**Heaven & Hell**

**The attempt to make heaven on earth invariably produces hell. (Karl Popper, philosopher)**

**St. Peter and Satan were arguing about baseball when Satan proposed a game to be played on neutral ground. “Very well,” said St. Peter. “But you realize I have all the good players and the best coaches.” “Yes,” replied Satan, “but I have all the umpires.” (Mildred Sherrer, in Reminisce magazine)**

**A well-to-do farmer was on his deathbed. He told his wife to take his billfold up on the roof of the farmhouse and hide it under s shingle so that he could grab it on his way to heaven. After his death, the wife climbed up on the roof and looked under the shingle and, sure enough, the billfold was still there. “Just as I thought,” the wife said to herself, “He never made it!” (On Course magazine)**

**The wicked work harder to reach hell than the righteous to reach heaven. (Josh Billings)**

**Heaven and hell – one’s bliss, the other is blisters. (On Course magazine)**

**He who makes a paradise of his bread makes a hell of his hunger. (Antonio Porchia)**

**A computer salesman dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter tells the salesman that he can choose between heaven and hell. First he shows the man heaven, where people in white robes play harps and float around. “Dull,” says the salesman. Next, St. Peter shows him hell: toga parties, good food and wine, and people looking as though they’re having a fine time. “I’ll take hell,” he says. He enters the gates of hell and is immediately set upon by a dozen demons, who poke him with pitchforks. “Hey,” the salesman demands as Satan walks past, “what happened to the party I saw going on?” “Ah,” Satan replies. “You must have seen our demo.” (Digital Review)**

**It makes no difference whether I go to heaven or to hell, if neither place actually exists. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Potshots)**

**An Anglican priest, who considered that he had lived a full and godly life on earth, was dismayed to get to heaven and find himself shackled to an ugly, disputatious woman. Then he spotted a former bishop chained to a young woman who, in her lifetime, had been renowned for beauty and charm. The Anglican went straight to St. Peter to complain. “It's none of your business,” said St. Peter. “You get on with your penance and let her get on with hers!” (Rev. Derek Cordell, in Reader's Digest)**

**Devoutly divergent is what they all are. “Tell me, what is heaven like?” I asked one girl of five on the show. “Like California,” she replied. “And what’s hell like?” “Philadelphia.” *(Bill Cosby, in Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 27)***

**Sometimes you can only find heaven by slowly backing away from hell. (Carrie Fisher)**

**A minister in Florida lamented that it was difficult to get his message across to his congregation: “It's so beautiful here in the winter,” he said, “that heaven doesn't interest them. And it is so hot here in the summer that hell doesn't scare them.” (On Course magazine)  
  
A group of churchwomen killed in a bus accident sought admittance to Heaven. They were greeted by St. Peter, who said embarrassedly, “I'm terribly sorry, ladies, but Heaven is full. You'll have to wait ‘below' until our new wing is completed.” After a loud chorus of disappointment, the women agreed to wait “below" but only three weeks later, St. Peter heard from an irate Satan who demanded that he take them back. “But we still have housing problems,” St. Peter complained. “Listen,” Satan roared, “that's nothing compared to the problems they're creating here. What with their cake bakes, rummage sales, bingo games and bazaars, do you know they're only fifty dollars short of air conditioning this place?” (Agnes Hunter)**

**Billy Graham has described heaven as a family reunion that never ends. What must hell possibly be like? Home videos of the same reunion? (Rocky Mountain News)**

**Heaven and hell is right now – you make it heaven or you make it hell by your actions. *(George Harrison)***

**Maybe this world is another planet's Hell. One man's idea of hell is to be forced to remain in another man's idea of heaven. (Aldous Huxley)**

**Hell is in heaven and heaven is in hell. But devils see only darkness, while angels see only the light. (Jacob Boehme)**

**The road to Hell is paved with good intentions. In which case, the road to Heaven must be paved with bad ones. (Samuel Johnson)**

**The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven. (John Milton)**

**A minister in Arizona lamented that it was difficult to get his message across to his congregation. “It’s so beautiful here in the winter,” he said, “that heaven doesn’t interest them. And it’s so hot in the summer that hell doesn’t scare them.” (Glenn Hanson, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Many religions believe in the omnipresence of God, which means that God is everywhere present. Therefore, if there is a place called Hell, then it can’t be too bad of a place because God is there with me to help me transform it into a heavenly place. (David J. Seibert)**

**I believe in heaven and hell -- on earth. (Abraham L. Feinberg)**

**The angel visiting hell says: “My permanent address is Heaven, but I come here a few times a week to make my ‘ex” even more miserable.” *(Dan Piraro, in Bizarro comic strip)***

**When my nine-year-old granddaughter addressed a letter to God at the Pearly Gates, Heaven, it was returned. Someone at the postal service had written across the envelope: “Nobody at the post office is headed that way. Sorry!” *(Ruth Sturdivant, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When you get the hell out of your way – all that remains is heaven. (The Greater Joining)**

**Howard dies and waits in line for judgment. He notices that some souls go right into heaven, while Satan throws others into a burning pit. But every so often, instead of hurling a poor soul into the fire, the devil tosses it aside. Curious, Howard asks Satan, "Excuse me, but why are you tossing them aside instead of flinging them into hell with the others?" "They're from Seattle," Satan replies. "They're too wet to burn." (Reader's Digest)**

**I'm telling you the natural facts for what it's worth. You make your own heaven and hell right here on Earth. (The Temptations)**

**A Texas oilman died and went to heaven. After a few days, his bragging was getting on St. Peter's nerves. No matter what part of paradise he was shown, the oilman claimed it failed to measure up to Texas. Finally St. Peter took him to the edge of heaven so he could look straight into hell. "Have you got anything like that in Texas?" the saint demanded. "No," the oilman replied. "But I know some ol' boys down in Houston who can put it out." (Dana Conner, in Reader's Digest)**

**I was amused to read something former Prime Minister Lloyd George once said about the celestial realm. He said, “When I was a boy the thought of heaven used to frighten me more than the thought of hell. I pictured heaven as a place where time would be perpetual Sundays, with perpetual services from which there would be no break. It was a horrible nightmare and made me an atheist for ten years.” (King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace , p. 106)**

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**I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell -- you see, I have friends in both places. (Mark Twain)**

**They tell the story of the time Mark Twain was in London at the invitation of a literary group that was giving a banquet in Mark's honor. The Bacon Shakespeare controversy came up and one of the members asked Twain for his opinion. "I really haven't thought much about it," said Twain. "Come on now, Mr. Twain, surely you have a theory on the subject!" "I figure on waiting until I get to heaven and then to ask Shakespeare just who did write his plays." "Mr. Twain," said one of the urbane members, "I don't think you'll find Shakespeare in heaven." "Then you ask him," said Twain. (On Course magazine)**

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**A great and brave warrior wanted to learn more about life so he ventured out into the countryside. In his travels, he met a wise, old monk. “Tell me, Master,” he said, “What is the difference between heaven and hell?” The Master looked at him scornfully, “I haven't got time for you. You're nothing but a lost barbarian. Get out of my way, you inconsequential fellow!” Enraged by the Master's insults, the Samurai drew his sword. Raising it above his head he shouted at the monk, “I should kill you for your rudeness.” The monk looked at the warrior and calmly said, “That Sir, is hell.” Hearing these words, the Samurai drew back. He knew the Monk had given him his answer. Humbled, he sheathed his sword and bowed to the wise teacher. “Thank you, wise one. I am grateful for your words of wisdom.” “And that Sir,” the Master said, “is heaven.” (Stevhan Caldwell & Rev. Cailen Richardsen, in Inside Journal)**

**Are weekends in heaven really worth weeks in hell? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though they were a very large mammal their throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. The teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was impossible. The little girl said, “When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah.” Their teacher asked, “What if Jonah went to hell?” The little girl replied, “Then you ask him.” *(From the Internet)***

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