

A Little Light Map Reading

by Rod Belt

Theme Movement is not the same as progress. Knowing where you want to be is a good start. This is a humorous sketch which could be used to break the tension in a church discussing where its future lies. It could be used in conjunction with "Moving With Intent".

Cast: DEBBIE
JONATHAN

Notes: DEBBIE and JONATHAN should be wearing hiking boots, gaiters, woolly hats and rucksacks.

(JONATHAN and DEBBIE enter Upstage Left. JONATHAN strides purposefully towards the centre of the stage, followed a couple of paces behind by DEBBIE, who is looking all around)

DEBBIE Jonathan... are you sure this is the right path?

JONATHAN Of course I'm sure!

DEBBIE Only, the path isn't so well marked here.

JONATHAN *(has reached Centre Stage. Stops, turns round)* What do you expect, tarmac and white lines?

DEBBIE What I mean is that this appears to be a sort of crossroads, and there's no sign to say where the paths lead. There's no need for sarcasm.

JONATHAN And there's no need for you to keep questioning my leadership! Ever since we set off it's been moan, moan, moan.

DEBBIE They were suggestions. You looked like you needed some.

JONATHAN Hm. So, got any more bright ideas or can we get on? I don't want to still be walking after dark.

DEBBIE *(aside)* I've been in the dark all morning!

JONATHAN Sorry? Did you say something?

DEBBIE Nothing! But as it happens I have got a suggestion. This would be a perfect place to stop for a coffee break.

JONATHAN *(sighs)* I sometimes think that life's just one big coffee break for you.

DEBBIE *(already unscrewing the top of a vacuum flask)* And life's just one long breathless gallop for you. Look, we've been walking all morning and we both need a break.

(DEBBIE kneels down and pours out two coffees. JONATHAN takes this opportunity to survey the horizon and looks slightly worried - though he doesn't let DEBBIE see this)

DEBBIE Coffee's up.

JONATHAN Thanks.

DEBBIE Let's have a look at the map eh?

JONATHAN I DO know where we are.

DEBBIE Good, then you can show me.

JONATHAN *(looks at her suspiciously. Takes off his rucksack, unzips it, rummages through the contents and produces the map. Opens out the map)* There. We're down in the bottom left hand corner *(points vaguely, nonchalantly)*.

DEBBIE Jonathan...

JONATHAN Hmm?

DEBBIE Is there a reason why you've got the map upside down?

JONATHAN Oh. *(hastily turns map right way up, then points)* Look, we started from here, this... no this... is where we are now... I think...

DEBBIE You think?

JONATHAN *(trying to be positive)* It is. That's where we are now.

DEBBIE Ah hah. So... *(looks closely at map, thoughtfully)* You mean we've been walking for three hours and we're only four miles from where we started?

JONATHAN Five miles! Uphill!

DEBBIE Are you sure we've taken the shortest route?

JONATHAN Yes, unless you're capable of flight!

DEBBIE Only asking!

JONATHAN Okay. *(points at map again)* We're here, and that's the peak we're heading for.

DEBBIE Peak? We're not heading for a peak.