

The Hotel Inspector

by Rod Belt

Theme In this Christmas monologue with the Nativity as a backdrop, a hotel inspector reports to the inn-keeper on the findings of his/her visit. The script uses humour to contrast the people God uses (shepherds, wise men, angels and babies in mangers) with the ideal customer profile of a successful business. The key is the final question: what do you really want?

Cast: THE HOTEL
INSPECTOR

Notes: The inspector (male or female) should start off reading from his report in a level, reasonable tone. He could be seated at this point or standing with a clipboard. However, he soon gets up and paces around as he speaks (to the audience) from memory. From time to time he scribbles words or phrases that he has just thought up. His tone becomes more shrill as the piece progresses, until the last paragraph where he forces himself to be calm.

(The INSPECTOR is writing.)

Dear Mr Samuelson,

Earlier this year you wrote to the All-Judea Travellers Association to ask for your hotel, the “Weary Travellers Rest” in Bethlehem, to be inspected with a view to it being awarded a prestigious star rating. I was assigned the task of visiting your inn incognito and writing a report. I set off on this task yesterday evening in good cheer.

The evening was calm and bright, and a star shone steadily in the sky ahead of me. As I approached your hostelry all looked as it should, though the town was very busy - this was by no means a silent night. Upon entering the Weary Travellers Rest I was greeted warmly by your wife and shown to my room. This was much as I would have expected, tidy and moderately spacious, with a clean bathroom, though the grouting could have been better – but that’s a minor point. At this time you were well on your way to a star rating.

It was when I descended to sample the refreshments on offer that I began to suspect all was not well. The public bar was full – not in itself a bad thing but the staff were struggling to cope. You need to employ extra staff at these busy times. As I stood waiting for service I was nearly bowled over by what I can only describe as a gaggle of shepherds. I couldn’t tell if they

were speaking real words, they just seemed to be babbling incoherently. Now, let me be quite clear that I have nothing against shepherds – I am not shepherdist. Nevertheless, shepherds are not a social group that you can build a sound business on. They will not bring you repeat custom – they are too busy watching their flocks by night, they have little ready cash and, to be brutally honest, they smell. If you are serious about this business you need to reach out to a better class of clientele.

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