

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

A BARGAIN WITH THE DEVIL

By Chris Moore

There once was a man, whom we shall call Harry, who wanted to live forever. One day, Harry was approached by the devil who was willing to grant his wish for immortality on earth with one minor stipulation. He would have to give his soul to the devil. The man immediately jumped at the chance for such an opportunity.

"How will I know if I can live forever?" asked Harry.

"Well," said the devil, "try it and see!"

"Try what?" asked Harry.

"Try jumping off of that cliff over there," replied the evil one.

As you might guess, Harry was a bit nervous about the thoughts of jumping off a two hundred-foot cliff. With a little coaxing from the devil, Harry took a deep breath and plunged head first down the rocky side to what he thought was his death. But to Harry's surprise, he landed without the slightest jar to his person. Harry was shocked. It took him by such surprise that he shook uncontrollably with laughter.

The new "Superman" ran home to tell his wife of his good fortune. Upon hearing the incredible story, Harry's wife couldn't bring herself to believe it.

Harry said, "I'll prove it to you. See that car coming down the street? I'll jump in front of it!" Before Harry's wife could restrain him, he flung his body before the speeding car. His wife screamed and shielded her eyes. But to her disbelief, Harry stood up and walked away laughing. The man driving the car swooned in shock!

Harry became obsessed with what to try next. He quit his job and did nothing with himself except decide what daring feat he could accomplish. After a year, Harry was quite bored. He had tried every stunt there was to try except one--THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! He had to see how this stunt felt. He had a plan. He would kill his wife, and ask to be put in the electric chair. Harry proceeded to carry out his scheme. As planned, the police came to arrest him, the court awarded him a lawyer, and he was sent to prison. The lawyer told Harry that there was nothing to worry about--he would handle everything. Harry said, "I want to be sentenced to the electric chair and that is final!"

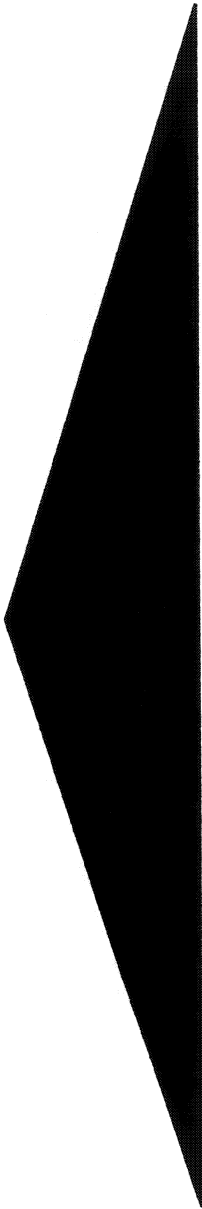
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The day of the trial came. The jury heard all of the facts and information. Finally they deliberated and came up with the verdict of LIFE IN PRISON! The lawyer was shouting for joy, but Harry was sobbing.

As Harry was alone and locked in a cell, the devil came to visit him. "Well, Harry," he said laughingly, "what did you do with your immortality? I'll answer that for you," he went on. "You spent it only on your personal thrills and satisfaction. Many great men would love to have a chance like you had, and they would have used it to benefit mankind. You wasted it, Harry, and you will continue to waste it forever. Well, Harry, the best and the last laugh is on you as you sit here doing nothing in this cold, dark, cell--FOREVER!"

Thought Questions

1. Name some resources that individuals have available to them.
2. What resource did Harry have an unlimited amount of?
3. Does anyone ever have an unlimited supply of resources? Why or why not?
4. Why would wasting resources be a case of poor judgment?
5. List five (5) things that an individual can do to conserve personal resources.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.



**WE'RE NOT BORN
WINNERS OR LOSERS;
WE'RE BORN CHOOSERS.**

