



THE GAME OF LIFE (or Double Ducks)

According to television game-shows it would seem that contestants would do anything for fame, fortune and the Big Prize. In the Game of Life also, people will risk their souls and ruin others in the pursuit of wealth. Jesus said “What good will it be for a man if he gain the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” The sketch was written in 1992, and revised in 1996, but still some of the questions put to the contestants will need to be updated as time goes on.

CAST Justin Small – game show host
 Delilah – game show hostess
 Mick Murphy – contestant
 Lady Ann D’Over-ffist – contestant
 Jack Wright - contestant
 Two extras – body-shifters

It may be necessary to prime your ‘audience’ to loosen up, and behave as if they were in a studio; a few practice claps and whoops should set the right atmosphere. Cue suitable game-show type music. Justin bursts onto the stage.

Justin: Hello and welcome to the most exciting, the most ego-centric game-show ever, the Game of Life, otherwise known as ...Double Ducks! (every time the word ‘duck’ is mentioned, or a contestant gets a question wrong, a squeaky toy ‘quacks’ offstage). Each contestant answers questions relevant to their life-style, how it is and how it could be better. Get one wrong, get a duck! Get one right and it’s a Big Cash Prize! The harder the question, the bigger the bounty, but beware – two little ducks and you duck out! And you’d better keep clutching that cash – if you drop the dosh, you’re dead!

I am your host, Justin Small, and I’d like to introduce you to our delightful hostess, Delilah! (enter Delilah) My! My! My! Delilah, you’re looking delicious this evening, would you like to give us a twirl? (she is only too pleased to oblige) Super! Well, let’s carry on with the show, and I’ll ask our charming hostess to bring on the first contestant. (Football theme tune – enter Mick Murphy, dressed in Man United strip).

Mr Mick Murphy from Manchester! Hello, Mr Murphy, may I call you Mick?

Mick: Yeah!

Justin: Welcome to the show, did you have a good journey?

Mick: Yeah, came by train, know whorra mean?

Justin: Any trouble?

Mick: Nothing we couldn't handle (cracks knuckles)

Justin: And what is your ambition in Life, Mick?

Mick: To play for Man United and earn lots of money, know whorra mean?

Justin: That's a fine ambition, Mick, now are you ready for our first question?

Mick: Yeah, bring it on!

Justin: Right, here we go, here we go, here we go! (reads from cards) Who recently played for Manchester United, and has retired from the England squad?

Mick: Paul Scholes.

Justin: Correct! You have won £50! (enter Delilah, gives Mick a box labelled £50. Exit) Now for your second question – Who plays in goal for England?

Mick: Paul Robinson

Justin: Great! This time you've won £100! (enter and exit Delilah as before, but as the prize-money increases, so does the size of the box) Question Three – Paul Robinson can save goals, but who can save souls?

Mick: Souls? Errrrr. Does he play for Arsenal? (Quack)

Justin: Sorry, Mick, you've failed on that question. Jesus is the only person who can save your soul, and get you a transfer to Heaven. That's a duck for you! (enter Delilah with duck, gives to Mick, exit) Hang on to your money and your duck, Mick. Now for Question Four – In Preston, who is known as Sir Tom?

Mick: Errrr, Oh, I know, Sir Tom Finney!

Justin: That's right! You've won £200, Mick! (enter and exit Delilah as before) ...And now for your final question... You must get this one right, Mick, or it's Double Ducks for you, and you're out of the Game of Life! Are you ready?

Mick: Yeah, go on!

Justin: What does the cross mean to you?

Mick: Oh, that's easy, that's something I put on the football coupon every week, 'cos one day, I'm gonna win a lorra money, know whorra mean? (Quack – Mick is horrified)

Justin: Mick! That's not the right answer, I'm afraid. The correct answer is 'The cross is the only means by which man can be saved'! You forfeit the money you've gained; you have lost the Game of Life! (Mick drops to the floor, dead, scattering his money and ducks. He is lifted out of the way by men in boiler-suits).

Ah, well, that's a shame; we don't all win in the Game of Life, as you can see. Now, I'd like you to meet our second contestant, if you'd bring her on, Delilah, please. (music for Money, money, money – Abba – enter Lady Ann D'Over-ffist) Ladies and gentlemen, may I introduce you to Lady Ann D'Over-ffist, of Richmond in Surrey, and, let me tell you, this lady is an entrepreneurial wizard, and as such, will be competing for prizes appropriate to

her station. Tell me, Lady Ann, with all your accumulated wealth, why do you want to win more in the Game of Life?

Lady A: Well, I would have thought that it was obvious! To accumulate, one must speculate!

Justin: Oh, yes, quite! And what ambitions do you have left?

Lady A: Why, one wishes to be the richest woman in England, even more wealthy than Her!

Justin: Her? Oh, Her! Yes, of course! Well, let's get on, time is money, so they say! Are you ready for your first question?

Lady A: Yes.

Justin: Who made a fortune from pensioners?

Lady A: That's easy, Robert Maxwell, of course!

Justin: You've speculated, and you've accumulated, Lady Ann! You've won £1000! (enter Delilah with box. Exit.) And your second question, if you're ready? What is the best way to make money on the Stock Market?

Lady A: Insider dealing, naturally! Get in while you can a bribe here and there...

Justin: Correct! You've accumulated £2000! (enter and exit Delilah with box. Lady Ann wobbles a bit). Careful! That one's freshly laundered! Ha ha! Are you ready for your third question, Lady Ann? Who said "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Lady A: Now let me see, one does remember somebody offering a good profit, now what was his name? Ah, yes!
Peter Clowes from Barlow Clowes! (quack)

Justin: I'm sorry, Lady Ann, that's not the right answer. The answer I'm looking for is...Jesus Christ. (enter and exit Delilah with duck) Now for Question Number Four. If you are rich, what does the bank charge to your account?

Lady A: Well, really! Nothing of course, how else could one possibly **BE** rich?

Justin: Quite so, Lady Ann, you have gained another £4,000! (Enter Delilah with box. Exit.) Do be careful, Lady Ann, hold on to your money!

Lady A: One does one's best! (wobbling) Do hurry and ask me the last question! The Game of Life is hanging in the – oops – balance!

Justin: Your final question is – In which book is it written "To find your life you must lose it"?

Lady A: Well, it's certainly not in any book I've read! (quack)

Justin: I'm sorry, that's not the right answer! (Enter and exit Delilah with duck. As Lady Ann reaches for it, she drops her boxes of money)

Lady A: My money, my lovely money! (She falls to the floor, dead, and is removed as before)

Justin: Oh, what a pity! But like I said before, we don't all win in the Game of Life! The tragedy is, we can all win if we know the right answers! Now, let me introduce you to our third and final guest, a wonderful guy who has told me that if he wins this evening, he would like to donate his winnings to Famine Relief. Delilah, would you care to bring him on? (Enter Delilah with Jack Wright, to the tune of "Nine to Five" – Sheena Easton.) Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Wright, an office clerk from Oswaldtwistle. How are you, Jack?

Jack: I'm all right.

Justin: You're all right, Jack! Well, let's hope you can get all the questions all right, this evening!

Jack: I trust I will!

Justin: Let's start, shall we? Your first question is for £50, Jack. If you had a series of folders to file in alphabetical order, which would come first, Adams, Beattie or Cuthbert?

Jack: Adams!

Justin: Correct! A round of applause for Jack, ladies and gentlemen! (Enter and exit Delilah with box) Now for your second question and a prize of £150 for the right answer. Name one of the three actresses who starred in the film "Nine to Five"

Jack: Errrr.

Justin: I'll have to hurry you, Jack.

Jack: Errrr. Pass. (quack)

Justin: It's a duck, Jack. The answer was either Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton or Lily Tomlin. (Enter Delilah with duck.) Never mind, now for your third question. Who said "Come unto Me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest"?

Jack: I know! Jesus!

Justin: Well done! You've won £200! Your fourth question is coming up now, Jack. If you were left a legacy of £40,000, and you wished to give a tithe to the church, how much would that be?

Jack: £4,000.

Justin: That's right, you've won £300! Now for your fifth and final question. Everybody's wanting you to win, Jack! The other two contestants – ducked out – so here goes, are you ready? Think carefully before you say anything... What is the secret of the Game of Life, Jack?

Jack: (after careful thought) Well, I think it's this;- We brought nothing into the world, and we can't take anything out of it, so the secret is to be content with what you have, and don't yearn for what you haven't!

Justin! Right! That's the secret, Jack! You've won the Game of Life! The Bible says that those who want to get rich fall into a trap, but you've not done that, Jack! You have won a total of £550, for answering three out of the first four questions right. I'd like to spring a surprise on you now, Jack. Remember one of the questions mentioned £40,000? Well, for getting the fifth and most important question right, you get that £40,000 as well, to give to your favourite charity. (enter Delilah with money). Ladies and gentlemen, that's all we have time for this evening, so wishing you Goodnight and God bless, from Jack, Delilah and me, and

remember it's the **love** of money that's the root of all evil! Goodnight! God bless! (they bow to applause – closing music)