

No Room In The Inn

Christmas Skit | by Richard Ruddle

Biblical References: Luke 2:1-20

Running Time: 10-12 minutes

Cast: Manager - Desk Clerk - Bell Man - Concierge - Spa Manager - Chef - Guest Standing Nearby - Narrator

Props: Bell (page), Bag of Rags, Business Card, Sign for Desk: Bethlehem Inn and Spa

Setting: The Reservation Desk of the Bethlehem Inn and Spa

Narrator: Our story is set in Bethlehem, Judea. Caesar Augustus has decreed that everyone should return to the town of their birth to be counted and taxed. The overworked Manager and employees of the overcrowded Bethlehem Inn and Spa are trying to cope with the rush of people. Join us as we listen to The Manager and Desk Clerk discussing their problems (Exits).

Manager: Phew! I've never seen this place so full. I don't know how we are going to handle all these people.

Desk Clerk: I know what you mean. After posting the No Vacancy Sign this morning I received a request from *North Star Travel*, requesting three King Sized Rooms. It seems that they had a touring group called the Magi coming to town and all the other places were booked. I had to turn them down. *I think they might be a rock-n-roll band or something.*

Manager: (nodding): Tell me about it! And what about those Roman Soldiers with their *parties and loud music*? I've had nothing but complaints from them about our complimentary *continental* breakfast. You'd think goat cheese, gruel and matzo balls wasn't good enough for them (both nod in agreement).

Concierge: (Approaches desk hurriedly) I know you're busy, but the Valet Parking Attendant just walked off the job. We have that huge caravan of VIPs arriving any time now and all of their camels are right hand drive models. We're not trained for that!

Manager: I never should have hired my nephew for that job. See if you can borrow that gardener. He works for that rich merchant who lives over on the hill. *Hopefully he'll be willing to earn a few extra shekels.*

Concierge: Great idea boss! I'll fetch him right now (Begins to walk away).

Manager: (Shouts to Concierge as he is leaving) Oh, and don't forget to have him wipe of his smelly boots before he arrives. He walks around spreading manure on the plants all day and (holds his nose) the odor follows him like a cloud!

Spa Manager: We have a guest and she insists on speaking with you.

Manager: What is the problem?

Spa Manager: It's one of *our 'regulars'*. All she wants to do is strut around in her *yoga pants and criticize everyone*. Now she says if we don't *help* her what she wants she is going to develop her own exercise program and *compete* with our Spa.

Manager: Well, you better go ahead this time. No use creating enemies. She can get *persuasive!*

Spa Manager: You're telling me! She thinks she's the Queen of Sheba! (Leaves shaking her head).

Chef: (Approaches) That's it! I've had it, I'm quitting!

Manager: Now what?

Chef: I sent a guest in Room #6 my prized smothered lamb chops via room service, like he ordered. He sent it back! *He didn't like how I prepared it.*

Manager: Now, Now. Remember he is our Guest. Besides, he is *probably* Caesar's 2nd Cousin.

Chef: Very well. But one more time and I'm out of here like Moses out of Egypt. (Leaves).

Bell Man (Approaches the desk) I've got a problem!

Desk Clerk: So what else is new? Come on. Let me hear it.

Bell Man: A group from the Rotary meeting in our Nile Dining Room wants to rent transportation for a tour of the area. I contacted “*Camels R Us*” but not a single camel is available, one hump OR two. What should I do?

Guest Standing Nearby (overhears complaint and says) Hi! I’m Donkey Dave, the South Judea Donkey Dealer. I couldn’t help overhearing your conversation. I have plenty of used transportation and if they are not right, I’ll make them right, Free! Thank you and here’s my address (Hands card to Bell Man who glances at it and hands it to the Manager).

Desk Clerk: Thanks, Dave. (Looks at Manager, sighs with relief and High 5’s Manager) Another problem solved!

Concierge: (Approaches desk again): I’ve got a “doozey” for you this time. There’s a guy out back with an extremely pregnant wife and no cash. I don’t think their donkey will make another mile. He’s asking for whatever room we have available.

Manager: Tell him there is no room in the Inn! I feel for him, but I couldn’t squeeze another person in here if he was the Messiah himself come to save me.

Concierge: Okay boss. (Leaves talking to self) I really hate to turn him down though. Oh well!

Bell Man: (Returns from Donkey Daves’ and again approaches the desk) On the way in, I noticed that the hotel limo needs a wash.

Manager: There’s always a group of shepherds in the field next to the Inn. Take the chariot down there to them and *ask them to clean it*. And tell that little drummer boy to stop beating that thing underneath my window every night. It’s making me crazy!

Bell Man: Right, Boss (exits).

Concierge: (Returns and pleads with Manager) I know the house is full, but the guy with the pregnant wife is still here and really needs a room. Can’t we do something for him?

Manager: Oh for crying out loud. Tell him they can bed down in the stable behind the Inn tonight, but I want them gone in the morning. The donkey stays there too. And take that bag full of old swaddling clothes with you (points to bag on floor). I don’t think the person who left them in their room is coming back for them. Maybe the guy with the pregnant Wife will take them.

Concierge: Right Boss and Thanks! (Picks up bag and leaves).

Desk Clerk: Well, maybe things will settle down now for a while.

Manager: I sure hope so. Say, do you hear what I hear? Someone playing music? It sounds like it may be coming from out back. Listen. It sounds like a harp.

Desk Clerk: Yeah. And someone is singing. I can't make out the words, but I think I can make out "Noel".

Manager: Must be that rock group you turned away earlier. (Both nod in agreement). And there goes that little drummer boy again! (covering ears and grimacing).

Narrator: (Enters) And so the Lord Jesus, the Savior of the Jews, Gentiles and ultimately the world, was born in a stable in Bethlehem of Judea. At Christmas we celebrate his birth and his life. Now we await his return in glory from heaven. Have a blessed Christmas!

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