

SUITS YOU

By Rod

This sketch looks at how many people 'mix and match' their beliefs to such an extent that they end up believing nothing at all. They hedge their bets and end up professing to believe blatantly contradictory ideas. It also looks at the modern idea that 'It doesn't matter what you believe as long as it suits you'. As much costume as possible should be used without breaking the speed of the sketch. The aim should be to end up with the Customer looking utterly ridiculous in his 'chosen suit'.

CAST

Customer Needs to be dressed in an 'old-fashioned' way. [e.g. pinstripe suit, etc]

Salesman The chief suit salesman

Assistant 1

Assistant 2

Salesman and two assistants are in 'shop'. Enter customer.

Salesman Good morning, sir, are you being served?

Customer No, not yet.

Salesman Can I help you?

Customer I hope so. I want to buy a whole new outfit. Something that will equip me for the modern age.

Salesman [*Disdainfully*] Not before time, Sir, if you don't mind me saying so.
[*Clicks fingers to summon assistants*]

Customer [*Put out*] Quite.

Salesman Could I suggest we start with the trousers? I always feel they undergird everything, providing a 'Belt of Truth'.

Customer Fine. What have you got?

Salesman Everything, sir, you name it we've got it.

Assistant 1 We have the philosopher's corduroys.

Assistant 2 Or the more traditional Christianity's narrow drainpipes. A little outdated these days of course.

Salesman Or if sir wants to be more 'earthy', we have the combat trousers of tealeaf reading, crystal ball gazing and palmistry.

Ass 1 Or even the ooiya board and Tarot card flairs.

Ass 2 But nowadays many plump for the safe jeans and wide belt of science.

Customer I think those are the ones for me.

Ass 2 Good choice, sir.

Salesman And then there's the question of the jacket. It says a lot about a man: a sort of 'Breastplate of Righteousness'.

Ass 2 With the trousers of science, a jacket of atheistic humanism would fit well.

Ass 1 Or maybe an agnostic's blazer.

Salesman Or you could go for an eastern kaftan.

Ass 1 Or there's the more traditional Mormon suit. *[Customer looks more interested]*

Ass 2 Or even the "I go to church at Christmas just to be on the safe side" jacket.

Customer Yes, that's the one.

Ass 2 Excellent choice again, sir. It goes really well with the science trousers. It's a real 'belt and braces' combination: every option covered.

Salesman And now the shoes, sir. I always feel that shoes show one's readiness to engage with the world.

Ass 2 With that jacket, you might consider the Alpha Course sandals.

Ass 1 Or the Jehovah's Witness street shoe.

Ass 2 Or the 'Good Works' Doc Martens. They show you really mean business.

Salesman Or maybe sir just wants to dabble a little. Could I suggest the 'anti-foxhunting' gumboots?

Ass 1 Or the 'pro-foxhunting' riding boots.

Ass 2 Or even the 'Save the Countryside' green wellies.

Customer Yes, those look about right.

Ass 2 Wonderful choice once again, sir. It shows you are a caring person – but not too vulnerable.

Salesman And now we come to those little extras - just to round things off.

Ass 1 Could I suggest a symbol of some sort? Something sir can carry round with him wherever he goes.

Customer Like a good luck charm?

Salesman We prefer to call it a ‘Shield of Faith’.

Ass 2 Although the lucky rabbit’s foot is very popular.

Ass 1 Perhaps sir feels this does not quite go with the ‘Save the Countryside’ green wellies. How about a horseshoe? Always popular with country dwellers.

Salesman Or a cross would go well with the ‘I go to church at Christmas to be on the safe side’ jacket.

Ass 1 Or, if sir travels a lot, he might consider a St Christopher – to go in his car.

Customer It’s a possibility.

Ass 2 Or maybe sir would prefer this lucky number generator. It’s very popular with those who do the Lottery. I’m told it looks good hanging from the mirror in one’s car.

Customer Yes, that looks just the thing. I’ve had no luck with the Lottery but this could make all the difference. A big win would be wonderful.

Ass 2 Marvellous choice yet again, sir. After all, money’s such a comfort – something you really can put your faith in.

Salesman Now we come to the question of sir’s hat. His ‘Helmet of Salvation’. His protection against the final enemy – death.

Ass 1 Many people prefer to go bareheaded, as they believe death is the end – so there is nothing to fear. This is in line with sir’s faith in money.

Customer I don’t think I’d go that far.

Ass 2 Jews sport a skull cap which shows they believe God will save them because they are Jewish.

Salesman Many British wear bowler hats because they believe God will save them because they are British.

Ass 1 But many nowadays wear the turban of Reincarnation. The turban goes round and round the head to show that we go round and round as well.

Customer That looks good to me.

Ass 1 Brilliant choice, sir. It's a very modern idea for a westerner. Sir is really 'with it'.

Salesman And finally we come to the weapon sir is going to carry around with him.

Customer Weapon? I'm not sure I need any sort of weapon. I don't want to break the law or

Salesman I am speaking metaphorically, of course; sir's 'Sword of the Spirit'. Something with which to take on the world.

Ass 1 The 'Zen Book of Motorcycle Maintenance' is very popular with reincarnation believers.

Ass 2 The Bible is popular with Christians.

Salesman Or there's the book of Mormon.

Ass 1 Or the little red book with the 'Sayings of Chairman Mao'.

Ass 2 Or the large book with the 'Sayingifications of President George.W.Bush' is growing in popularity.

Salesman Or maybe sir would prefer a self-help book. 'How to be really successful in everything you do' by Ivor Fortune is our biggest seller at present. The author clearly knows what he's talking about judging by his income.

Customer That looks interesting. I'll plump for that.

Salesman An excellent choice once again, sir. So that's it then. *[The assistants help the customer to don the clothing]*
 Sir has:
 The belt and trousers of science,
 The jacket of 'I go to church at Christmas just to be on the safe side',
 The green wellies of 'save the Countryside',

The faith shield of the lucky number generator,
The turban of reincarnation
And the sword of 'How to be really successful in all you do'.

Would sir like to look in the mirror? *[Assistants hold up a full-length mirror]*

Customer *[Looking anxiously at his reflection]* You don't think I look .. well..ridiculous.

Ass 1 Oh no, sir. Not at all. Sir will blend beautifully into the crowd. Many people dress in very similar fashion.

Ass 2 While at the same time it expresses your personality; sir's beliefs.

Salesman I think I can say, sir, that it suits you perfectly. It really says something about sir.

Customer Yes, but what? It seems to say 'I am totally mixed up and don't know what I believe'.

All 3 Precisely sir.

THE END