

BRIEF SURVEY

Written by

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High up in the rugged, unspoiled New Mexico mountains, a HIKER makes his way through a magnificent landscape.

HIKER

Wow.

He reaches an overlook, takes in the incredible vista. Overcome by deep feeling, he closes his eyes and tilts his face skyward.

HIKER

So beautiful. Thank you, God.

A loud, echoing ANGELIC CHIME. Then, a vast, bored, ECHOING VOICE speaks.

ECHOING VOICE

Thank you for contacting the Almighty God. The quality of your spiritual experience is very important to us.

The hiker's eyes pop open. He's confused and wary.

ECHOING VOICE

Sir, would you be willing to take a brief customer satisfaction survey?

HIKER

(disoriented, amazed)
Uh, okay...

ECHOING VOICE

Thank you. Regarding the issue you contacted God about today, was your issue completely resolved, partly resolved, or not resolved at all?

HIKER

It wasn't really an issue, it was just kind of *gratitude*, so...

ECHOING VOICE

Okay, sir, I'm going to put it down as "partly resolved."

The hiker looks around, still stunned.

ECHOING VOICE

On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the worst and 5 being the best, how would you rate the universe?

HIKER

Wow. Uh, it's tricky, because creation is fantastic, but there's also *evil*--

ECHOING VOICE

So, can I put you down for a... 4?

HIKER

Yeah, fine. How long is this gonna take?

ECHOING VOICE

We realize your time is valuable, sir. As a thank you for participating, you'll be entered in a drawing for a \$100 TGI Friday's gift card.

HIKER

(pleased)
Oh, okay!

He slings down his backpack and sits on the ground.

ECHOING VOICE

On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being very unlikely and 5 being very likely, how likely would you be to recommend God's universe to friends?

HIKER

Well, all my friends are already in this universe, and like me have no choice in the matter, so while I have a generally positive feeling, I don't really know who I'd recommend it to...

ECHOING VOICE

So, sir, maybe a 3?

The hiker is getting tired of this, but he's determined to be a good sport.

MONTAGE: snippets of other questions from the survey voice and bits of the hiker's answers. Cutaways of rolling clouds to indicate time is passing.

ECHOING VOICE

... communicate with the Almighty rarely, occasionally, often...

HIKER

Mmm, rarely...

ECHOING VOICE
 ... find God very responsive,
 moderately responsive, not
 responsive at all...

HIKER
 Not responsive, at least not
 to *me*, which is *fine*...

ECHOING VOICE
 ... as a deity, would you
 rank God as high quality,
 medium quality...

HIKER
 ... really have nothing to
 compare to...

ECHOING VOICE
 ... ways God could improve...

HIKER
 Maybe fewer tornadoes...

OUT OF MONTAGE: The hiker is slumped on the ground, sick of
 it.

VOICE
 And sir, what is your annual
 income?

The hiker sits up.

HIKER
 "Annual income"? Really? *Jesus!*

A STERILE ROBOTIC VOICE interjects.

ROBOTIC VOICE
 Transferring call.

The hiker perks up. Now what?

SFX: Bland muzak through a phone filter effect.

ECHOING RECORDED VOICE
 Callers are experiencing
 significant wait times to speak
 with Jesus. Did you know many
 common questions can be answered at
 our website, *existence.everything?*

Tight on the hiker looking discouraged. Bland muzak continues
 as he flops back down, defeated.

OUT