

Acts of God

by John Cospers

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CHARACTERS

Clay- An insurance adjuster

Meredith and Roy- A married couple

Clay enters with Meredith and Roy.

CLAY: Mr. and Mrs. Klein, I want you to know I am truly sorry for your loss. It's not easy losing a house. All those memories gone in a moment... it's terrible.

ROY: We really appreciate your being here so quickly.

CLAY: Just doing my job, Mr. Klein. At Providential Life, we believe in being there when our clients need them. Now if you'll just sign here, please.

Roy signs on the clipboard.

CLAY: And you, Mrs. Klein.

Meredith signs.

CLAY: Okay. I'll head back to the office, fax this in, and you should receive your check for five hundred dollars in about a week.

ROY: Hold on a minute. Five hundred dollars? That's it?

CLAY: Well, your policy limits liability up to four hundred, but I am pretty sure I can squeeze an extra hundred out of them.

ROY: We just lost our house. We have no clothes, no home, not possessions, nothing!

MEREDITH: How are we supposed to rebuild our lives on five hundred dollars?

CLAY: Well, you two are young and bright. You'll think of something.

ROY: This is outrageous! We just lost a two hundred THOUSAND dollar asset! I expect a little more than a measly five hundred dollars.

MEREDITH: Isn't that what we bought insurance for?

CLAY: I'm really sorry, folks, but your house was burned down in a fire caused by lightning. And your policy specifically does not cover acts of God.

MEREDITH: Acts of who?

CLAY: God. You know, the big man upstairs? Makers of heaven and Earth? Savior of the world?

ROY: What are you talking about? Nobody believes in him any more!

CLAY: The three thousand employees at Providential Life do. And where God has chosen to smite, we have pledged not to interfere.

Clay walks down center.

ROY: You wacko! I'm gonna sue you for everything you've got!

MEREDITH: We'll see to it you never sell insurance again!

Roy and Meredith exit.

CLAY: This message has been brought to you by the National Council for Insurance Adjusters. You know, in this modern era, a lot of folks don't want to hear about God. People have gone to great lengths to remove any reference to the Big Man from our money, the pledge of allegiance, schools, court rooms, you name it. It's a frustrating time to believe in the Almighty. But so long as floods, storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other acts of God continue to happen, we here at the National Council for Insurance Adjusters pledge to stand by you, the church, in keeping the faith.

ROY: *(off)* I'm gonna kill you!

CLAY: Thou shalt not kill, sir! It's in your Bible!

Clay starts to exit.

ROY: Bible? What's a Bible?