

Doubts about Doubt

By Doug Irving and Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

This is a monologue by a skeptic, someone who doubts Christianity and sometimes ridicules it. But this person is beginning to doubt his or her own doubt.

We live in an age in which Christianity is viewed very skeptically in Western culture. And let's be honest here. The big miracles in the Bible are difficult to reconcile with the world as we know and understand it. Of course, atheism requires some leaps of faith also.

In the end probably no one is argued into or out of faith despite all the arguments that could be marshaled on one side or the other. C.S. Lewis said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

This monologue probably works best in a seeker setting, where audience members with doubts can identify with the actor and follow his or her journey. The monologue could also work with long-time believers if part of a conversation about how we relate our faith to non-Christians around us.

Cast list	Actor (man or woman)
Approximate Running Time	5 minutes
Scene Description	An empty stage
Prop List	None
Other Production Notes	This can be played either with the actor talking to himself (or herself) or else "breaking the fourth wall" and talking to the audience.
Related Scriptures	Mark 9:24; Jude 1:22; Hebrews 11:1
Song Suggestions	My Heart Already Knows (Ragamuffin Band); I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (the lyrics are more about doubt and faith than they are about Christmas)

ACTOR

So today I was sitting in the coffee shop, and I overheard a couple of Christians talking. Nothing really new. They're always in there fellowshiping or mentoring or whatever it is they do. They're pretty funny. I mean - Noah's ark? Joshua making the sun stand still? Please. But this time - I don't know - these two didn't seem silly.

I know. I know. I've said it for years. Religion is just humanity's attempt to explain the world around them - to deal with life and death. I still believe that... well, maybe except for the word "just." Maybe it isn't "just" that. I mean, look around at all the religions and all the spiritual rituals in the world. I've always said that crazy quilt of belief just goes to show that they're all made-up stories.

But there must be some deep human need to find meaning and purpose, rhyme and reason - to reach out to a creator. It just seems innate, built-in to our DNA or something. So where does that comes from?

Well, I've always said that it comes from fear. Plain and simple. Fear of death. Fear of the unknown. For the first ten thousand years of civilization we've been like family pets huddling under their masters' legs during a thunderstorm. Now finally we're beginning to grow strong enough to face the world without needing the delusion of a god to comfort us.

Except I keep thinking, you know, it isn't a delusion for the family dog to huddle at its master's legs - because it really does have a master. What if there really was a God?

Of course, there isn't. All the great thinkers and scientists say there isn't. Well, not all of them. Some believe in God. But a lot say there isn't.

Just for the sake of argument, what if there was a God? Granted, God might or might not care about us. God might be distant or impersonal - the force or something. But what if God was a person and a person who cared about us and wanted to communicate with us? I mean, it's a possibility, isn't it? If there was a God who was personal and wanted us to know him, then maybe, maybe in midst of all that religious attempt of humans to reach out and find God, maybe one of those religions might be how God was reaching out to us.

Of course, you'd think God would do something to make the real religion stand out. And what about all those unbelievable Bible stories. Jonah and the whale? How could a person live in a whale's stomach for three days? There'd be no oxygen! Not to mention the gastric juices. Do whales have gastric juices?

See, that's what those two Christians in the coffee shop were talking about. They were discussing all kinds of possible explanations. They said it could be a miracle. They said it could be a supernatural whale - I guess like an angel Shamu or something - with oxygen built in. They said it could be all kinds of things. One even said it could be fiction, because God could use fiction to teach truth. The other one wasn't so sure he'd go that far. But I just kept thinking, it's us non-believers who have our hands tied on that one. We have to see it as a made-up story. With their God, they can see it in all kinds of ways. So much for us being the open minded ones.

So I ended up kind of envying those Christians. I mean I have to believe that the only things that are real are things I can see and touch - and it all came about by pure chance. They believe in purpose and meaning and someday a perfect world.

I don't know. It's just that lately I guess I've begun to have my doubts about doubt.

Fade to black

Performance and photocopying rights:

Your purchase of this script grants your church unlimited use of this sketch within your programs and worship services. You may photocopy the script for each cast member, provided that the copyright notice remains on each page. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable to other organizations or persons and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketches for any commercial purpose. Usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.