

CHAPTER 12

Discussion with spirit guide
**Johnny Carson hosts
“The Astral Show”**

[This chapter begins with an afterlife audience cheering and then “Johnny Carson” appears on stage.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Thank you. Thank you.

[The audience continues to cheer.]

JOHNNY CARSON: I have good news for you all. My audience is for real and they’re really in a good mood today.

[They continue to cheer.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Either that or I've gotten a little bit too high on astral energy!

[Some of the audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Ladies and gentlemen from planet Earth, here I am again! No matter how hard you try, you just can't get rid of me can you? You thought you saw the last of me when I supposedly "died." And now here I am again in yet another one of Dr. Frick's publications!

Just don't take me for granted any more people, or I may never come back again! I'm very sensitive you know. I know I wasn't your favorite late night talk show host when I hosted "The Tonight Show."

[The audience makes the "ahhhh" sound.]

No, no, no—really. Johnny Carson, the talk show host, peaked in the 1970's—we all know that. . . or maybe he didn't. Maybe I haven't even peaked yet! Maybe there is still much for me to learn, and perhaps in my own way I'm an even better entertainer in the afterlife than I was on Earth. I'll let you people decide.

[The audience cheers.]

I want you all to know that I will do the best I can to put on a great show for you all, and I mean it too! If I somehow fail in that endeavor, it's not because I don't want to entertain you (because I really do). It's just that maybe sometimes I can't.

Like for instance, suppose that you met with a person you knew many years ago and that person didn't seem to understand that you had changed over the years. That's the position I'm in now. I have to stay true to myself. I can't pretend that I'm still "Johnny Carson" and that I really give a damn about television

(because I don't). . . . But I do give a damn about Truth. And I really do like to entertain, make people laugh, all those things. . .

And so, that being said, I'd like you to picture me on stage with a studio audience, standing in front of a camera just as I did as "Johnny Carson." And my outfit? I'm wearing whatever style is in fashion today, provided that the designer is a heterosexual male.

[Some of the audience laughs.]

GF: That must mean that you are wearing your birthday suit, because there are no heterosexual male designers.

[Some of the audience laughs. And then "Johnny Carson" gives me a blank, silly stare.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Where the hell did you come from?

[All of the audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: I've heard of a haunting but this is ridiculous. I'm (supposedly) a ghost being haunted by a human being!

[Nobody laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Gary, if you are going to be my sidekick, you are going to have to laugh at my jokes. You will all find that they are in fact very funny, provided that your IQ is over 160, you've had a few beers and Dr. Frick could find me a good punchline!

[Some of the audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Speaking of Dr. Frick, he is standing alongside of me—way, way off to the side if I could help it! Unless he decides to laugh at my jokes. If he does, then I'll let him bask in some of my glory—as long as he is able to take the good with the bad! The “good” being of course that he is not Ed McMahon.

[The audience cheers and Johnny Carson laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Let's see. . . What could I joke about today? Your President Bush. . .

[He laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: And notice I referred to him as “YOUR President Bush.” He isn't my President. You deal with him! I've got enough to deal with as a spiritual guide as it is!

[The audience cheers.]

In all seriousness, no disrespect to George Bush (or any other human being for that matter).

[The audience cheers.]

JOHNNY CARSON: But as long as a person is crazy enough to run for President of the United States in your day and age—maybe he (or she) is fair game for my good natured monologues.

[A long silence follows.]

GF: You were talking about President Bush. Could we hear some jokes about him?

[Johnny Carson then gives me a blank, silly stare, the audience laughs and then he laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Thank you for reminding me Gary. Can't you take a hint? In your previous publication "Bob Hope" already told you that George Bush doesn't have any brain cells. Isn't that enough satire for you?

[The audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: If you're not careful Uncle Abraham Lincoln will "tell" you to throw this chapter away too!

[The audience cheers and Johnny Carson laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: As long as it isn't Uncle Sigmund Freud, I think you could handle something like that happening again, Gary.

[The audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: Ha, ha, ha. . . talk about adding a new dimension to comedy! Some of you comedians out there have no idea what that actually means! Maybe it's a good thing you don't! Ha, ha, ha.

[The audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON (still laughing): Maybe I ought to quit while we are ahead and wrap up this monologue! . . . We've got a great show for you today, everybody. I think you'll all be pleased with the guest we are going to have on our show.

[He then makes a "golf swing."]

JOHNNY CARSON: Ouch, I think I just pulled a muscle! I ought to give up golf for good!

[The audience laughs.]

GF: You can't play golf now, can you?

[He gives me a blank, silly stare.]

JOHNNY CARSON (laughing): I still could beat you, Dr. Frick. If you can't play eighteen holes of golf without cheating, then I win!

[All of the audience laughs and cheers.]

JOHNNY CARSON: So much for doctors playing too much golf. Nowadays, they need another excuse for their incompetence.

[The audience laughs.]

JOHNNY CARSON: We'll be back in a few minutes everybody with our guest star. We just need a few minutes to thaw out his body.

[Some of the audience laughs.]

GF: Not funny, Johnny!

JOHNNY CARSON (laughing): No, not funny. What else is new right? . . . Let's wrap up this monologue on a good note shall we?

GF: I'd love to!

JOHNNY CARSON (looking at his watch): Oops! We're out of time! No time for another bad joke! Saved by the bell as they say!

[The audience politely cheers.]