

Characters:

BEN Yatta/Danyell Monk: Worker at the hub, also a buddhist monk, definitely sarcastic asshole

CALEB (name unimportant): An e-board member of an improv club, somewhat assertive and intimidating when necessary

BESS (name unimportant): An e-board member of the same club, can act like a middle-aged mom when necessary

BROGAN JAMISON (name unimportant): Another e-board member, easily controlled by hippie mind tricks

3 e-board members enter stage right. On the far side of the stage is a person sitting at a table with a few t-shirts on it.

BROGAN

Alright, so what's the plan again?

BESS

Oh, so as you know, we need to order new t-shirts for our improv club. We have everything we need in order to order them, so now we just need to get a quote from the printing place as to how much they will cost.

BROGAN

Alright, seems simple enough.

CALEB

Guys, isn't this it up ahead?

BESS

Oh, yeah.

BESS, CALEB, and BROGAN walk into the "door" and into the

room where BEN is currently
meditating on a table

BESS

Umm... excuse me sir?

BEN opens his eyes and looks at
BESS

BESS

I was wondering if we could get a quote for our shirts? They have this logo on it.

BESS hands BEN a piece of
paper. BEN studies it for a
moment and sets it on the table

BEN

Ah, yes, here is one from the wise words of Confucius: "He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions."

BESS

Uhh... what? No, we need a quote, like, money!

BEN

In the words of Saint Timothy: "Money is the root of all evil"

CALEB (to BESS and BROGAN)

What is UP with this guy?

BEN

In the words of Lao Tzu: “Up is the direction in which one must look for answers, never forward, nor backward.”

BESS

What the hell? Ok... give us a second. E-board huddle!

E-board huddles

BESS

Alright, this guy isn't cooperating with us. Any ideas?

BROGAN

Do we have to get them today? Maybe we could come back when someone else is working?

CALEB

No, no, we need the shirts by this Friday! We can't order them any later!

BESS

Procrastination is a serious problem and I seriously worry for all of our futures.

Everyone else nods in agreement

BESS

Here, let me try something.

Huddle breaks, BESS walks back
up to BEN. BESS parts her hair
to look like an angry
middle-aged mother, if
possible. BROGAN and CALEB
follow.

Can I speak to your manager?

BEN

Voltaire once said: “Great leaders know when to step aside”

E-board sighs

BESS

Alright listen here buddy, I have been waiting here for a good two minutes now, my children are starving, and if you don’t give me the quote in two minutes I’m gonna call corporate and get you fired!

BEN

“A dog is not considered a good dog because he is a good barker. A man is not considered a good man because he is a good talker.”

BESS

Are you calling me a bitch??

BEN

Ma'am, these were not my words, but rather the wise words of Buddha. I apologize if my wisdom has caused disharmony.

BESS

I'll cause disharmony in your-

BROGAN

Wait!

BESS and CALEB turn to look at
BROGAN

BROGAN

Perhaps in order to get through to him, you have to speak his language.

CALEB

What?

BROGAN takes some deep breaths,
as if preparing for a role, and

does that meditate-y thing with
his hands.

BROGAN

You must become one with the all living creatures, and let go of your negative aura.

BESS

What?

BROGAN

Watch me.

BROGAN winks at BESS and CALEB
then walks up to BEN.

Peace be upon you, sir.

BEN

Peace be upon you, as well. Tell me, is there a query with which you wish to enlighten me today?

BROGAN

Indeed there is. As socrates once said “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” However, there is a small amount of knowledge I wish to acquire. Me and my companions wish to obtain the monetary value necessary to obtain material objects with which we shall adorn ourselves.

BEN

Ah, yes, my child. It is now that we are of one mind. Here, sit with me, meditate and reflect, and you will soon find that the answer is within you.

BROGAN

As you wish.

For an amount of time as long
as comedically necessary,
BROGAN and BEN sit side by side
near the table, meditating,
doing that thing where they say
ohhmmm. A little while after,
BESS walks up to BROGAN.

BESS

Hey! Did you find the answer within you? Do you know how much the shirts cost?

BROGAN

“True self is without form”

CALEB

Dammit!

BESS

He's too far gone!

CALEB

You know what? I've had enough of this!

CALEB storms up to BEN.

You listen here, mister! You'd better stop playing games with us and give us the god-damn money amount we need to give you for these shirts, or I'm gonna rip you a new one!

BEN

Oh dear, it appears I sparked a fire within you. I deeply and humbly apologize, as I did not intend a misunderstanding such as ours to create such discord. Now alas, I am one with understanding, with both the universe, and with you. Perhaps it would be best for all of us here today to reflect on these moments we've shared, and how we can learn from our errors. As alas, we are all but humans, drifting together throughout the vast expanse of space. We know not how we got here, or where we will go when our time is done, we know only of our own mortality. But we as humans persist, facing hardships and agony in our short period of consciousness, discovering along the way that the true meaning of the universe is the love we share with our fellow humans. I could not have known our paths would cross today, but I am eternally grateful to the universe for it. Thank you.

CALEB and BESS'S jaws hit the floor. BROGAN is still meditating.

CALEB

Wow... no, thank you, sir! I think you've truly... awakened something within me! I think I'm truly understanding what it means to be one with the univer...

BEN

Also, the shirts are \$50 each.

CALEB

FIFTY DOLLARS? THAT'S ROBBERY! COME HERE YOU ASSHOLE!

CALEB flips the table over and
chases after BEN, who runs
offstage

SCENE