. The “hell” as you call it was managed by a Mr. Satan, and “heaven” was managed by me. Then you humans started going to hell in such large numbers that the Devil, as you call him, was unable to feed and clothe all of you. By this time, the people entering heaven were so little that we had managed to invest wisely and earned tremendous amounts of money. Satan had to sell his unit, and we bought it off. He works in my position on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Mr. Gandhi:- Wait a minute...if there is no good and bad, and no devil and god, how come some people used to go to hell and others to heaven?

St.Peter:- See, it is actually a choice that you make subconsciously. When you are dying, your mind thinks that you shall go to hell for the evil that you have done. You are then automatically sent there. Simple, isn't it? And one more thing...have you realized how much the population has increased on earth. This is because after the merger, we have found a new method to increase our profits. We keep less people here and send them back to earth very soon. Lets take your case for example- you are going back to earth...let me see...(refers a the book in his hand.) tomorrow...

By the way, Mr. Gandhi, welcome to the heaven and hell resort, hope you enjoy your stay here, have a nice day...

*-Anush Moorthy.*